

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

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

April 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the summer term at Blackwell First School. As we start this term, the teachers have already assessed the children through observations and daily learning tasks. Everyone in school is mindful of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the children and the support needed to help them feel settled and happy in school. As a result, the children really are ready to learn and we are ready to help them.

We are following a full National Curriculum, with some minor adaptations to address areas that were not taught during the past year. **In order to support your children**, we ask that you work on any targets shared by the classteachers during parent consultations last half term or any areas on the half termly homework sheet. This sheet identifies the learning that the children are experiencing each half term and can be used as a discussion point, even if the optional homework is not completed.

Some of the easiest areas to support, but also the areas requiring the most repetition, are spelling practice of key words, times tables (Y2-4), number bonds and doubles and halves to 20 (YR-2) and phonics sounds work (see the half termly newsletter explaining which sounds Red Class are focusing on).

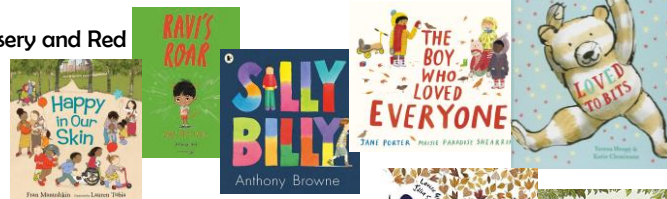
As we often mention, reading is the means by which we open up all learning and, as a result, the world. The more help you can provide with reading, the better. Below are a few ideas for helping with reading:

- **READ ALOUD** – Reading aloud to your children shows them that reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.
- **FAMILY READING TIME** – Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.
- **BOOK CHAT** – Book chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too.

Research shows that children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.

I have listed some books below that may be of interest. They are good texts to read during these times as they deal with some 'big ideas' that are useful to address with children.

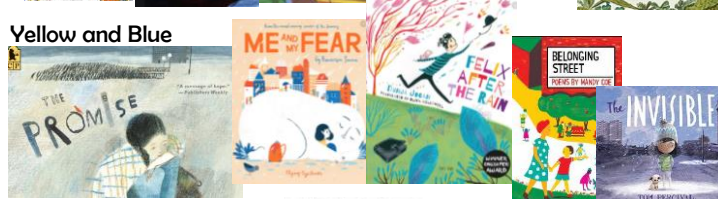
Nursery and Red



Green and Purple



Yellow and Blue



Older primary children



Best wishes, Mrs Moss



Easter Holiday Club 2021

Harry in Nursery said, 'I like coming on holiday to school. It's fun!'

Thank you to all of the staff who have been integral to running Holiday Club and to all of the families supporting school funds by sending children on holiday to school!



We have really enjoyed having a Holiday Club bubble so that the children from different classes could play together. A rare treat at the moment!



Summer Holiday Club is running on the dates below (subject to COVID-19 restrictions):
22-30th July (not 24th/25th)
25-27th August
31st August
1st September
Booking forms will be available shortly.



Blackwell High Street

We are delighted to welcome our new Blackwell High Street to the front of school. The three mini shops have been planned for by the School Council as part of the Year 4 Job Scheme and will be used by all children across the school for purchasing their tuck, banking Year 4 pay (from their jobs) and for classes to use during break times if they choose to visit the 'Healthy and Happy' store. The names of the shops have been chosen by School Council children and the design has been part of the work of the children. We hope to use the shops, when school is finally able, to run Christmas and Summer Fairs again. The aim of the shops and the Year 4 Job Scheme is to introduce children to the world of work and to develop their life skills as set out in our school vision.

We have been fortunate in receiving a generous donation from the PFTA and a member of the school community, enabling us to build this wonderful facility. Thank you.

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

SPORT – Blue Class won last half term's Wake and Shake competition. Yellow Class children narrowly missed out but there is plenty of time to practise and develop those skills for this half term's competition. Well done Blue Class.

ARTS – We have now entered our Rainbow Children song and Blackwell Sea Shanty on the 'A Song for us' website as part of a musical memento of this time in history. Excuse our location on the map as we appear to have sites near Handsworth and King's Heath. The dropped pin wasn't successful when submitting our entries!
<https://asongforus.org/>
<https://asongforus.org/submissions/the-blackwell-sea-shanty/>
<https://asongforus.org/submissions/the-rainbow-children-by-christianne-cutler/>

Payment for Schools on line payment

With the exception of Nursery, who are currently unable to pay on P45, we are asking families to use our P45 system as much as possible to ease the work involved in handling cash in the school office. Banking arrangements have changed and P45 is considerably more flexible for the office staff. If you need a PIN, please ask the office. 0121 445 1622 or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

SCHOOL DIRECT – TRAIN TO TEACH

If you know someone who would like to train to teach, please let them know that they can train with us through Bromsgrove Primary Teaching School Alliance and can email office@bptsa.worcs.sch.uk
 This option of School Direct training is only available to candidates who already hold a degree and is a one year full time programme or two year part time programme.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

On their return to school after the Easter break, the children will be learning to APPRECIATE the world around them, considering people, places, the natural world and man made wonders. This fits in well with the Africa project that the whole school, from Red Class upwards, will work towards. As part of their learning in Geography, RE and Science, the children will consider a dilemma. The dilemma will be based on a charitable fundraising mission and each class will make a pitch for funding to support their chosen charity. Whether it is supporting Water Aid or Unicef, the children will work hard to develop an understanding of the value of charitable causes. The following week, in Collective Worship, will consider the issue of EQUALITY and the children will consider how the wider world is unequal and how to remove inequalities. Using the inequality of water supply and vaccine supply will link this learning into their Africa project. Considering these 'BIG ISSUES' is part of the vision of the school, enabling the children to learn from real life dilemmas and opening their eyes to the wider world.

Forest School Clothing

No matter what the weather is doing, please send the children in long sleeved tops and trousers for Forest School. With deer living in our Forest School, it is important that we minimise the risk of contracting Lyme Disease.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

Thank you for your co-operation.

Dates

19.4.21 School reopens after Easter
 3.5.21 Bank Holiday Monday
 14.5.21 Class photographs
 13/18/20.5.21 Mark Riley- artist in residence Year 4
 27.5.21 Virtual Rainbow Project with collaborative schools- Year 4
 28.5.21 Sport's Day- arrangements TBC due to COVID-19
 31.5.21-4.6.21 Half Term- school closed
 20.6.21/7.21 Voices and Visions art exhibition- Year 4 exhibit in Worcester Cathedral
 25.6.21 CBSO String Trio visit school
 2.7.21 Year 4 adventure
 5.7.21 Year 4 bellboating
 12.7.21 5pm New Nursery parent meeting- virtual
 12.7.21 6.30pm New Red Class parent meeting- virtual
 13.7.21 6pm New Year 2 parent meeting - virtual
 14.7.21 6pm KS2 parent meeting- virtual
 14.7.21 Yellow Class assembly- virtual
 15.7.21 6pm New Year 1 parent meeting- virtual
 15.7.21 Red Class assembly- virtual
 16.7.21 Year 4 leavers
 21.7.21 Term ends
 22-30.7.21 Holiday Club (except 24/25.7.21)
 25-27.8.21 Holiday Club
 31.8.21 Holiday Club
 1.9.21 Holiday Club
 6.9.21 Autumn Term starts

YEAR 4 ADVENTURE

We look forward to our 'Year 4 Adventure' this year and have planned a day at an Outdoor Adventure facility on July 2nd, followed by an overnight stay in school (!) on July 2nd. On Monday 5th, after recovering on Sunday 4th, we will take the children bellboating. COVID-19 has resulted in a cancelled Bromsgrove Bellboating Regatta and uncertainty over overnight educational visits, hence making the decision to plan in the way that we have. We will send home a letter outlining the arrangements and cost shortly and hope that this will be a unique and fitting way to end the children's time at BFS.

Mrs A Moss (headteacher)