

Dear Families,



New Red  
Class

Welcome back everyone. It is lovely to welcome back the children and their happy, eager faces. Welcome to our new families both in Red Class, Nursery and across the school.

At the start of the year I remind everyone (staff, parents, children and governors) of the school aim:

**At Blackwell First School we aim to educate the whole child and to ensure children are happy, healthy and fulfil their potential in terms of development of skills for life, social and moral values and academic success.**

In an ever changing world, we aim to hold these values at the heart of what we do. We are educating young children to become lifelong learners and for this they need an education that will support their development as rounded individuals.

Sometimes, families really understand and value the school aims after they start to have an impact on their children later in the school or even after they have left. As one parent wrote at the end of the year...

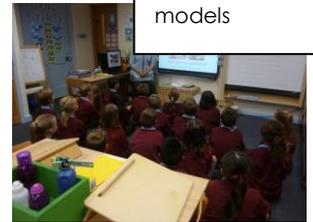
...he has made such excellent progress both socially and academically and I know he has had the best possible start to his education...

Please see the new academic year's School Development Plan headlines attached, to see our focus for development this year. We are looking forward to starting our new whole school topics. Years 1-4 will be learning all about "Seasons-leading to a Scarecrow festival" and Reception will be learning "All about me" for the first few weeks in school. Mrs Mander is helping Nursery children 'learn the ropes' and following their interests as they learn routines and become experts at tidying up!

Class newsletters will provide you with information about what aspects of topics are being covered.

We are delighted that the Nursery is almost finished and that in a few weeks it will finally be fully operational. What a joy it has been to welcome our new 3 year olds! Mrs Mander and Mrs Allen are having a super time helping them all settle in.

All Y4s are role  
models



Pneumatics-  
Y3



Learning together –  
Y1

Our new Nursery



**WELCOME** The start of term is always busy as children settle into new routines. Support them by encouraging them to be independent and reassuring them about any changes. If there is anything you are wondering about please speak to your child's class teacher or myself at the end of the school day. We are usually available to speak informally after 3.15pm. A drop in session for any quick queries or just to say hello will take place on 20.9.17 3.15-4.30pm.

An informal open evening (no appointments) will take place on 18.10.17 at 5.30-7pm. This is an opportunity for children, parents and the community to come together into school and visit classrooms, look at work and informally speak with class teachers. Further Parent Consultation days will be available after half term to discuss children's work and progress.

**Sports** – Mrs Webb is busy planning for the sporting events on the calendar this year. All children from Reception to Year 4 will participate in a competitive Bromsgrove wide event during the year- details to follow.

**Arts** – Miss Steele is planning exciting drama, music and arts events for the year. Miss Foster and Mrs Grainger visited this week to introduce the children to flute and violin lessons. If you would like your child to have flute/ violin lessons with our peripatetic teachers, please ask at the office for a letter. These lessons take place in small groups of three each week and are chargeable. They are a perfect opportunity to introduce children to instrumental lessons in an informal way and music lessons support children's development.



**Blackwell School Club** is our school run Out of School Care provider. We are open from 7.15am until 6pm and provide a range of play based activities as well as breakfast and tea in a nurturing environment. Please see the office or Mrs Moran for details. Mrs Edney will now be working in the School Club during the later evening.

**Afternoon school clubs** are offered on the school site for children from Reception onwards as a way of extending children's learning, providing additional curriculum linked activities, providing the children with healthy activities in which to engage and stimulate the children's interests. These are free of charge. This term your children will be engaged in some of the clubs listed below:

- Art- to reinforce curriculum learning and develop creativity
- Music- to support curriculum development and skills
- Sport- to develop core skills of balance, strength and stamina
- Film- to engage children in classic stories, developing language and creativity
- Sewing- learning new skills and having an opportunity for relaxation
- Forest School- appreciating the outdoors and working with others
- Drama- developing confidence and performance
- Storyclub- reading and sharing stories to develop language

## Medical Needs and administering medication in school

For children with medical conditions that require support above and beyond the average child in mainstream provision, we follow guidance as set out by the Department for Education in the document 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions- April 2014'. The school policy is available from the school office on request.

### Administration of medication

In light of government guidance, when children are well enough to be in school, but require medication (such as antibiotics) we ask that parents request that 'where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours' (Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions- April 2014). Where this is not possible, in agreement with the headteacher, school staff will administer medication with written parental consent and only when in date medication is received in original packaging that is clearly labelled and includes instructions for administration, dosage and storage. (This includes travel sickness medication). This will be administered at or as close to 12 noon as possible.

If your child has an inhaler, epipen or any long term medication, please ensure that it is in date and in school. School documentation needs completing by parents prior to medication being administered. Please also remember to tell us of changing medical needs so that we can amend school records and ensure the best possible care is available.

### SITE DEVELOPMENTS

As always, the school was a busy place over the summer! Not only were Mrs Moran and Mrs Cain running holiday club (thanks to them both for a splendid and happy two weeks) but the builders worked so hard on the Nursery. We are delighted with the facilities and in a few more weeks the grounds will be complete and our new Forest School Nursery children will be outside enjoying the new Forest School area.

Our 'Blackwell Ape' grotesque has also been restored thanks to donations from local residents, the Parish Council and Burcot Grange. Take a look up at the front of the school on the chimney and you will see him.

Thank you so much to the dedicated staff who have spent so much time over the holidays preparing for the start of term, enabling the site to be so well looked after and running the holiday club. It is a delight to be part of such a busy, happy school.



### EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We are currently planning Educational visits and visits to school by visiting artists for this academic year as the children benefit hugely from the memorable experiences that these visits provide and the practical nature of the visits enhance their learning. Children from Red Class onwards will be visiting woods in Stourport for a Viking Day this autumn and will visit the theatre in January as well as a castle later in the year when learning about Tudors and Stuarts. There will also be events for families to support your involvement in school life, starting with a Scarecrow Festival on 29.9.17 after school.

**THE BLACKWELL KITCHEN** – Mrs Barker is in her fourth year as School Cook in 'The Blackwell Kitchen' and is doing a superb job in preparing such delicious, healthy meals for the children. Everyone who visits, from kitchen inspectors to other headteachers, comment on the quality of the food. We look forward to welcoming Red Class to lunchtimes next week, but it is good to see so many Year 3s taking up the option of School Meals once it is no longer free. It is so good to see how well the children eat our school meals when they are with their peers, helping to develop good eating habits. Our Nursery children are eating their dinners brilliantly. Well done.

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP** – We start this term with 'New start' discussing making positive changes before moving on to 'Responsibility' next week, where we will consider the UN Rights of the child and associated responsibilities. We will cover the rule of law during this time as part of British Values education.

**HARVEST** – Harvest assembly is on **October 2nd** and this is a children only event, due to space. Please send in donations of **dried goods** (packets, tins etc) and **toiletries** after school on 29.9.17 or on the morning of 2.10.17). These will be donated to Newstarts, a Bromsgrove charity supporting families in the local area who need practical help to provide food for their families.

**CHRISTMAS** - It may seem a long way off, but it will be here before we know it!

We want to give you plenty of notice for booking off time from work so the dates of concerts are printed at the end of the letter. Please note that all children (Reception- Year4) will perform in the church this year. A Coffee Afternoon with songs is planned for Nursery. Please note that there are two Christmas Performances. One is adults only and the other is for those who need to bring toddlers/ young children. We ask that you respect the hard work that the children have put in and DO NOT bring young children to the adult only performance so that the children have at least one performance uninterrupted. Thank you.

**UNIFORM** – Please ensure that all uniform is named as even with varying sizes it is tricky matching unnamed jumpers to owners! Children (YR-Y4) need both trainers and pumps in school for indoor and outdoor PE lessons. They also need wellies, thick socks and gloves. Lost property is taken to relevant classes when named but where it is unnamed, you may need to hunt around several classes.

**PFTA**- The Parent Friend and Teacher Association helps to raise money for the school to spend to support children's learning. The group meets every half term and is looking for new members to support its work. Please come along to the first meeting this year on 18.9.17 7.30pm at school. Last year over £12,000 was donated for books and laptops which would otherwise not have been possible, so please come along and find out how you can support the children's experiences through fundraising.

### DIARY DATES

#### Autumn term 2017

- 11.9.17 Parent meetings for Red Class children this week
  - 11.9.17 After school clubs start and music lessons
  - 18.9.17 Book fair in school Monday-Thursday after school 3.15-3.45pm
  - 18.9.17 7.30pm PFTA meeting in school
  - 20.9.17 3.15-4.30pm Class and Nursery pop ins to meet teachers to say hello informally
  - 29.9.17 3.15-4.30pm Scarecrow festival
  - 2.10.17 Blue and Yellow Classes- Viking trip
  - 2.10.17 Harvest assembly- children only
  - 5.10.17 Green and Purple Classes- Viking trip
  - 6.10.17 Red Class- Viking trip
  - 10.10.17 Flu Vaccine- nasal spray
  - 18.10.17 5.30-7pm Open Evening – Viking theme- everyone welcome
  - 18.10.17 Break up for half term
  - 30.10.17 School opens after half term
  - 1.11.17 Open Evening for prospective parents for Reception 2018
  - 6.11.17 Early Years Portal opens for claiming hours- Nursery
  - 6.11.17 12-8pm Parent Consultations
  - 8.11.17 4-6pm Parent Consultations
  - 17.11.17 Evening PFTA event- Jewellery Sale
  - 30.11.17 8.45am Blue Class family assembly – Blue Class families welcome
  - 8.12.17 Christmas plays being filmed for DVD sale- please look out for a letter
  - 13.12.17 1.30pm Red and Green Class Christmas Play at church- toddlers welcome
  - 14.12.17 9.30am Red and Green Class Christmas Play at church – **ADULT ONLY**
  - 14.12.17 1.30am Purple, Yellow and Blue Christmas Play at church – toddlers welcome
  - 15.12.17 9.30am Purple, Yellow and Blue Christmas Play at church – **ADULT ONLY**
  - 18.12.17 2.30pm Nursery Coffee Afternoon
  - 19.12.17 Pantomime (YR-4) and party (whole school including Nursery)
  - 19.12.17 Term ends
- #### Spring term 2018
- 3.1.18 Teacher Education day- no children
  - 4.1.18 School opens for children
  - 5.1.18 Theatre trip for YR-4 (not Nursery)- Y2-4 late return- see letters