

# NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School



Blackwell First School,  
St. Catherine's Rd.,  
Blackwell,  
Near Bromsgrove,  
Worcestershire.  
B60 1BN  
March 2018

Dear Families,

Using mathematical concrete apparatus is important for all age groups to help children understand the maths behind the operation. Here Year 4s are using Numicom.

## Developing fluent mathematicians...

As a school we value the continuing professional development of staff and this month we have had a visit from Anthony Reddy and Dave Godfrey. These two maths consultants worked with staff on developing fluency in calculations and times tables. The children really enjoyed the time they spent working with the two teachers, who demonstrated strategies with each class in school.



Each class spent a lesson with our visitors and staff from our school and other schools learned about developing number fluency. We shared ideas in a meeting after school.

In the Early Years of school, it is vital that children develop number fluency by practising the following:

- Nursery and Reception – developing the understanding of numbers up to 5, then 10, then 20 without moving on too quickly. We need to help them 'play' with numbers through games to help them have instant recall by the end of Red Class of all number bonds within 10 ( $5+4/3+2/7-3$  etc)
- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) – instant recall of all number bonds within 20 and multiples to 100. Y2s also need to know times tables and be able to recall them all for 2, 5 and 10 up to  $10 \times 10$ .
- Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)- instant recall by the end of Year 4 of all times tables and their division facts to  $12 \times 12$ . (Y3- 3xs, 4xs, 8xs, 11xs and then Y4- 6xs, 7xs, 9xs, 12xs and repeat all others)

It would be so helpful if you could support the children with learning these number facts and talk about them with the children, explaining them.

Key vocabulary that children often confuse is helped by the song below, especially helpful for Key Stage 2 but we use the correct mathematical vocabulary with all year groups as the more they hear, the more they develop their understanding. (Key Stage 2 children will help you sing this one!)

**When you add two numbers it's the TOTAL and the SUM.**

**DIFFERENCE is the answer in a SUBTRACTION.**

**When you MULTIPLY numbers it's the PRODUCT that you find.**

**DIVIDE by your DIVISOR and the QUOTIENT 's left behind.**

Playing cards, board games, using maths practically for cake making, telling the time and buying things in the shops are all really helpful ways to support the children. The teachers can help with further ideas during consultations this week.

## Working with Meadow Arts...

Blue Class is having a wonderful time working with Mark Riley, our artist in residence, courtesy of Meadow Arts. The children have explored the city of Baghdad, the House of Wisdom and the history of the time. They have started by creating pop up books, drawing and describing the streets of Baghdad large scale in charcoal and have started to think of ideas for a large scale project to exhibit at Worcester Cathedral as part of the County's 'Voices and Vision' exhibition in the summer.



Exploring with Mark Riley in Blue Class...

Sainsbury's  
SCHOOL  
GAMES

**SPORT UPDATE** Yellow Class is currently working with a Sport's coach to develop their games skills through the All Active Academy, which is a Bromsgrove sport's development organisation. Keep up the good work Team Yellow.



**14.3.18- Parent consultations**  
**15.3.18 – Parent consultations**  
**21.3.18 – Some Y2s with BCM Science event**  
**22.3.18 VIOLIN CHILDREN concert- 8.45am**  
**27.3.18 – Some Y1s Drama event TBC**  
**29.3.18 – Easter Coffee Morning – times overleaf**

meadow arts

### Barnet Green Fun Run Sunday 18 March.

Registrations are now open for The Barnet Green Chuggers Fun Run for Sport Relief 2018 which takes place on Sunday 18th March at 12.30pm from Millennium Park. Registration forms are available from the St Andrew's School Office or Barnet Green Post Office (both during normal opening hours) and you can register for places and get your running number. Family price £10; children £2.50; adults £10. Everyone is welcome to walk, run or jog loops of the village up to 5K distance.

### EASTER COFFEE MORNING

We wish to invite you to our giant coffee morning on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The children will perform a song or two and also spend time with you enjoying Mrs Barker's Easter treats. The hall gets very congested so please come along when your child's class is performing and families of choir children can attend any session. If you have children in separate sessions, we appreciate that you may need to be here rather longer! (Nursery families- please join the Nursery children in Nursery at 8.30am).  
Red Class 9am/ Green Class 9.30am/ Purple Class 10am/ Yellow and Blue Classes 10.30am  
Money raised will be funding additional classroom resources such as new maths resources to develop maths fluency.

### Feedback from families

It is always helpful to receive feedback from families on what people feel that we do well and also on areas that we can improve. Staff members are obviously pleased when their hard work is appreciated and below are some of the comments that show that our partnership with you is appreciated.

- *I would strongly recommend BFS. My children have had such a wonderful learning experience here. The highest level of teaching and leadership has given them the very best start in education and given them a hunger for learning and a strong work ethic in a safe and caring environment.*
- *I am so grateful that we have such a wonderful local first school.*
- *A lovely first school. Thank you all.*
- *We love how the school is run and all of the staff. The support of teaching children is 1st class and you can see how well they develop through how they grow. The staff are amazing and work very hard. This shines through and reflects on the children as it's such a happy place to be.*
- *The school is very caring and clearly has the best interests of the children at its heart. It promotes resilience, exploration and challenge allowing children to mature and develop life skills, including independence.*
- *You do a fantastic job keeping the children happy, interested and making progress, and maintaining high standards across all areas, despite the massive issues with education funding. Thank you.*
- *A school where every single staff member reflects the caring, nurturing ethos of the school. Children make not only great academic progress but also huge personal and social developments – Blackwell is a very special place!*
- *Very well managed school. I have two children, both very different but are equally as happy at school and progress well. Thanks to everyone at BFS.*
- *We are so happy with Blackwell and feel very lucky that our children are able to go to this school.*
- *We are a new family to BFS and truly feel that we've landed on our feet where school is concerned. As a parent, I am overwhelmed by the support, insight and pastoral care given to my child since our arrival.*
- *All at the school from teachers, cook, office, TAs, cleaners, governors etc should be applauded.*
- *Would highly recommend Blackwell to other parents and do frequently!*
- *He has made excellent progress with learning to read in particular, but has also developed positively in terms of self confidence and social skills.*
- *His confidence and happiness in Nursery is wonderful to see and hear about. The forest school setting and activities are so fantastic for his development.*

It is a privilege to be the headteacher of this school and to work with such hard working and dedicated staff and with so many supportive and appreciative families. It is a team effort! Thank you.

### HOLIDAY CLUB

Mrs Moran and Holiday Club staff will be here during the Easter break so please send in booking forms as soon as possible to help us arrange staffing and resources.

### **TUCK SHOP CHEESE SCONES- 30p available in Tuck Shop**

#### **Makes 8**

450g self raising flour  
115g soft margarine  
140g cheddar cheese, grated  
1 egg  
150ml milk  
1 tsp English mustard

Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6.



Add the flour and margarine to a bowl and rub in with fingertips until it resembles crumbs. **Reserve 25g of the cheese** then stir the rest into the flour.

Beat the egg, **125ml milk** and the mustard together in a jug then stir into the flour to make a smooth, soft dough. It may need extra milk to get the desired consistency.

**Lightly** knead the dough on a floured work surface. Flatten slightly then roll out thickly until about 2cm thickness or two fingers. Stamp out circles using a 7cm biscuit cutter and transfer to a baking sheet lined with baking parchment, leaving space between them.

Brush the tops with the remaining milk and sprinkle with the cheese. Bake for 12-15mins until well-risen and golden brown.

Best eaten on the day of baking.

Can be made into triangles, squares, and smaller circles....

Why not add some herbs, dried chives works really well!

### SAFEGUARDING NEWS

An external safeguarding review was carried out recently and whilst we have no major issues to address it was a useful exercise to consider all of our systems and procedures.

Several recommendations were made:

- Inform the children of the existence of Childline
- Inform parents of who to contact in the case of a child protection issue- this is Worcestershire Family Front Door  
**01905 822666**
- Ensure parents update contact details/ changes to mobile numbers
- Ensure esafety training for parents is available (see separate letter)

The designated person for safeguarding in the school is Anna Moss and Helen Townsend and Fleur Webb are also trained leads.

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our worship this week on 'Humility' has focused on modesty and explaining the nature of boasting. We have discussed the work of Mary Seacole (nurse) and Brenda Milner (neuropsychologist) and the work that they have championed for the greater good.

Next week, we move on to 'Thoughtfulness' and the ability to think of others.

Blackwell First School



Mrs A Moss