

Dear Families,



Everyone is cooking in DT and learning skills needed as part of life as well as designing new and imaginative recipes.



Teamwork has been vital for all children this term after many children worked in isolation at home. It will continue to be a focus as we move into next year.

## **Exciting**

### **learning at BFS - Summer 2021**

Reading is vital to all aspects of life and it is for this reason we teach the children the skills of word reading, understanding vocabulary and understanding what the text is about (comprehension) in every class at school from Nursery to Year 4. Every class enjoys storytime each day as a way to inspire the children to enjoy reading.

We use the following strategies to develop fluent readers at Blackwell:

- Teach children phonics (learning the sounds that individual and groups of letters make, blending them to read words);
- Use Home Reading books that match the phonics that the children are taught to support their reading as well as their spelling;
- Use high quality, award winning texts for teaching in English lessons and
- Share high quality, award winning texts in Storytime to develop vocabulary and understanding.

We have been delighted to start using the 'Reading Room' at the front of school and it is wonderful to see the children coming and going, swapping books. Please do bring any spare children's books that you can part with so that there is plenty to choose from. We have been fortunate to have many books donated by David Harrison, a friend of the school. David's wife, Val Harrison, who passed away recently, was a teacher at the school over three decades during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s and David, and Val's children, have been touched by us establishing the Reading Room as a result of their donations. Thanks to the PFTA for funding this project.

We have recently been awarded both the Early Years Quality Mark (renewal) and the Artsmark Gold award. Mrs Webb led the application for the Early Years which recognises the excellent work from the Early Years team alongside the Year 1 and 2 team who ensure a seamless transition into Key Stage 1. The Artsmark recognised the work over the previous two years on Arts provision at BFS and in particular how the Arts had supported the children's wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Details of these awards are explained below.

We look forward to seeing you all on the Summer Fair trail that replaces the Summer Fair, due to COVID restrictions and to spending a happy last few weeks with you before the holiday.

Best wishes, Mrs Moss



Sport's Day and Forest School get everyone out and about on the school site come rain or shine.



## **Update on Hetty**



It is just over two years since Hetty joined us at school, funded by the PFTA. Her work is developing well and from greeting those less reluctant arrivals at the gate in a morning to calming down situations with upset children in school she does a marvelous job.

The children have responded well to her presence in school and she brings a calm to the corridors as she tours a few times each day. We are pretty sure she thinks she is in charge! The few treats Mrs Barker and Mrs Wilson send her way means she has been nicknamed 'Gourmet Dog' by them.



### **Music Day- Worcestershire**

Blue Class children took part in recording a song along with 28 other schools in Worcestershire and Severn Arts will be releasing it on Monday. They say, 'We hope you can join us on Monday 21 June when we will be premiering our brand-new performance of 'In Our Reflections' online. Both can be watched via our website <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/Event/make-music-day-21> and [YouTube channel](#) at 1.30 p.m.

### **Voices and Visions- Worcestershire**

The Blue Class 'Gratitude Lantern' is now on display in the Cathedral at the following times. The exhibition will open on Sunday 20 June 2021; available to view during the Cathedral Sunday visiting times: 1pm- 3pm only. For visiting times after 20 June, please check on the Cathedral's website. There are several closed events that will take place in the next few weeks and during those times the Cathedral may be closed to the general public. **Please check on the website before planning any visits to the Cathedral.** This page should always have the most up-to-date times: <https://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/visit-us/opening-times>

### **Collective Worship**

We use Collective Worship to promote our Universal Values, including British Values, and use the UN Rights of the child as the basis for many discussions.

Next week our theme is 'Trust'. The children will learn about 'The Boy who cried Wolf', the trust required for taking part in activities on 'residential' (the residential is coming up soon!) and how trust brings benefits.

### **Early Years Quality Mark**

Comments from the assessor included:

*The school has a true 'Continuous Provision' approach so resources are constantly available, and children are independent and can broaden and deepen skills.*

*Parents commented on the amazing level of support during the lockdown which presented opportunities for the teachers to model sessions, such as reading at home.*

*The commitment and enthusiasm of staff in their Continued Professional Development and consistency in developing the Continuous Provision and quality assessments to strengthen the provision and outcomes for children was inspiring and highlights the effective strategies that are in place to ensure that all children can succeed and achieve their potential.*

**Arts-** Comments from our recently awarded 'Artsmark' included:

*We were impressed by Blackwell First School's strong commitment to the transformative power of the Arts, which is having strong measurable effects on teaching and learning across the school.*

*The pandemic Recovery Curriculum focussed on the Arts for wellbeing and attainment using the Rainbow Project. This sounds like a wonderful opportunity for pupils.*

*SLT, Governor support and leading specialist teachers drive an established range of provision within an alternative day structure and through extra-curricular activities.*



**Sports-** Yellow Class children are currently working with a specialist sport's coach during afternoon clubs to develop their skills using the Sport Premium funding. We will continue with this support next year.

### **TERM DATES- Summer Term 2021**

20.6.21-11.7.21 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 and overnight  
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

