



Nursery, Red and Blue Class artwork at Worcester Cathedral- until June 17th

Dear Families,

Have a good half term break everyone.

As we approach the last half term of the year it is a good time to reflect on the journey that the children have made this year. It has been wonderful to see the development of our youngest children in Nursery and Red Class as they mature, ready for their transition into school or Year 1. Their levels of independence have grown tremendously thanks to the hard work of the staff and the provision in Nursery and Reception. It is this provision that we will continue to develop in Year 1 and the planning for this is taking place, along with training ready for September.

Our Year 1s and 2s have been working very hard under the careful direction of the staff, enabling them to develop the vital basic skills of speaking and listening, reading, writing and maths whilst also developing the key skills of independence, resilience and problem solving that our school curriculum supports. As for our Y3s and Y4s, the expectations increase considerably in anticipation of Middle School and they are rising to the challenge. Well done everyone.

School Games Morning (Reception- Y4) On Friday 25th 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 and make arrangements to change the date until after half term).

As part of our 'Health and Fitness' topic, we are organising a sporting morning similar to 2017 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. We will provide drinks for the children before and after the event and we imagine the event will be over by 10.30/11 am. **IF IT IS DUE TO BE WARM, PLEASE PUT ON SUNCREAM (the children!) BEFORE SCHOOL AND IF YOU WISH, SEND THE CHILDREN IN LONG SLEEVED COTTON TOPS. THEY WILL ALL NEED A SUN HAT.**

The refreshment stall will raise funds for the School Fund (please bring your pennies) supporting the purchase of equipment and resources for our new Y1 areas. Thank you.

Collaborative working

For a number of years we have worked with Charford and Millfields First schools on developing provision in our schools through staff working together, headteachers working together, accessing joint training and supporting each other's schools during times such as Ofsted inspections and external reviews. We feel strongly that a rigorous collaborative approach supports our schools.

More recently we have worked across Bromsgrove as part of the Bromsgrove Learning Network of twenty one schools, sharing good practice, joint training and ensuring that no school is isolated. At a time when Worcestershire County Council no longer provides the support it once did, this is of increasing importance.

During the autumn term, the three schools applied to formalise the collaborative work that they do by becoming a Teaching School Alliance. We have received confirmation that we were successful in our bid and will now work as **Bromsgrove Primary Teaching School Alliance**.

The Alliance receives funding from the Department for Education to appoint an administrator to manage the running of the Alliance and then the schools will deliver Initial Teacher Training (ITT) for students wishing to train to become teachers, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and School to School Support (StSS) for schools identified as needing additional support to drive improvements. As there was no primary teaching school in Bromsgrove and therefore no access to additional funding streams and support from the National Teaching Schools, it will enable the schools in the local area to continue to flourish.

SPORTING AFTERNOON- NURSERY

Families are invited to enjoy some sporting fun on our small back field at 2pm on Friday (for around half an hour) and then the children will return to Nursery to prepare for bedtime and you are welcome to stay on the field and enjoy refreshments. (Please bring your pennies)

If the weather makes it impossible to use the field, we will post information on the website

www.blackwellfirstschool.com and change the date of this event.



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. Last year, we shared with you some simple things to do to support strong mental health, such as: sharing meals, reading stories at bedtime, limiting time on technology.

As a staff, we have been trained in emotion coaching recently and some of the messages may also help you at home.

- Show emotions to children in a 'controlled' way to expose children to all emotions and verbalise the emotion to them so that they can identify different emotions that they also feel
- Support children in understanding (through discussion) that all people experience all emotions but have to learn to deal with them appropriately in different situations

This will be a focus for work next year and we will share information with you.

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 , Miss Kuriger, **Miss Phipps**, Mrs Dudek (Mrs Dudek is expecting a baby and will leave us during the autumn term- congratulations!)
 Music (recorders)/cover teacher – Mrs Hipkiss
 Mrs Mander – Nursery manager
 Teaching Assistants- Mrs Allen, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Franklin, Miss Chamberlain, Mrs Reid, Miss Turner, Mrs Marks, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Moran, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Cain (More appointments to finalise)
 Blackwell Club Manager- Mrs Moran
 Club staff- Mrs Edney, Miss Turner, Mrs Marks, Mrs Reid
 Forest School Leader– Mrs Cain
 School Cook- Mrs Barker and assistant Mr Hopkins
 Administration Team- Mrs Bailey, Mrs Hargreaves, **Mrs Tomlinson**
 Site Manager and Housekeeper - TBC
 Site staff - Mr Jackson
 We will continue with violin (Mrs Grainger) and flute (Miss Foster) tuition through Worcester Youth Music. Mrs Cutler, Mrs Grew and Mrs Moss will continue with piano lessons and Mrs Hipkiss will teach recorder. If you wish to sign up for recorder, flute, piano or violin lessons for September, look out for a letter next half term.

Eafety – 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. We have had particular concerns regarding the playing of 'Fortnite' this year, particularly when older children are setting it up for their Y1 and 2 siblings, who are developmentally able to access it (age restriction 12) and are beginning to be targeted by older children when playing together online.
 Please find further advice: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

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 'Peace' and we have focussed on the sermon from Rev Michael Curry at the Royal Wedding, discussing his message that love and kindness brings peace and a better world. We can't change the world but we can change ourselves for the better and 'bringing a smile' was Rev Clarke's message this week.

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.



Mrs Anna Moss, Head teacher

Sport and the Arts

Sports – Time for our Annual Sporting Event- let's hope the weather stays dry!

Arts –Well done to Nursery, Reception and Y4 who have artwork on display at Worcester Cathedral in the cloisters. I hope some of you may visit before the exhibition ends on 17th June.

Super Class Assembly from Yellow Class. Well done!



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.

TERM DATES- Summer Term 2018

- 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).