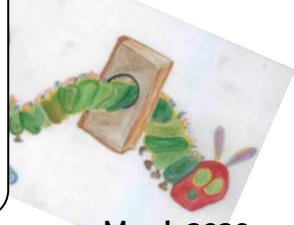




NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School

...developing the whole child...



March 2020

Dear Families,



Two of our 'Community Quilts' have been completed and a third piece is on its way. Many thanks to Mrs Penfold for her work. We look forward to hanging them up soon. Thank you all for your contributions.



Community Quilt Tea towels

We are creating some tea towels to sell to raise funds for school using colour photographs of the beautiful quilts created using your squares and sewn together by Mrs Penfold, a previous Chair of Governors at BFS. Look out for the flyer. These would be lovely mementos of this historic time.

Quick news...

*Thank you to Lydia, a former pupil, for raising £20.00 for BFS by selling old toys.

*Congratulations to Harvey (Yellow) and Nina (Nursery) for entering and winning the PFTA 'Guess Who?'

*Reminder- **no gathering at the church** or on the school field during COVID-19 restrictions. Many thanks.

*Household CV-19 testing kits are now available to BFS families (for adults) from Aldi (Birmingham Rd), Bromsgrove between 1-8pm and 1 adult wearing a mask can collect.

Mrs Marks painted our 'Rights of the Reader' pictures. These two represent, '*the right to dip in and out*' and '*the right to mistake books for real life*'.

'Children's books are not a hiding place; they are a seeking place.' This quote and the one below by Katherine Rundell, children's author, illustrate why reading is so important.

'Children's novels, to me, spoke, and still speak of hope.'

They say: look, this is what bravery looks like. This is what generosity looks like. They tell me through the medium of wizards and lions and talking spiders, that this world we live in is a world of people who tell jokes and work and endure. Children's books say: the world is huge. They say: hope counts for something. They say: bravery will matter, wit will matter, empathy will matter, love will matter.'

As a First School, one of our primary aims is to develop children who can read fluently before they leave for Middle School and to do this we:

- Read to the children every day and help them develop a love of reading;
- Teach them phonics to help them start to read;
- Develop their vocabulary to support them understand the language that they read and
- Develop their comprehension of texts by talking to them about their reading.

Children in Red and Green Classes take home books that match the taught phonics, whilst in the rest of the school, the children select books themselves from within a banded set of books aimed at their phonics as well as their fluency and comprehension.

It would be wonderful if you could hear your children read several times each week using their school books but also share stories with them that you read to help to support their vocabulary development. We have included a list of suggestions for bedtime stories on the children's reading cards.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss

End of term 'Hello'

Usually, we are able to share a 'Coffee Morning' song or two with you all before the Easter holiday in the hall. Due to COVID-19 restrictions making gathering on site illegal, we plan to welcome you into your child's class for around 10 minutes on April 1st 2021 using Zoom. The children will say, 'Hello' and sing a song to you and you will have a little glimpse of their classroom. We will send home the links shortly. You can share these with grandparents and family if you wish.

We ask that you **do not record the event and that no photographs of it are shared on social media** as with all school events.

It will be an ideal opportunity for families to enjoy a morning coffee or afternoon tea and watch the children in school sing and say, 'Hello'.

Blue 9am/ Yellow 9.30am/ Red 10am/ Green 10.30am/ Purple 1pm/ Nursery 1.30pm

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

Sport- It is COMIC RELIEF (of which Sport Relief is a part) this week and the children will consider the work of this charity. [Please donate to the charity online](#)

<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/>

BELLBOATING – If we are able to carry out Bellboating, this will take place during the summer term.

Arts – The children will be preparing art for the Worcester Cathedral annual 'Voices and Visions' art exhibition. We have been successful in gaining more funding via Meadow Arts enabling us to welcome back Mark Riley to work with the children next term.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This week our theme is **Thoughtfulness** and we have started the week by considering the work of Millicent Fawcett (suffragette) and the thoughtful nature of her work, caring for a cause (equality for women). We used the painting of her and her husband by Ford Madox Brown to show thoughtfulness. We considered why her statue in Parliament Square, erected in 2018, is the only one of a woman.



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

IN 2018, we had an external safeguarding review and whilst we had 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 through updates in letters

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

Blackwell First School is an Operation Encompass school and receives police reports when there are incidents of Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass is designed to support schools in helping children who have been present during reported cases of Domestic Abuse. It is important to know that a large number of children are present or in the same household during incidents of Domestic Abuse and that this has a significant impact on children's long term mental wellbeing. Please contact Anna Moss if you would like to speak about any of these issues.

FINAL NEWS

*Malvern residential for Year 4s- something will happen! We are awaiting news on educational visits which are currently not allowed but will plan a special event for the Year 4s.

*Leavers' event – we will be planning a week of special activities for the Year 4s as well as a Leavers' DVD so there's lots to look forward to.

*We will take part in a virtual Worcester Cathedral educational visit later this month and will receive a visit from a CBSO String Trio later in the year to provide the children with experiences beyond Blackwell - details to follow.

*Remember 'Storynight' on 29th March 5.30-6.30pm- please pay via the PFTA link on the ParentApp.

***COVID contract tracing will remain in place for schools over Easter.** Please email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk if your child

EMAILS to school

If you wish to pass on messages to teachers and are not able to speak with them directly, please use the office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk email and **not their individual school emails or class emails**. (Class emails are only used during bubble closures or school closures periods.) This ensures that messages are monitored promptly, even when teachers are teaching.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Mrs Barker's Lemon & Courgette Muffins- Makes 12

Ingredient:

350g courgette raw, approximately 1-2 medium
125ml vegetable oil
2 free-range eggs
100g granulated sugar
1 lemon zest and juice
300g plain flour
1tsp baking powder
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
1pinch salt



For the lemon glaze- 85g icing sugar/ 1tbsp lemon juice

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan. Line muffin tins with cases.
2. Coarsely grate the unpeeled raw courgettes (in a box grater or food processor). Lightly squeeze the gratings in a clean tea towel.
3. In a large bowl, whisk the oil, eggs, sugar, zest and juice together until smooth, then stir in the courgette. Sift in the flour, bicarb, baking powder and salt and gently combine.
4. Spoon the batter into the prepared cases and bake for 25 minutes, or until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin completely.
5. Mix the lemon juice and icing sugar together until smooth. Drizzle over the cooled muffins and sprinkle with lemon zest (optional).
- ✓ Suitable for freezing/Make it vegan: use flax eggs/ Make it wheat free: use rice flour

Developing fluent mathematicians...please help us help the children!

As a school we value the continuing professional development of staff and, since September, the staff have received specific year group training from Anthony Reddy, Maths consultant, as well as focussed training on bar modelling and subtraction to support problem solving. With lots of practise, the children are becoming better and better at being 'number fluent.'

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 10x10.
- Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)- instant recall by the end of Year 4 of all times tables and their division facts to 12x12. (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. Expectations from the National Curriculum are high and the children need plenty of practise to help embed their learning.

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. Miss Townsend and I can really tell which children are practising their times tables at home so thank you for helping the children become more fluent.