

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

Dear Families,

No wonder the castle was easy to defend with these banks! We struggled to get up them.

It seems no time at all since Red Class children were arriving for their first week and maybe time really does fly when you're having fun, because to me it only seems a little while since our Year 4s arrived as new Red Class children and here we are five years on, sending them off to Bellboating, on Residential and preparing them for transition to Middle School.

This term is a really busy one for the children and staff. We start the term with 'Castles and Tudors' and whether the children are investigating travel, food, clothing or weapons, the children will all develop their historical skills of enquiry, analysis and presentation of evidence. We had a wonderful visit to Kenilworth last Monday and thank you for helping us make these memorable experiences possible. The children asked excellent questions, showed an interest in their surroundings and are beginning to develop a sense of chronology and passing of time. (Although we did have to comment on the fact that the teachers were not alive during Tudor times!)

We continue to work to support children's learning behaviours in school and we strive for children who are independent, resilient and aspirational. Through work in all lessons, Collective Worship, PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education), P4C (Philosophy) and our Afternoon Clubs, we offer activities and experiences to develop these skills. Please help at home by encouraging the children to organise their own belongings, make their beds in a morning, clear their plates from the table, carry their bags to school and take ownership of their reading and homework. It is a start in making them more independent in all areas of their lives.

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



We climbed up high and looked at the view. Elizabeth 1 definitely had the best spot for her dancing hall!



Blue Class children were surprised at the size of the castle when they arrived.

We think this may be Elsie peeping through an arrow slit at Kenilworth, but it is hard to tell!

Moving on from Red Class into Green Class

Moving from Reception into Year 1 can be a tricky time for children as they move from the 0-5 Early Years curriculum onto a new curriculum that includes Year 1- 6 and also an increase in expectation regarding the formality of learning.

We have spent a number of years developing our Early Years provision and know from evidence that this provision works for children of this age. We are, therefore, delighted to announce that we will be extending our child centred provision into Year 1 from September. We are working alongside Charford and Millfields schools to receive training and engage in preparations in time for a September start for our new Year 1 learners.

The provision will involve children accessing whole class teaching for Phonics, English and Maths as well as all of the other National Curriculum subjects. They will also all take part in small group and individual work routinely throughout the year, and, as and when it is needed, targeted intervention will support those children with specific gaps in learning or personal challenges. Crucially, this approach will enable the children to select their own learning activities but rather than accessing 'toys' as they currently do in Reception, they will access areas of learning, such as Performance, Experiment, Design etc. During the week they will also be expected to complete a number of set tasks which will provide evidence for their levels of independent learning.

It is an exciting time to be moving into Year 1 and we know from experience and research that this approach to learning makes it more relevant and engaging for children of this age. As the children develop throughout the year, expectations will rise and we will support the new transition into Year 2. A never ending learning journey...

School Council updates

The members of the School Council have been busy at their meeting deciding on how they can support the school.

They will be handing out a questionnaire to all classes that children will complete individually to find out how gender biased the children are overall. This will help inform further work on tackling gender stereotyping amongst the children. This in turn will help us tackle both career aspiration and behaviours that are associated with boys and girls that can be perceived as negative stereotypes.

During a recent interview of pupils, Mrs Moss discovered that not many children could name famous composers or artists despite lots of work in class, during clubs and during Collective Worship. The council will complete a separate arts survey to find out more about the children's knowledge. During Collective Worship, the children will report on the role of Governors to help them understand how the school is run and who makes important decisions. The Sports Crew will work with Mrs Webb to support our Sporting Games later in the term and will monitor the success of sport in school.

The work by the children helps the children develop a sense of democracy and a feeling of being valued.

A 5 star kitchen!

Mrs Barker and Mr Hopkins have done it again – 5 stars for the kitchen on the annual environmental health audit. Well done Blackwell Kitchen. I am always amazed by how well the children eat in school. It is sometimes amusing talking to the older siblings who 'tell tales' on their younger brothers or sisters, saying things like, "He never eats that at home!" or "She makes such a fuss usually." I think that the children's ability to eat more unusual foods when they are with their peers is staggering. It is also testament to Mrs Barker for being ingenious with her disguising of certain fruits and vegetables!

If your child is in Year 3 and 4 next year when lunches are chargeable, we urge you to continue to ensure that the children eat meals from the Blackwell Kitchen as it helps to support healthy eating and ensures that the children have a hot meal in the middle of the day. Thank you for your support.



School Sport and the Arts

- Red, Nursery and Blue Class children have produced some beautiful artwork which will be displayed at Worcester Cathedral during June (dates TBC). The other classes will display their work around school for everyone to enjoy.
- We are planning a competitive Sporting event for Year 4s, alongside our BCM schools network and look forward to supporting the children in finding their competitive spirit!

Collective Worship – Over the next few weeks we will consider the Universal Values of **Equality** and **Diversity** as well as working on **Manners** and children's ability to **Try their best**. As part of this work we will discuss the diversity within our British population and prepare children for their future lives in a multicultural nation. We will consider how equality features highly in their everyday lives and how major historical figures such as Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parkes, Martin Luther King and William Wilberforce played a significant part towards creating equality in society.

Tudor Fayre

Please come along on 17th May to our Tudor Fayre. The whole school (except for the hall) will be open to explore. Please visit all classes, even though your child will need to stay on duty in their own classroom and see what is going on across the school.

	9-9.45	9.45-10.30
Red	Edward Maddie Joey Zoe Ollie Alice Hector Mia Theo Beau Bohan Katie James Ellie Toby	Max Lara Elliott Harriet Chloe Teddy Millie Freddie Harvey Edith Eliza Lexi Beatrice Ruben Yehan
Green	Rohan Leo Dominic Alex C Blake Faren Catey Heidi Emerson Ollie Joe Ethan Arabella Elizabeth Summer	Rosie Mia Alfie Beatrice Evie Kevon Jasper Alex S Kuba Eva Jessica Freddie Alex Y Harrison
Purple	Annabelle Henry Harry B David Jack Lizzy Olivia Elsie Fraser Ethan Florence Madison Theo Libby Mason	Archie Evie S Jamaal Bobby Elliott Eva Lily Evie M Jessica Lily Harry S Bethany Fin Amelia
Yellow – Yellow Class will perform at their class assembly on 16 th and will repeat activities during this morning (if it is difficult to attend both, the assembly may be the first option)	Maddie Camilla Abbie Harris Samson Charlie Jack Ethan Joshua Bobby Cassidy Jan Isabelle Lydia Henry	Alice Laura William Sam Lewis Zach Sam Oliver Imogen Fraser Kristian Oliver George Jackson Oscar Oliver
Blue	Blue Class will all be 'working' on their areas of responsibility during both slots. (Please come to one of the sessions)	

Holiday Club – Thanks to Mrs Moran and Mrs Cain who ran a delightful holiday club over Easter. From Forest School to a very rainy sport day, the children had a wonderful time and the teachers were invited in for lunch, which was a real treat!

Holiday club is running again during the first and last weeks of the Summer holidays so please book through Mrs Moran or the school office.

Red Class learning journey – Red Class children are settled in school and have learned lots of basic skills and routines and are developing as early learners. They now work more in their workbooks as part of supporting them with their transition to Year 1. They also have an art sketch book and a homework book. The children will bring home a homework sheet every few weeks that they can work on each week, but these are optional. The details of what to do are explained on the sheet. It is most important in Reception that the children read every day. Homework can wait, but we know that some families/children like more work. How different we all are!

These homework sheets provide you as families with very detailed information about what is being taught in school. By reading the sheets, even if you don't do the homework, you will be able to talk about the children's learning with them or understand some of the things that they may talk to you about. Please ask myself or Mrs Webb if you have queries.

TERM DATES- Summer Term 2017

- 9.5 Class and Leavers photos
 - 16.5 Yellow Class assembly
 - 17.5 Tudor Fayre – 2 slots: 9-9.45/ 9.45-10.30 please check when your child will be involved
 - 24.5 Purple Class- cake sale
 - 25.5 Sport's Day -9.30-10.30/11am
 - 25.5 Sporting Fun for Nursery – 2.00pm
 - 9.6 Barnt Green Pre School- family fun day
 - 11-13.6 Residential Y4s
 - 14/15.6. Father's Day sale after school
 - 16.6 BLACKWELL FESTIVAL on the school field
 - 18.6 PFTA AGM- 7.30pm school
 - 19.6 Whole school photo
 - 20.6 Year 1 drama day- South Bromsgrove High School
 - 21.6 Storyclub- new YR
 - 27.6 Red Class assembly
 - 28.6 Storyclub- new YR
 - 28.6/5.7 Bellboating
 - 30.6 SUMMER FAIR
 - 5.7 Storyclub – new YR
 - 11.7 Bellboating regatta
 - 12.7 Storyclub – new YR and new NURSERY
 - 12.7 Year 4 BCM sport's day (Blackwell, Charford, Millfields)
 - 18.7 Piano concert for Mrs Grew's children- 3.30pm
 - 19.7 Storyclub – new YR and new NURSERY
 - 19.7 Purple Class assembly
 - 20.7 Piano Concert for Mrs Moss's children – 8.45am
 - 20.7 Piano Concert for Mrs Cutler's children – 2.30pm
 - 20.7 Yellow Class cake sale after school
 - 20.7 Reports home/ new class letters
 - 23.7 New class visits
 - 23.7 Settling in – Nursery 12.40-1.30pm
 - 17.7 Nursery Induction meeting (home visits will have taken place)– 1.15pm
 - 23.7 YR induction meeting – 6pm
 - 24.7 Leaver's breakfast
 - 24.7 End of term
- SUMMER HOLIDAY
HOLIDAY CLUB- 25-27 July AND 28.8-31.8
School opens – 3.9.18 – 2 TEDs (children requiring additional transition support will be invited during these days)
School opens for children – 5.9.18

(For Storyclub sessions for Reception, if your child attends Nursery on these days, they will automatically attend and you do not need to come along).