

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School

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

April 2023

Dear Families,



Easter Holiday Club 2023

We have really enjoyed having a Holiday Club so that the children from different classes could play together. We even welcomed back some of our Year 5s and 6s. We thank Miss Townsend, Mr Beattie, Miss Hine and Miss Bailey for running club during this holiday and for all staff who supported us in opening.



Nursery- Kodaly songs (in the Nursery)
Red and Green Classes- Story retells (in their classrooms)
Purple- Music (in their classroom)
Yellow- Country dance (in the hall)
Blue- Maypole (front playground or under canopy if wet)



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. As a result, the children really are ready to learn and we are helping them to make strong progress as we start the last term of this academic year.

We are following a full National Curriculum, with some minor adaptations to address areas that were not taught during the COVID years or were taught in less detail. We are continuing to revisit these areas at the start of each new topic. 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/ tricky words, times tables (Y2-4), number bonds and doubles and halves to 20 (YR-2) and reading.

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:

- **PRACTISE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL READING BOOK** – Hear them read their familiar book in Red, Green and Purple Classes (**use their ebooks in Green and Red Classes**) and listen to them read their books in Yellow and Blue Classes.
- **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.

Our first topic this term is 'Globe Trotters' and each class will be learning through Geography and RE. Yellow Class will read 'Amazing Africa' (non-fiction) and Blue Classes will read 'The Rhythm of the Rain'. As part of their work, they will learn about Holland (and the link between Holland and South Africa) and Switzerland, where the Red Cross headquarters are.

Purple Class will read stories from West Africa, based on the traditional Anansi spider stories and Green Class will read 'The Lion Hunt' introducing them to African countries and considering the battle between progress and tradition. Red Class will focus on a traditional Polish story and learn about Poland and Europe.

Uniting all of the classes, the children will plan for a Family Event to celebrate the Coronation on May 5th. The children will perform to you during this afternoon and you will be welcomed into school as part of our celebrations.

Look out for the class newsletters which will explain more about the children's learning for this half term and how you can support them to make more progress with tasks to practise at home.

Please come along to our '**Coronation Arts Event**' on May 5th between 1pm- 2.45pm. You can come along at any time and classes will perform at the times listed and you are free to visit anywhere in school to find out what life is like in your child's class and other classes. All of the children will 'Sing on the Steps' at 2.30pm. 'Tea and Toast' will remain open all afternoon. Please send the children dressed in red, white and blue on this day.

We hope that you can join us in anticipation of the Coronation weekend and Bank Holiday.

Best wishes, Mrs Moss



Easter celebrations with 'Singing on the Steps' and storynight ended the Spring term perfectly.



Summer Holiday Club is running during the first week of the summer holiday and at the end of August. Booking forms will be available shortly.



Timings for May 5th:
Please only visit classes when they are performing at the times below.

1.00- Nursery/ Purple
1.10- Red/ Yellow
1.20- Green/ Blue
1.30- Nursery/ Purple
1.40- Red/ Yellow
1.50- Green/ Blue
2.00- Nursery/ Purple
2.10- Red/ Yellow
2.20- Green/ Blue
2.30- SINGING on back steps

'Tea and Toast'

In order to continue to offer the strong provision that we do, with high staffing levels and excellent resources, we rely heavily on the PFTA for additional funding. In collaboration with the PFTA, we opened our 'Tea and Toast' community café. We are open between 8.30-9.30am and also 3-4pm. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and our regular customers who have supported us in retaining our current staff this year.

Knowing that you are supporting school by purchasing a tasty treat from us will make your purchase extra special! Many thanks to our 'volunteers' who will run the café each day.

Teacakes
Toast
Cakes
Coffee
Tea
ALL PROCEEDS TO
SCHOOL FUND

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

SPORT – We held our Wake and Shake competition last half term and the winners were the children of Purple Class. There are still two competitions this year so we look forward to celebrating a new class winning next time.

ARTS – Work will soon begin on developing our back playground. Mark Riley, artist in residence, will work with each class to create art work to brighten up the area at the back of the school.

One of our pieces of artwork created by the children in Blue Class will feature in 'Young Voices New Visions' at Worcester Cathedral this year between 28th May and 2nd July. You may spot it, amongst lots of artwork from Worcestershire schools, if you visit the cathedral during those times.



SCHOOL DIRECT/ SCITT – 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 Alliance and can email office@bptsa.worcs.sch.uk

This option of School Direct/SCITT training is only available to candidates who already hold a degree and is a one year full 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 Globe Trotters project that the whole school, from Red Class upwards, will work towards. As part of their learning in Geography and RE, the children will consider a dilemma. This way of learning supports the school's vision and values, enabling the children to think deeply about social and moral issues, making their learning meaningful.

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 Globe Trotters 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.

YEAR 4 ADVENTURE

We look forward to our 'Year 4 Adventure' this year and have planned a residential at our Outdoor Adventure facility between 5-7th July. The children will take part in a Beacon Walk, archery, low ropes, zip wire and a range of other activities including bed making and preparation of their own lunch.

When children from previous years return to Blackwell to tell us about their adventures beyond Blackwell, they often share their memories of Malvern. It is a real opportunity for the children to grow and mature before they head off to Middle School.

Updates

- Parking- please be careful when parking around Blackwell First School and neighbouring road. Please note that the staff car park is for staff only and families are asked to leave the entrance area empty to enable staff cars to enter and exit safely. Please also park only on the one side of St Catherine's as some cars have been parked on the other side of the road, making it impossible to pass.
- Whole School photograph- due to rain, the date for this is now June 27th.
- Blackwell's Big Coronation Cookbook will be on sale to celebrate this momentous historical moment.
- A Coronation Tea Towel with each child's image will also feature as part of the celebrations. Please do log on to ParentApp to buy one.

Mrs A Moss (headteacher)

Dates

- 17.4.23 Term starts
- 17.4.23 Year 4s bellboating
- 19.4.23 Year 4s Arts Event with Astley Primary School at BFS
- 19.4.23 Year 2s Science Event with Astley Primary School at BFS
- 21.4.23 Planting of our tree for the Queen's Green Canopy and from fundraising by the children
- 24.4.23 Year 2 educational visit
- 24.4.23 PFTA meeting
- 1.5.23 Bank Holiday
- 5.5.23 Family Arts Event 1pm onwards
- 8.5.23 Bank Holiday- Coronation
- 22.5.23 Year 4s Leavers Photograph
- 22.5.23 Film Night in school- for children PFTA event
- 26.5.23 Sport's Day- time TBC (usually 9am start/ Nursery TBC)
- 26.5.23 Red and Nursery Bake Sale
- 29.5.23- 2.6.23 Half Term
- 26.6.23 Whole School Educational visit
- 27.6.23 Whole School photograph
- 29.6.23 Purple Class (Y2) Family Assembly- 8.45am
- 1.7.23 Summer Fair
- 3.7.23 Bellboating- Year 4s
- 5-7.7.23 Residential – Year 4s
- 7.7.23 New Reception story visit
- 11.7.23 New Nursery Stay and Play
- 13.7.23 New Nursery Stay and Play
- 13.7.23 Bell Boating Regatta- Year 4s
- 14.7.23 New Reception story visit
- 14.7.23 PE event at Charford- Year 4s
- 17.7.23 New Nursery Parent meeting- 5.30pm
- 17.7.23 New Reception Parent meeting- 6.30pm
- 18.7.23 Classes visit their new classrooms and teachers
- 18.7.23 New Year 1 Parent meeting- 6pm
- 19.7.23 New Year 2 Parent meeting- 6pm
- 20.7.23 Red Class Family Assembly- 8.45am
- 20.7.23 KS2 Parent meeting- 6pm
- 21.7.23 Book Themed Tea Party
- 25.7.23 Leavers' Event- 9am TBC
- 26-28.7.23 Holiday Club and 29-31.8.23 and 1.9.23