

NEWSLETTER



Red Class children are exploring their classroom and the areas of learning. Here they are counting shells.

Dear Families,

As we move towards the end of this half term, it is a good time to reflect on the successes of the first few weeks of school.

- Nursery- The Nursery children have been introduced to almost all of the outdoor areas and are learning the ropes (and rules). Fantastic work from Mrs Mander, Mrs Allen and the Nursery team in ensuring tidying up is a priority and the children are slowly getting the hang of it!
- Red Class – Starting school is hard work and lots of Red Class children are already brilliant at adapting to life in a classroom. Mrs Webb and the team have worked hard on listening and looking and tidying up is also a priority here! Work on phonics and maths has started through songs and games and the children love them.
- Blue Class – The pace is picking up in Year 4! Miss Townsend and Mrs Moran are so impressed by your enthusiasm and learning. Get ready for bellboating, residential and a range of other 'exclusive to Y4' experiences this year.
- Green Class – You are having an amazing time settling into Year 1 and we are enjoying having time to get to know you during 'Play and Explore'. You have certainly risen to the extra challenge that is Y1.
- Yellow Class – You have settled into Yellow Class well and are adapting to the challenge of Key Stage 2! Now that you are maturing, expectations increase so watch out...
- Purple Class- There is a lot to do in Year 2 and you are showing that you can work well. Miss Kuriger and the Y2 team are working well and have had an excellent start.

The opportunities the teachers are planning for the children this term are supporting them in developing their skills as independent learners by encouraging them to think for themselves, make choices about their learning and work co-operatively with others. Please help with this at home. Well done children.



Skipping is fun but tricky! It helps develop gross motor skills.



What shall I choose from all of these resources? This develops independence.

IT and esafety Please see the copy of advice prepared for parents to support children in staying safe online. Please also watch 'Lee and Kim' with your children –google CEOP Lee and Kim. They have watched it in school to explain about not sharing personal information. This includes posting photos of themselves in school uniform, identifying their school and placing them in vulnerable situations. As adults, it is worth taking 15 minutes to watch 'Alright Charlie?' a video explaining CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation), supporting you in your understanding of the significant aspect of modern life and how easy it is for ANY child from ANY background to be targeted. The more aware that families are, the less likely children are to be placed in vulnerable situations. Please watch the clips and read the documents.

Christmas Cards

Save your Christmas card purchasing because the children will all be making cards which we copy and sell in packs of 5 after half term. You will be sent an example card from each class and then we take orders ready for December. Look out for letters.

Half Term

When it arrives, this will have been a long half term for the children and they are tired! We hope they have a good rest and come back refreshed after half term. Please try to ensure they read over half term, complete any homework and perhaps investigate our next topic. Please encourage the routine of 10-12 hours sleep each night so that they return refreshed and ready for learning.

SCHOOL SPORT AND THE ARTS

Sport - This year the children will receive specialist coaching from 'All Active Academy' and competitive sporting events have already started. Some children will be part of the Sport's Crew who will support playtimes. Platinum award this year- well done Mrs Webb and staff!

Arts – Music lessons are now happening almost all day every day. Mrs Grew and Mrs Cutler are teaching almost 30 children piano. We also have Miss Foster (flute and recorder) and Mrs Grainger (violin). Keep practising everyone. We have been granted Music Mark status by Worcestershire Severn Arts for our strong music provision and teaching. Well done Mrs Cutler and school staff.



Learning to be good people

The new Ofsted Inspection framework includes a focus on both the broad curriculum and also the personal development of children at a time when society is concerned about children's mental wellbeing. At Blackwell our curriculum has been broad and well developed for a number of years and our use of an alternative day to support other talents and interests during afternoon clubs, free of charge, enables all children to access high quality extra curricular provision.

The broad curriculum still focuses on the acquisition of knowledge and children's ability to recall this knowledge as the basis for good progress. We strongly believe that good 'whole child development' should also include the development of key competencies and values as emphasised in our vision and will continue to work on helping the children become: **respectful and responsible citizens; competent and confident learners and aspirational individuals.** We do this through:

- Respectful and responsible citizens – teaching the children about British values of tolerance and respect during Collective Worship, Philosophy sessions and PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education) as well as including aspects of this in the curriculum.
- Competent and confident individuals- supporting the development of children's learning skills and basic skills in order that they can be confident.
- Aspirational individuals – our curriculum enables the children to be ambitious and develop a sense of the possibilities open to them,

Complaints procedure

At this time of year, we outline the procedures schools nationally have in place to deal with complaints. Any complaints should be addressed to the Headteacher. In the event of formal complaints being necessary, schools require a letter of formal complaint to be written and addressed to the Headteacher. If the matter remains unresolved, a further complaint should be addressed to the Governors. In the event of the complaint not being resolved, the County Council no longer deals with complaints and any further complaints should be addressed to the Secretary of State for Education. (For a copy of the Complaints procedure ask at school)

Governing Body

The Governing Body works hard to ensure that the children at Blackwell School have the best start to their education.

The Governors are listed below:

Hugh Evans- Chair

Debbie Wilson – Vice Chair

Anna Moss – Headteacher

Helen Townsend – Staff governor

Ken Lewis – Co-opted Governor

John Reed – Co-opted Governor

Simon Checkley – Co-opted Governor

Clair McNeill – Associate Governor

Paul Lewis- Parent Governor

New parent governor- Parent Governor

Clare Tomlinson – Clerk to Governors

PARKING

Please can I remind you to leave residents' driveways clear as well as the school car park entrance. It is also illegal to park on the yellow zig zag lines and a parent was fined for this during recent years so please be aware that this is possible.

PRIVACY NOTICE – Please note that there is a new privacy notice on the school website. This outlines information about data sharing at school. If you are new to school please take the time to read it. (It is under policies.)

HEALTHY SNACKS AND LUNCHBOXES

Please support us in encouraging the children to bring healthy snacks and lunchboxes (for those not having a hot meal). Sweets, chocolate and crisps are not allowed in school and we encourage the children to learn 'all things in moderation'. We ask that water is in water bottles for lunch time rather than drinks with high sugar content. There are children with NUT allergies so we ask that no nuts or nut products are on site. Thank you.

PERSONAL SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

In September 2020, there will be a new PSHE curriculum in schools nationally. The new curriculum contains very little content that is different from what we currently teach. Mrs Webb (PSHE lead) has identified some areas such as teaching children the importance of sleep and further work on esafety that will be adapted for 2020. The SRE (Sex and Relationship Education) taught is unchanged for us and therefore our policy remains unchanged. Throughout the school, positive relationships remain at the heart of our SRE curriculum and children are taught about keeping themselves safe and being respected and treating others respectfully. For this reason, staff use correct terms for body parts in order to enable children to talk accurately about their bodies. The Year 4 children are taught about puberty and the changes they will face over the coming years and in Year 5 and 6, they will learn the facts of Sex Education. Please speak to Mrs Moss, Miss Townsend or Mrs Webb for further information.

Dates- autumn term

16.10.19 Open Evening for prospective families for Reception/ Nursery 2020- 6.30-7.30pm

24.10.19 Purple Class assembly- 8.45am- families welcome

24.10.19 School closes for children

25.10.19 School closed for TE Day

28.10.19 - 1.11.19 Half Term

4.11.19 School opens for children

5.11.19 Individual school photographs

6.11.19 Family learning evening - 6-7pm- Red Class families welcome

11.11.19 Influenza vaccinations

19/20/21.11.19 Parent consultation meetings

6.12.19 Christmas Fair - 6pm

10.12.19 Piano concert for Mrs Cutler's pianists- 3.30pm

11.12.19 Piano concert for Mrs Grew's pianists - 3.30pm

13.12.19 Christmas Concert filming morning- please order your DVDs!

13.12.19 Christmas Lunch

17.12.19 Christmas Concert- Red and Green Classes- 9.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2/3 adults per child welcome

17.12.19 Christmas Concert- Purple, Yellow and Blue Classes- 1.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2 adults per child welcome

19.12.19 Christmas Concert - Purple, Yellow and Blue Classes- 9.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2 adults per child welcome

19.12.19 Christmas Concert- Red and Green Classes - 1.30pm St Catherine's Church- 2/3 adults per child

(If toddlers attend concerts, please sit them on an adult's lap and take them into 'The Wheel' at the side of the church if they become restless. Photographs and filming is welcomed but no images/ films are to be uploaded onto social media for child protection reasons).

20.12.19 Party Day- children may wear own clothes and remember sensible shoes and an outdoor coat are still required.

Pantomime day.

20.12.19 Christmas Coffee sing song- 2.30pm- Nursery families

20.12.19 School closes for children

Spring/Summer dates are on the school website www.blackwellfirstschool.com



Green Class children are settling into their new classroom and provision well. Here they are exploring mark making in art. They created crosses, lines, circles and zig zags.