



Newsletter



Malvern in Year 4



Blackwell First School,
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What a busy year this has been! From a visit to Kenilworth Castle, sporting events and music events to Mark Riley artist in residence work over recent weeks for all classes, it has been a successful year. We are now looking forward to inviting you into school for end of year parent meetings. At the end of the year, we reflect on the last twelve months in school and consider the progress the children, staff and school have made. I wish to thank all of the school staff for their excellent contribution to the children's welfare, development and learning this year. Good luck to those leaving us to move on to new roles. We thank Mrs Gwilliam, who will continue her connection to the school through managing our website, Mrs Morgan after 17 years of excellent service, Miss Chamberlain who returned to us after her training year for one year (and we hope may return again) and Mrs Flynn who starts her teaching adventures.

We are grateful for the support of you as parents, our collaborative schools in Worcestershire and to the Governing Body for their contribution to the leadership of the school. We are particularly grateful to Dr Evans, Chair of Governors, and Mrs Wilson, Vice Chair, and thank them for their superb dedication to the school. Dr Evans has been such a tremendous support to the school for many years and will continue to be so. He has decided that he wishes to step down as Chair, whilst remaining on the Governing Body. We are immensely grateful for his dedication and support without which the school would not be the place that it is. Thank you Dr Evans.

Thanks also to the PFTA for amazing fundraising efforts during this difficult year, so essential to ensure that we can continue to offer the rich and varied educational opportunities currently available whilst the budgetary demands are increasingly challenging. I say it each year, but without the PFTA funds the school would not offer what it does. During this term alone, they have funded a complete new set of home reading books for Red, Green and Purple Classes as well as Mark Riley the artist in residence for each class. Particular mention must be made to our Year 4s and their families for their support to the school over the years.

Our results show that the children have again made strong progress, which has been supported by excellent teaching. The vast majority of children are working well towards national expectations and given a further year of 'normality' next year (without COVID closures), this progress will be maintained, supporting children's return to expected levels and beyond for their age. When they leave us in Year 4, they have developed into individuals who are mostly working securely with many at above expected standards and with life skills of independence, communication and an excellent sense of moral purpose. This group has been a joyful class of polite and hard working children and it has been rewarding to watch them develop over the years and the progress that they have made from Red Class to Blue Class has been tremendous.

The school works hard to fulfil its role as a real community school and remains at the heart of the village. The work we do supports children in developing that sense of community and their own role within a community and as part of the UK. Developing the children as local and global citizens is an important aspect of our work as could be seen during our Collective worship themes on values. Our community work this year on 'Tea and Toast', development of the back playground and the Summer Fair have all served to unite us. Finally, I would like to say, on behalf of everyone at school, thank you for your support and your kind words throughout the year. Good luck to adults and children who are moving on, we wish you well and hope that you come back to see us. Have a good summer break and we will all meet again on 6th September when we welcome our new Nursery and Reception intakes and new staff members.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss

As a school that was judged as outstanding by Ofsted in 2011, we have not been the focus for inspections for many years, although we do expect to receive an Ofsted during the autumn term. In order to ensure that we continue to offer high quality education, we commission external validation which forms an integral part of the self-evaluation of the school. This year, we have been inspected by Worcestershire Children First and an external consultant. Both of these experiences have been very positive and some comments from the reports provide a flavour of the comments in the reports.

...children are captured from a very early age in nursery in a stimulating, calm environment where curiosity and love for learning is clearly embedded...

...the strong vision for learning and the development of the whole child is evidenced in all areas of the school. There is a relentless drive for the highest standards, having the highest expectations and focus on a unique curriculum which meets the needs of all learners. This is a highly inclusive and special place of learning where all children thrive...

...the subject leader provides highly effective curriculum leadership of mathematics. She is a passionate advocate for the subject with an impressive depth of knowledge as well as an infectious enthusiasm for pupils' learning...

All of this information is used to support the development of next year's School Development Plan.



Mark Riley has worked with all classes, thanks to funding from the PFTA, to create art to display on the back playground. We can't wait to show you!

Reports

This week, you will receive your child's report and there is a covering letter to help you understand how your child is achieving in line with the national standards. It is most important that you look at the children's **progress** comment as this indicates whether they are working well. Whilst some children do reach this high national standard, it is important that you do not feel that your child is unsuccessful if they are not currently working at the standard. Some children are not, and this is not unexpected as learning has been disrupted during the previous few years and some are still closing the gap. It is also important to remember that children develop at different rates and that many children who may be described as not working at the expectation when they are very young, will go on to reach expectations later on during their primary school years. It is also important to note the general comments and skills development sections as these indicate your child's development in areas that are crucial to their future as learners.

Summer Holiday 'Keeping up!'

Over the summer, the children need a good rest and break from school. Due to the disruption over the past few years, however, it is important to keep the children reading. Please keep them reading their ebooks (Red, Green and Purple Classes), reading books of their choice (Yellow and Blue Classes) and

- Watch stories read by their teachers (on BFS YouTube) and
- Spelling and mental maths activities.

The teachers may also send some particular work home for individuals who they feel would benefit from specific work. Please support them with this learning and keep reading!

Collective Worship

During this last week, we have concentrated on 'Changes' to help with transition as well as 'Freedom' as a theme and discussed the freedom that comes from living in the UK and the associated rights that we have. With such rights come responsibilities, and we talk (as part of British Values) about the need to follow the law and what this means. As part of this work, we discuss the lack of freedom for some people across the world and discuss this in terms that the children understand, such as a lack of freedom to go to school, have friends, wear what they want, choose a job and have beliefs that are different from others.

Arts and Sport Congratulations to BFS for achieving the Sportsmark Platinum for continued work towards Sport. Thank you Mrs Webb for leading sport so well. Thank you to families for continuing to pay for school trips which form such an important part of the children's educational experiences but which cannot be funded by school.

Malvern and Bellboating adventure

The Year 4s had a super trip to Malvern, showing their developing resilience, teamwork and spirit. These aspects of learning behaviours have been developed during their time with us and we hope that they continue to flourish at their new schools. The children also thoroughly enjoyed bellboating and will participate in the regatta this week. Thank you very much to the teaching staff who gave up their time to enable the Year 4s to have such a wonderful end to their time at BFS.



Our trip to Kenilworth Castle was a highlight of their learning about the Tudors and local history.

New room

Whilst school budgets are stretched more than ever before over the last 25 years, all schools receive a small grant for building works each year in order to enable small repairs. We have saved ours for a number of years in order to build a small room next to the offices so that there is a space for a small staff room as currently there is no dedicated space in school. The BFS staff members are incredibly dedicated and hard working and governors are so pleased that they can in a small way acknowledge how fortunate the school is to have such wonderful staff.

PFTA We owe a huge thanks to the PFTA for their excellent summer fair for raising over £3,000. All of the people involved have worked extremely hard to ensure that they raise as much for the children as possible. This year, the PFTA has donated over £9,000 for resources including new home reading books (to replace the ebooks as many families prefer a 'real' book and these books are crucial to the children's progress), the work of the artist in residence, the redesign of the back playground and Hetty. Thank you to all involved. At a time of ever decreasing budgets, this support is invaluable and the funds that school is able to raise through our Before and After School and Holiday Club supports the school on its journey. Thanks to Claire as Chair, Manjit and Amanjit as Vice Chairs, Claire as Secretary, Carrie as Marketing and Becky as treasurer and the whole committee and all those who help to organise fantastic community events throughout the year. From Storynights to Summer Fair and everything in between, the PFTA has been active all year. Next year, Claire will continue as Chair, Emily will become Vice Chair, Lucy will become secretary and Becky and Carrie will continue in their roles. Thank you for supporting PFTA events as without you attending, the PFTA would not be able to contribute as much as they do. **THIS ALL BENEFITS YOUR CHILDREN!**

Supporting transition into Year 1

*A class of children is not a homogeneous group of learners. The learning of young children is neither linear nor predictable. Developmentally, there is very little difference between a Reception child and a Year 1 child. **Key changes come around the age of 7.***

(Julie Fisher, Moving into KS1)

What a year our Year 1s have had and we are proud of their learning and attitudes. They will be moving onto Year 2 with far stronger skills and attributes than previously as a result of the provision this year. Thanks to Mrs James, Mrs Hampton, Mrs Morgan and Miss Bailey for all of their hard work during what has been an interesting and exciting year.

Autumn term dates

Holiday Club- please book slots asap if needed.
6.9.23 School opens- welcome back (Red Class part time for a week and a half)
4.10.23 Open evening for current parents- opportunity to visit all classes
Further dates to be shared in September.

- Music tuition payments needed ASAP- piano, recorder and violin.
- Extra-curricular and after school club bookings needed ASAP with payment.
- Lunch orders needed ASAP with payment
- Uniform collection ASAP for those who have been notified.