

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

Blackwell First School,
St. Catherine's Rd.,
Blackwell,
Near Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire.
B60 1BN
May 2021

Dear Families,



'Learning Partners' are not simply 'Talk Partners'. Developing children's ability to work with others, sometimes friends and sometimes not, is a key life skill and one that we develop as part of our vision. It requires patience, resilience and communication skills.

It seems no time at all since Red Class children were arriving for their first week and maybe time really does fly when you're having fun, because to me it only seems a little while since our Year 4s arrived as new Red Class children and here we are five years on, sending them off to Bellboating, on 'Residential' and preparing them for transition to Middle School.

This term is a really busy one for the children and staff. We started the term with 'Africa' and whether the children are investigating travel, food, clothing or homes, the children will all develop their geographical skills of enquiry, analysis and presentation of evidence.

We continue to work to support children's learning behaviours in school, particularly following the periods of lockdown, and we strive for children who are independent, resilient and aspirational. Through work in all lessons, Collective Worship, PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education), P4C (Philosophy) and our Afternoon Clubs, we offer activities and experiences to develop these skills. Please help at home by encouraging the children to organise their own belongings, make their beds in a morning, clear their plates from the table, carry their bags to school and take ownership of their reading and homework. It is a start in making them more independent in all areas of their lives.

At this point in the year, it is a good time to consider how the school supports the children in developing healthy lifestyles through healthy eating and also participation in sport and fitness. Our aim is to enable the children to develop an enjoyment of sport and fitness so that they continue to exercise throughout their lives. Through curriculum PE, daily Wake and Shake, afternoon sport clubs and extra curriculum clubs led by school staff and external instructors, the children have access to lots of sport in school. Whilst competitive sport is not the main aim of primary school sport, we also participate in Bromsgrove 'All Active Academy' which usually enables all children to participate in competitive sport but, whilst visits to other schools are not possible, they have supported in school sport teaching this year. Bellboating and outdoor pursuits are part of Year 4 provision. We are also delighted that so many children take part in sporting clubs out of school. Together, we aim to support this generation in becoming fit and healthy adults.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss



Some intricate fine motor work in afternoon club in Year 4. Clubs provide the opportunity to reinforce and apply skills as well as working in creative ways to solve problems.



Forest School is another opportunity for children to develop key life skills such as collaboration and problem solving as well as learning to appreciate the outdoors and the world in which they live. Forest Friends for our 0-3 friends is also a huge hit for three mornings each week.



Our new BFS Store on Blackwell High Street has been a big hit for buying tuck. Our Year 4 workers sell tuck to Blue Class children at playtime and Mrs Wilson helps out the younger children as they arrive in a morning. Learning to use money, queue and work together are all skills in operation here.



Holiday Club provides the children with relaxed time in school playing with friends and enjoying activities that are not normal for school. Book now for Summer Holiday club.



Moving on from Red Class into Green Class

Moving from Reception into Year 1 can be a tricky time for children as they move from the 0-5 Early Years curriculum onto a new curriculum that includes Year 1- 6 and also an increase in expectation regarding the formality of learning.

We have spent a number of years developing our Early Years provision and know from evidence that this provision works for children of this age. Three years ago, we extended our child centred provision into Year 1 from September. We have been very impressed with the outcomes. The children have made excellent progress whilst enjoying the style of learning most suited to children of this age. External reviews have commented positively on the provision.

The provision includes children accessing whole class teaching for Phonics, English and Maths as well as all of the other National Curriculum subjects. They also all take part in small group and individual work routinely throughout the year, and, as and when it is needed, targeted intervention will support those children with specific gaps in learning or personal challenges. Crucially, this approach enables the children to select their own learning activities but rather than accessing 'toys' as they do in Reception, they access areas of learning, such as Performance, Experiment, Design etc. During the week they are expected to complete a number of set tasks which will provide evidence for their levels of independent learning.

It is an exciting time to be moving into Year 1 and we know from experience and research that this approach to learning makes it more relevant and engaging for children of this age. As the children develop throughout the year, expectations will rise and we will support the new transition into Year 2. A never ending learning journey...

Some feedback on family questionnaires commented that some parents would like more information about their children's learning and school. We have therefore planned a 'Meet the teacher' evening for each year group during the last week in July to share information with you about the following year group.



Red Class learning journey Red Class children are settled in school and have learned lots of basic skills and routines and are developing as early learners. They now work more in their workbooks as part of supporting them with their transition to Year 1. They also have an art sketch book and a homework letter formation book. It is most important in Reception that the children read every day. Please support the children with this crucial part of their learning.

School Sport and the Arts

- Blue Class start work with Mark Riley, artist in residence, this week for work which will be displayed at Worcester Cathedral. They are also learning a new song to record and send to Severn Arts music as part of a collaborative recording of a new Worcestershire Song.
- Our Family Exhibition planned for May 20th will be an in school event focused on fundraising for charity as a result of the current COVID restrictions.
- Due to COVID restrictions, our planned sport's day will be replaced with a week of sporting activities in class bubbles during the last week of this half term and will take place without spectators. We apologise that we are not yet able to invite you in for school events. Hopefully, restrictions will enable some limited access after half term. We anticipate new DfE guidance for schools shortly.

Collective Worship Over the next few weeks we will consider the Universal Values of **Equality** and **Diversity** as well as working on **Manners** and children's ability to **Try their best**. As part of this work we will discuss the diversity within our British population and prepare children for their future lives in a multicultural nation. We will consider how equality features highly in their everyday lives and how major historical figures such as Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parkes, Martin Luther King and William Wilberforce played a significant part towards creating equality in society.

Updates

- Homework for Year 4s is now compulsory to prepare the children for Middle School. Please remind them to hand it in each week.
- Please direct all enquiries to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk as class emails are not in operation (these are reserved for during periods of remote learning only).
- Each class is participating in the Royal Mail 'Heroes' stamp competition. If your child's artwork is chosen for submission as part of the final selection process, we will request permission from you to submit your child's work with their name prior to sending them to Royal Mail.
- Please use ParentApp to read information that we send out so that you are up to date with what is happening in school. We are sending this newsletter in paper form as a reminder to check ParentApp for letters but routinely send all information via ParentApp.
- Years 4 'Adventure' letters have been issued. Please check that you have had yours.

Holiday Club

Holiday club is running again during the first and last weeks of the Summer holidays so please book through Mrs Moran or the school office.

DATES

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
24.5.21 Sporting Week- in school events
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