



Blue Class musicianship- look at the concentration! That's resilience.

# NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

*...developing the whole child...*

February 2020

Dear Families,



On the last day of January we held a 'Grand Concert and Show Day' to celebrate our 'Off to Scotland' learning and enjoyed a visiting Ceilidh Band. This supported all of the learning that the children have enjoyed during January.

**Blue Class Family Assembly- a joy to watch.**

Ceilidh dancing, singing, artwork and storytelling featured, supporting the children's knowledge of Scotland as part of the United Kingdom and Europe.

Our annual external review took place in January and we use the information and report to support us with our drive to continually develop the provision and practice at Blackwell.

OFSTED does not routinely inspect schools that have been judged Outstanding unless there are significant changes in data or safeguarding. This may change from September 2020 as the Department for Education has consulted on their intention to inspect schools previously rated as outstanding.

This year, headteachers from the Bromsgrove Learning Network reviewed the school and their judgements were Quality Assured by an Inspector on behalf of Worcestershire County Council.

During the year, Governors monitor the work of the school independently and this term their focus is on the breadth of the curriculum. They will be joined by Governors from another Worcestershire School who will learn from Blackwell's governors as part of their development work. They will also monitor the afternoon clubs.

These take place between 1.50-3pm and offer the children a wide range of activities that do not form part of the National Curriculum. These clubs support the children's social skills as well as life skills such as independence and resilience. They also enable the children to apply learned skills from lessons in different contexts. It is important for the Governors to understand the value of the clubs as a proportion of the school budget is spent on enabling this innovative approach to the school day to happen. Thanks to all involved in our external reviews, staff, governors and external reviewers. Below are excerpts from our review:

***...high levels of engagement and very positive learning behaviours for all groups...***

***...high expectations of learners and well-chosen interactive learning opportunities...***

***...continuous provision enables pupils to access a broad and rich curriculum with opportunities to apply learned skills...***

***...learning was accessible but included use of ambitious vocabulary...***

***...strong relationships supported excellent learning behaviours...***

***...use of questioning was very effective...***

***...learning was broken down and explained particularly well to ensure all learners understood...***

***...carefully considered questions using aspirational language supported pupils...***

***...a number of themes around important life skills were covered including courage, mental and physical toughness...***

***...overall messages... linked back closely to the context of the school and the children's characteristics as learners...***

Best wishes, Mrs Moss

Further photographs on the parentapp...

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The singing and playing showed how well the children have progressed with pitching in singing and reading music.



### **SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS**

**Sport-** Year 4s are signed up for the Bromsgrove Bellboating Regatta as usual and will be learning their boating skills on the Alvechurch canal and at Upton Warren over the coming weeks.

**Arts –** The 'Grand Concert and Show' on Friday was an example of how we support the Arts at Blackwell. The band commented on how musical the school was with the children picking up dances quickly and being able to keep in time, feel the beat and learn rhythms. The children had a wonderful day. Well done Blue and Green Classes for performing your Class Assemblies too.

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Last Week's assemblies on 'Unity' focussed on the unity of the United Kingdom and our unity within Europe. We explained the facts around Brexit and how, as the UK, we remain part of a united continent in Europe and will work together outside of the EU. As part of unity, we explained the laws of the land and the children's part in following the law and working together with others to make a positive contribution to society.

This week's theme is 'Sustainability' and we will consider our role in protecting planet Earth and the part we all play in making a difference. The children will find out about the lives of famous environmentalists over the last century.

### **Parent Consultations - keeping you informed**

Now that we are in the second term of the year, we can reflect on the children's progress so far this year. It is time for Parent Consultation meetings soon and letters will be sent home shortly for you to book appointments. These times are opportunities to consider the children's progress so far this year, share information regarding their social and emotional development and any other relevant information that the teachers or families find useful to share. If you have specific issues that will require further discussion, the classteachers may advise you to book a separate appointment so that they do not keep other parents waiting unnecessarily. School termly reports will also be sent home following this consultation and these are designed to keep you informed of your child's individual progress and targets. As a school we aim to keep you informed about how to **support your child** and also about their **progress** through:

- School newsletters that keep you up to date with school events as well as educational news;
- Class newsletters and homework sheets that share the learning in each class so that you are aware of learning in all curriculum areas each half term;
- Early Years workshops;
- Reports (1 short and 1 longer), that provide information on your child's progress in line with the assessments teachers complete in school;
- Information meetings prior to moving year group and
- Termly parent consultations.

**We know that a small minority of parents feel that they would like further information on their child's progress and we urge parents to make appointments with teachers if this is felt necessary outside of regular meetings.**

### **Hungry Little Minds**

The Government has launched the 'Hungry Little Minds' campaign, designed to support families in providing the best start for young children.

The campaign provides information on developing the children's minds from birth-5 and the activities are simple and fun for both children and adults.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

The link above takes you to different sections for different ages and there are videos to support. Although many activities feel 'obvious', it may be worth considering whether you do things such as learning and saying Nursery rhymes with your little one. We know that activities like this support the development of language patterns and give a good grounding for later speech and reading.

20.1.20 Hearing tests- Red Class TBC

21.1.20 First 'Forest Friends' 0-3 session- please sign up

**21.1.20 Assembly for the children (child friendly) and drop in for families between 9-10am (in hall) from Dementia charity for families who may wish to find out about support**

30.1.20 Blue Class Family assembly- 8.45am

31.1.20 Green Class Family assembly- 8.45am

31.1.20 Grand concert and show (child only event)

17-21.2.20 Half term

4.3.20 Phonics day with external trainer delivering to the children

4.3.20 High 5 competition- Year 4s

4/5.4.20 Parent Consultation meetings and written reports

25.3.20 Dance Festival- Y2s

3.4.20 Easter Coffee Morning and Nursery Coffee Afternoon 'Sing Song' / Term ends

6-9.4.20 Holiday Club

6-17.4.20 Easter holiday

20.4.20 School opens for Summer term