

Dear Families,

Y3- Victorian  
work.



Fun at playtime-  
Year 1.



All change in Year 1 this year  
with continuous provision for  
curriculum areas. Details to  
follow.



History in Year 2  
with Miss Kuriger.



Welcome back to you all. It is lovely to see you all and the children's enthusiastic faces after the summer break. 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.**

Following our Early Years review in the summer term, it was particularly heartening to be told that children, staff, governors and families all shared the common vision of the school and understand the values set out in the vision.

Here is a sample of what some parents wrote at the end of the year on their feedback forms...

*She has been most happiest at this school and we as parents have been very happy ...a very warm and caring attitude that seems consistent across the whole school. We will never forget our time here.*

*He thoroughly enjoys school and we feel very lucky to have such high quality teaching and support.*

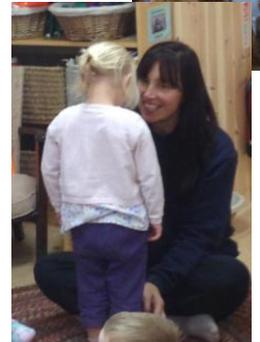
*We are very happy with the progress he has made and he has had fantastic teaching and great intervention work.*

*Many thanks for the wonderful teaching staff for showing the right amount of care and discipline to enable her to learn.*

*His progress is a result of the encouragement from all his teachers which has boosted his self belief and confidence.*

*BFS is an exceptional school. We are incredibly grateful for all of the hard work and dedication that goes into the running of the school and the teaching of the children.*

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 "Victorians" 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 follows their interests as they learn routines and become experts at tidying up with a little help from experienced Nursery children! Class newsletters will provide you with information about what aspects of topics are being covered.



Mrs Mander  
helping new  
Nursery starters.



Hard at it in Year 4  
already!

Learning about  
lunchtime for Red Class.



**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.

An informal open evening (no appointments) will take place on 26.9.18 at 6-7.30pm. 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 Foster and Mrs Grainger visited before the summer to introduce the children to flute and violin lessons. If you would like your child to have flute/ violin/ recorder or piano lessons with our peripatetic teachers, please ask at the office for a letter. These lessons take place in small groups each week (piano lessons are individual) 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/Mrs Edney for details.

**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
- Playground games- 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, pipen 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 has had work completed over the summer holiday. Mrs Barker and Mr Hopkins now have a new catering kitchen to support their excellent work in providing super meals for so many more children than we ever envisaged.

The small kitchen previously used for catering now combines as a staff room and kitchen for Blackwell School Club and has meant that we have been able to demolish the small area used for kitchen space in the hall. Extra space in the hall is a great benefit, as PE is more easily managed for the younger children who use the hall.

The hall and corridor has also been decorated and minor repair jobs completed.

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.

We looked forward to an exciting year ahead.



**WELLIES** – We hope that you don't mind, but Mrs Cain would like to mark the children's initials on the back of their wellies to help us quickly find pairs before Forest School. Thank you.

### 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 will be visiting woods in Stourport for a storytelling day this autumn whilst the rest of the school discovers Victorian life at an outdoor museum. Other visits include a Priory, theatre and cathedral. There will also be events for families to support your involvement in school life, starting with open evening on 26.9.18.

**THE BLACKWELL KITCHEN** – Mrs Barker is in her fifth 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. Rev Paul Clarke visits each half term and contributes to the children's developing morality alongside other visitors considering the values education that drives our vision.

**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 17.9.18 7.30pm at school.

Last year over £10,000 was donated for books, playground equipment 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

- 17.9.18 PFTA meeting at school- all welcome 7.30pm
- 24.9.18 Year 1-4 Victorian trip
- 26.9.18 Open evening for current families 6-7.30pm
- 28.9.18 YR trip
- 1.10.18 Book Fair in school this week
- 3.10.18 Prospective parents open evening- School and Nursery- 6.30-7.30pm
- 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 3.30-5.30pm
- 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](http://www.blackwellfirstschool.com)