

NEWSLETTER



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

Blist's Hill visit- it was great finding out about the Victorians, but we didn't like the look of the dentist's chair!

Dear Families,

Now that the term is well underway and this half term is nearing an end, it seems a good time to share with you some successes this term.

- Nursery- The Nursery children are busy playing with their friends in the mud, sand and water. No wonder they need so many spare clothes! It is lovely to see them all enjoying themselves.
- Red Class – Well done for settling in so well and for learning routines quickly. Mrs Webb, Mrs Reid, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Cain are having a lovely time helping you with your learning and you all look like you're working hard and are getting tired.
- Blue Class – The pace is picking up in Year 4! You are getting ready for all of the action this year, bell boating, residential and extra responsibilities so expectations are high.
- Green Class – You are having an amazing time settling into Year 1 and we are enjoying having time to get to know you during 'Play and Explore'. You certainly enjoy earning your tokens for challenges.
- Yellow Class – You have settled into Yellow Class well and are rising to the challenge of Key Stage 2! You're helping Miss Phipps too, it feels like she has always been here.
- Purple Class- There is a lot to do in Year 2 and you are showing that you can work well. Miss Kuriger, Mrs Moran, Miss Chamberlain and Miss Arscott are helping you with the exciting learning and we can see how much you have matured.

The opportunities the teachers are planning for the children this term are supporting them in developing their skills as independent learners by encouraging them to think for themselves, make choices about their learning and work co-operatively with others. Please help with this at home. Well done children.



IT and esafety Please see the copy of advice prepared for parents to support children in staying safe online.

Please also watch 'Lee and Kim' with your children –google CEOP Lee and Kim. They have watched it in school to explain about not sharing personal information. This includes posting photos of themselves in school uniform, identifying their school and placing them in vulnerable situations.

As adults, it is worth taking 15 minutes to watch 'Alright Charlie?' a video explaining CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation), supporting you in your understanding of the significant aspect of modern life and how easy it is for ANY child from ANY background to be targeted.

The more aware that families are, the less likely children are to be placed in vulnerable situations. Please watch the clips and read the documents.

ESAFETY EVENING FOR PARENTS WITH FRAN GREENAWAY – PLEASE COME ALONG- 15TH October 6pm at Blackwell First School.

Christmas Cards

Save your Christmas card purchasing because the children will all be making cards which we copy and sell in packs of 5 after half term. You will be sent an example card from each class and then we take orders ready for December. Look out for letters.

Happy Half Term

This will have been a long half term for the children and they are tired! We hope they have a good rest and come back refreshed after half term. Please try to ensure they read over half term, complete any homework and perhaps investigate our next topic 'Special Places around the World'. Maybe they could find out about a famous city, temple of natural wonder?

SCHOOL SPORT AND THE ARTS

Sport - This term we have had specialist coaching in badminton from a coach through the 'All Active Academy' and competitive sporting events have started. Some children will attend 'Play Leader' training soon and then be part of the Sport's Crew who will support playtimes. Gold award again this year- well done Mrs Webb and staff!

Arts – Music lessons are now happening almost all day every day. Mrs Grew and Mrs Cutler are teaching almost 25 children piano. We also have Miss Foster (flute), Mrs Grainger (violin) and Mrs Hipkiss (recorder). Keep practising everyone. Thank you to choir for a superb sing at Open Evening and everyone commented on your lovely singing.

Sainsbury's
SCHOOL GAMES



Learning in Year 1

The children have now settled into Year 1 and are enjoying the new challenges and also the continuation of 'Play and Explore' albeit with completely different resources. The continuation of 'play' provision means that as well as being taught new skills and subject knowledge from the teacher, they are able to deepen their learning as they repeat activities and explore all areas of the curriculum through their play.

Mrs James and Miss Turner have added in more challenges this week, so that the children have set tasks to complete at some point during 'Play and Explore' and the children earn a token for each challenge. The tokens are red, orange or green enabling the children to self assess their learning and reflect for themselves.

Over the coming weeks, the children will be expected to complete more challenges independently and the challenges will support the areas of learning that they need support with, for example reading or spelling key words, playing games with number bonds to 10, completing artwork based on collage.



Learning in
Year 1

Complaints procedure

At this time of year, we outline the procedures schools nationally have in place to deal with complaints. Any complaints should be addressed to the Headteacher. In the event of formal complaints being necessary, schools require a letter of formal complaint to be written and addressed to the Headteacher. If the matter remains unresolved, a further complaint should be addressed to the Governors. In the event of the complaint not being resolved, the County Council no longer deals with complaints and any further complaints should be addressed to the Secretary of State for Education. (For a copy of the Complaints procedure ask at school)

Governing Body

The Governing Body works hard to ensure that the children at Blackwell School have the best start to their education. The Governors are listed below:

Hugh Evans- Chair

Debbie Wilson – Vice Chair

Anna Moss – Headteacher

Helen Townsend – Staff governor

Ken Lewis –Co-opted Governor

John Reed – Co-opted Governor

Simon Checkley – Co-opted Governor

Clair McNeill – Parent Governor

Paul Lewis- Parent Governor

Debbie Bailey/ Clare Tomlinson – Clerk to Governors

Thank you Governors for your hard work and support.

BURCOT GRANGE

The School Council has been asked to name the four wings in the new extension at Burcot Grange. They will be discussing famous people who have lived in Blackwell or locally, landmarks and buildings that have been important through the ages. The residents will vote for four winning names and the children will then design artwork for each wing.

This activity will support the children's developing understanding of community and the development of their social and moral skills.

We look forward to a visit to Burcot before half term.

PARKING

The traffic lights have now been removed and parking is a little easier. Thank you for your patience and sensible parking during this time. Please can I remind you to leave residents' driveways clear as well as the school car park entrance.

It is also illegal to park on the yellow zig zag lines and a parent was fined for this during recent years so please be aware that this is possible.

PRIVACY NOTICE – Please note that there will be a new privacy notice on the school website shortly. This outlines information about data sharing at school. If you are new to school please take the time to read it. (It is under policies.)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We were visited by Rosemary Aveyard in Collective Worship this week. She delivered leaflets to distribute to the children (attached). We are participating in 'Operation Christmas Child' this year, where the children bring a shoe box into school, decorated and filled with goodies (the leaflets explain what to give and what not to give). These boxes are then collected from school and taken to Africa for communities without toys and treats.

The collection date from school is: Thursday 8th November (please only bring boxes on this day as storage is a problem!)

Children will also need to bring £5.00 to support transportation of the box.

The visit from Rosemary supported the children's understanding of different communities around the world and the lives of those different from their own. (Nursery and Red Class were not present in this talk so if they wish to take part, families, Mrs Webb and Mrs Mander can discuss the charity and its work.)

We hope that this will be an activity that the children will enjoy over half term and that they will gain an understanding of charitable causes through the experience.

HEALTHY SNACKS AND LUNCHBOXES

Please support us in encouraging the children to bring healthy snacks and lunchboxes (for those not having a hot meal). Sweets, chocolate and crisps are not allowed in school and we encourage the children to learn 'all things in moderation'. There are children with NUT allergies so we ask that no nuts or nut products are on site. Thank you.

Dates- autumn term

24.10.18 Purple class assembly

24.10.18 School closes for children

25/26.10.18 Teacher training days

29.10.18 - 02.11.18 Half term

5.11.18 School opens for children

6.11.18 Individual school photographs

7.12.18 Christmas Fair new time- evening

12.12.18 Parent consultations

13.12.18 Parent consultations

14.12.18 Filming of Christmas plays

14.12.18 Christmas lunch

18.12.18 Christmas plays YR and Year 1 - 9.30am and 1.30pm

19.12.18 Christmas plays Year 2 - Year 4 1.30pm

20.12.18 Christmas plays Year 2 - Year 4 9.30am

20.12.18 Nursery coffee/sing 2.30pm

21.12.18 Pantomime - The Adventures of Treasure Island- in school 9.30am

21.12.18 School closes for children

Spring/Summer dates are on the school website

www.blackwellfirstschool.com



Whether you are counting using egg boxes in maths, learning to use a knife and fork at lunchtime or balancing with Mrs Edney, there is always lots to do at school!