



Newsletter

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

May 2017

Dear Families,



Blue and Purple Class artwork at Worcester Cathedral- until June 11th.

Have a good half term break. I can't believe that another half term has passed. It has been wonderful to see the progress that the children are making. Red Class children have started to apply their phonic and sentence level writing skills to their own writing and it is great to see so many children keen to have a go, although it is tricky. Lots of praise and making the learning meaningful for them is the approach that Mrs Webb and Mrs Allen take and they are blossoming. Green Class has certainly matured this half term and Mrs James, Mrs Edney and Mrs Marks are working hard (along with the children), preparing them for their transition to Year 2. Year 2s have shown excellent resilience during SATs whilst Year 3s continue to mature and take on responsibilities along with our excellent Year 4s who are an example to the whole school. Thanks to all of the teaching team for supporting and nurturing the children so well and to you all for keeping up with reading, homework and everyday support at home. Thank you for being so positive about the children's learning and supportive to the school.

School Games Morning On Friday 26th May at 9.00am our 'School Games' will begin (weather permitting). Please find the large circle on the field and bring a blanket/ chair to sit on! Please stay in the circle so that you don't get mixed up in the events! (If it is wet on Thursday or Friday and the field is too wet, we will post a notice on the website). As part of our 'Extreme Sport' topic, we are organising a sporting morning similar to 2016 to enable there to be a competitive element to activities, whilst also enabling the children to be as active as possible during the session. The children will be grouped into year groups and take part in a variety of team sports with the highlight being the running races. Please stay in the marked circle and cheer on your child as they enjoy the activities. There will be refreshments on sale for adults as well as a PFTA plant stall. We will provide drinks for the children before and after the event and we imagine the event will be over by 11 am. **IT IS DUE TO BE WARM SO PLEASE PUT ON SUNCREAM (to the children!) BEFORE SCHOOL AND IF YOU WISH, SEND THE CHILDREN IN LONG SLEEVED COTTON TOPS. THEY WILL ALL NEED A SUN HAT.**

Plant sale proceeds will raise funds for the school through the PFTA and the refreshment stall will raise funds for the School Fund (please bring your pennies for carrot cake, breakfast muffins, sausage rolls, cheese puffs and drinks!), supporting the purchase of outdoor equipment and resources for our outdoor areas. Thank you.

Bromsgrove Learning Network

As a Bromsgrove and wider district school, we have worked to develop the educational experiences and outcomes for the children at Blackwell by working collaboratively with other local schools for a number of years. This has enabled us to develop strong links to support transition between schools and an equal experience for our children. As the educational landscape changes nationally, with a focus on schools working more formally together alongside a reduced service from Local Authorities/ County Councils, we have formalised our collaborative work within the Bromsgrove District to create closer links and working relationships between our schools. Each of the twenty-one Bromsgrove District schools works within a small group and is also as part of the wider **Bromsgrove Learning Network**. Our vision is outlined below.

To work collaboratively, in the supportive and challenging capacity of school improvement, to ensure that all schools in the network are provided with systems and support that enable them to maintain strong provision and outcomes.

We use the opportunities that this collaborative working provides to develop school leadership, teaching and learning, administration and Governance. The children gain from the shared expertise of staff across the network and wider opportunities within the network for collaborative experiences. As a group of school leaders we feel strongly that together we will ensure that Bromsgrove remains an excellent place for children to learn.



Summer Garden Party at Burcot Grange

Children and families are invited to Burcot Grange for their Summer Garden Party on 17th June 2.30-4.30pm. The charity supported this year is 'Alzheimer's Society'. If anyone would like to help at this event, please contact Burcot Grange.

Our amazing PFTA

At Blackwell, we aim to provide a broad curriculum with a strong focus on basic skills of reading, writing and maths but also opportunities to develop the whole child through their appreciation of the Arts, Sport and Humanities. Our PFTA raises funds to support this work and look how much we have been able to offer as a result this year.

Bangra dancing- £450.00

London educational visit - £410.00

Reading books for home reading- £3,500.00

Bellboating - £660.00

Thanks to the support of the hardworking PFTA and also all of you for supporting events.



Are you supporting your child's mental well being?

Nationally, children's mental well being is under increasing scrutiny as modern lifestyles have an impact on children. A few simple things that you do can make a big difference:

- Find time to share meals and talk to your children, giving them time to talk to you
- Limit time spent on technology
- Develop their understanding of their emotions, by articulating emotions to them and supporting them in knowing how to behave appropriately (help them know that all people feel angry, upset, scared, but how they choose to behave is important)
- Use storytime before bed as an opportunity to develop language but also a wider understanding of the world through books
- Give children time away from organised activities- they need to rest

Staffing for September

Our staffing is almost finalised for September and is as listed below:

Mrs Moss- Headteacher

Miss Townsend – Deputy Headteacher (Special Educational Needs co-ordinator)

Mrs Webb – Early Years Leader

Teachers: Mrs James/ Mrs Freeman, Miss Kuriger, Miss Steele
Music (recorders)/cover teacher – Mrs Hipkiss (welcome back!)

Mrs Mander – Nursery manager

Teaching Assistants- Mrs Allen, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Franklin, Mrs Chamberlain, Mrs Reid, Miss Turner, Mrs Marks (Higher Level Teaching Assistant), Mrs Morgan, Mrs Moran

Blackwell Club Manager- Mrs Moran

Club staff- Mrs Edney, Mrs Cain, Mrs Marks, Mrs Reid

Forest School Leader– Mrs Cain

School Cook- Mrs Barker

Administration Team- Mrs Bailey, Mrs Hargreaves, Mrs Cain

Site staff- Mrs Thornton, Miss Lovell, Mrs Joiner, Mr Jackson

We will continue with violin and flute tuition through Worcester

Youth Music, Mrs Moss will continue with piano lessons and we are delighted that Mrs Hipkiss will join us to teach recorder. If you wish to sign up for recorder lessons for September, look out for a letter next half term.

Sport and the Arts

Sports – Time for Y4s to visit our Network Racquet Sports Event this week- good luck Year 4s. Show good sportsmanship.

Arts –Well done to Year 2 and 4 who have artwork on display at Worcester Cathedral in the cloisters. I hope some of you may visit before the exhibition ends on 11th June.

Super Class Assembly from Yellow Class. Well done!



Sainsbury's
SCHOOL GAMES
2014/15



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Parking at 'Drop off/ Pick up' times

In an effort to keep everyone safe at the start/end of the day, please continue to park safely (not obscuring driveways). Please supervise scooters and do not scoot on the playground as there are so many children around. Remember that it is illegal to park on the yellow zig zags and, to ease congestion if you are able, please walk to school. Where this is not possible, please use the full length of road to park and the roads at either end of St Catherine's to walk along. Thank you.

Esafety – Be aware...families at Blackwell, as everywhere, face real challenges. This is a problem for everyone to face.

Is your child safe online? How do you know? What are they accessing on their computers, ipads, tablets or your smartphone? We teach the children all the rules about social networking and not sharing personal details, but then we know that at home children can disregard the rules, especially when filters may not be as strong. It is particularly important that they know how to keep safe and also not to enter a world of bullying online. Games have an age restriction for a reason and we find that children who access games beyond their age, develop challenges that are beyond their development. Please find further advice: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents and on the attached letter.



Collective Worship

In current times, it is more important than ever that we support the children in becoming responsible citizens in a changing world. This week our theme is 'Diversity' and we have focussed on the work of the Paralympics (linked to our topic this week), being visited by the World Champion in Club shot who lives locally in Rubery. We shared the following video clips that you may want to discuss with your child.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ioclkk3aYIk> (SPORT)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bupIH3UkPnU> (MUSIC)

It is important for us to support the children in understanding and valuing differences in our society and helping them play their part in living as part of our British culture with shared values that underpin a successful nation.



Leana visited us. She is the world number 1 in club shot! She talked about being a paralympian and her sporting successes. The children asked great questions and discovered that her PE teacher had motivated her to get into sport.



Mrs Anna Moss, Head teacher

TERM DATES- Summer Term 2017

- 25.5 BCM PE event- Y4s Millfields
- 26.5 Sport's Day (No swimming)
- 5.6 Circus skills day
- 7.6 Storyclub – YR
- 9.6 Swimming
- 14.6 Storyclub- YR
- 14.6 Outdoor learning day- BCM: morning Y3s
- 16.6 Swimming
- 17.6 Blackwell Festival
- 19.6 Bellboating Y4s
- 19.6 Drama SBHS Y3s
- 19.6 PFTA AGM 7.30pm in school
- 21.6 Storyclub- YR
- 23.6 Swimming
- 28.6 Storyclub- YR
- 28.6 YR Athletics at Ryland Centre
- 29.6 Red Class assembly
- 30.6 Swimming
- 30.6 Settling in visits for Nursery 8.30-9.30
- 1.7 PFTA BALL
- 5.7 Storyclub – YR
- 5.7 Malvern residential
- 6.7 Residential
- 7.7 Residential
- 7.7 No swimming
- 12.7 Bell boating regatta
- 12.7 Storyclub- YR
- 14.7 Swimming
- 14.7 Settling in – Nursery
- 15.7 SUMMER FAIR
- 17.7 Year 4s transition day
- 17.7 Nursery Induction meeting (in Red Class) – 5.30pm
- 18.7 Class swaps
- 19.7 Jungle Tea Party
- 19.7 YR induction meeting
- 21.7 Leaver's breakfast
- 21.7 End of term
- SUMMER HOLIDAY
- HOLIDAY CLUB- 24-28 July AND 29.8-1.9
- School opens – 4.9.17 – 2 Teacher Days

We were invited to display artwork on the theme of 'Reading' at the West Midland Annual Conference for School Leaders at Chateau Impney last week. Blackwell, Charford and Millfields displayed work. We were honoured to receive a mention. Thank you to Blue and Purple Classes for their artwork based on 'The Dragon Machine' and 'Great Expectations'.