

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school. As we begin the last half term of the year it is a good time to reflect on the school year and how quickly time passes for the children and families. We have had a full year without covid restrictions and have been able to fully implement a normal year. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support of the children and the school community. We have enjoyed watching the children in Nursery and Reception become more independent and confident this year. Our Year 1s and 2s have been working very hard under the careful direction of the staff, enabling them to develop the vital basic skills of speaking and listening, reading, writing and maths whilst also developing the key skills of independence, resilience and problem solving that our school curriculum supports. As for our Y3s and Y4s, the expectations increase considerably in anticipation of Middle School and they are rising to the challenge. Well done everyone.

Exciting learning at BFS- Summer 2023

Thanks to Mrs Webb and the staff for our wonderful sport's day, celebrating the enjoyment of sport and also the competitive element that can be associated with team games and individual competition. Well done everyone.



Blackwell pets...



For those who were not at BFS when Hetty arrived, she is our school dog! She is looked after by one of our PFTA members during evenings, weekends and holidays and will visit school each day. Most of her day will be spent resting but she will 'work' during Collective Worship and support some of our children during the day. She is named after the first girl listed on Blackwell's admission book from 1911.



The benefit of having a school dog has been documented and supports children with both mental health and life skills. Hetty is fully trained and passed a 'test' before being able to come to school.

We also enjoy our Guinea Pigs and the Year 2s in particular take on the responsibility of caring for them each day. Miss Kuriger supervises and takes them home at weekends and in holidays.

We also have our chickens thanks to support from the PFTA. **We are looking for some experts who may be able to help us care for them and organise a rota for holiday care. If anyone is able to help us, please let the office or Mrs Moss know.**

'Animals are used to help humans in different ways. Studies suggest that the effects of pet ownership can be beneficial to physical, social and psychological wellbeing. Research has found that stroking a pet can be relaxing and can result in a reduction in blood pressure. The presence of pets can also promote social interaction and reduce psychological responses to anxiety' Hall & Malpus (2000)

Staffing for September Our staffing is almost finalised for September and is as listed below:

Mrs Moss- Headteacher

Miss Townsend – Deputy Headteacher (Special Educational Needs co-ordinator)

Mrs Webb – Early Years Leader

Teachers: Mrs James, Miss Kuriger, Mrs Mander, **Miss Bailey**, Miss Davis, Mrs Edney, Mrs Hipkiss, Mrs Dudek and Mrs Hampton Music (recorders)– Mrs Hipkiss

Higher Level Teaching Assistant – Mrs Dyson

Teaching Assistants- Mrs Allen, Mrs Franklin, Mrs Birley, Mrs Spurgeon, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Marks, Mrs Morgan, Miss Edwards, Mrs Dudek, Mrs Hampton, Mrs Taylor, Miss Bonner, Mrs Grice, Mrs Satchell, Mrs

Gwilliam and **two/ three vacancies - welcome to new appointments.**

Blackwell Club Manager- Mrs Edney (Mrs Thompson – mornings)

Forest School Leader–Mrs Hipkiss

School Cook- Mrs Barker/ Mrs Miles and Miss Shepherd

Administration Team- Mrs Tomlinson (Finance), Mrs Garner (main office), Mrs Wilkinson (GDPR/ data management including admissions) and Mrs Satchell (Club administration).

Site Manager and Housekeeper – Mrs Wilson and cleaning team

Bromsgrove Primary Alliance manager – Mrs Wilson

We will continue with violin (Mrs Grainger) and piano (Miss Johnson)

tuition through Worcester Youth Music. Mrs Cutler continues to support music teaching. If you wish to sign up for recorder, piano or violin lessons for September, speak to Mrs Garner.

Welcome to all new staff and best wishes and thank you to those leaving us. We say a sad goodbye to Mrs Thomas and Mrs Flynn who will begin their teaching careers and wish them well and wish Miss Chamberlain the very best of luck with her career as she moves on.

Esafety – Be aware...Families at Blackwell, at everywhere, face real challenges. This is a problem for everyone to face.

Is your child safe online? How do you know? What are they accessing on their computers, ipads, tablets or your smartphone? We teach the children all the rules about social networking and not sharing personal details, but then we know that at home children can disregard the rules, especially when filters may not be as strong. It is particularly important that they know how to keep safe and also not to enter a world of bullying online/ cyber bullying. Games have an age restriction for a reason and we find that **children who access games beyond their age, develop challenges that are beyond their development.** We have had particular concerns regarding children accessing older age games, particularly when older children are setting it up for their Y1 and 2 siblings, who are developmentally unable to access it (age restriction 12) and are beginning to be targeted by older children when playing together online.

Please find further advice: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Collective Worship

In current times, it is more important than ever that we support the children in becoming responsible citizens in a changing world.

This week our theme is 'Patience' and we will consider why this is an important value and how famous people in history have shown patience and its value.

It is important for us to support the children in understanding and valuing differences in our society and helping them play their part in living as part of our British culture with shared values that underpin a successful nation. Community is important for people's mental well-being and supporting their community will form part of work this half term.

Mrs Anna Moss, Head teacher

Sport and the Arts

Sports – Well done for a superb Wake and Shake Champion performance last half term and we look forward to next term's finale performance from Blue Class.

Sport's Day was a huge success thanks to Mrs Webb's hard work and was very much enjoyed by old and young alike.

Arts – Mark Riley, artist in residence begins work across the school this half term and will support the children in developing their artistic skills.



Parking at 'Drop off/ Pick up' times

In an effort to keep everyone safe at the start/end of the day, please continue to park safely (not obscuring driveways). Please supervise scooters and do not scoot (or ride bikes) on the playground as there are so many children around.

Remember that it is illegal to park on the yellow zig zags and, to ease congestion if you are able, please walk to school. Where this is not possible, please use the full length of road to park and the roads at either end of St Catherine's to walk along. Thank you.

TERM DATES- Summer Term 2023

- 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- PFTA event 12-2pm School Field
- 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 3s (NB- not Y4s)
- 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 (Children only event during the school day)
- 25.7.23 Leavers' Event- 9am TBC
- 26-28.7.23 Holiday Club and 29-31.8.23 and 1.9.23

