

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School



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

May 2023

Dear Families,

We took a whole school photograph to mark the coronation of King Charles III. Thank you for coming to support the children on Friday with the Family Arts Event celebrating music and the arts.



In year 4, the children enjoy life on the canal with Andy Train, our bellboating expert. Miss Townsend is a trained helm and has been training the children for many years and Miss Kuriger is happy paddling the canals!



Bellboating is a safe water sport and the children learn about water safety, teamwork and they require effort and strength in order to paddle their bellboat whilst enjoying being outdoors. This year was a drier day than some years. Lucky Year 4!

As we move towards the final half term of the year, I find it hard to believe that the Year 4s who arrived as new Red Class children with Mrs Webb and experienced two lockdowns learning from home, are now being sent off to Bellboating, on 'Residential' and are being prepared for transition to Middle School.

This term is a really busy one for the children and staff. We started the term with 'Globe Trotters' and where the children all developed their geographical skills of enquiry, analysis and presentation of evidence as well as prepping for the Family Arts Event which was enjoyed by all and coincided with the Coronation Celebration.

We continue to work to support children's learning behaviours in school. We strive for children who are independent, resilient and aspirational. Through work in all lessons, Collective Worship, PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education), P4C (Philosophy) and our Afternoon Enrichment Clubs, we offer activities and experiences to develop these skills. Please help at home by encouraging the children to organise their own belongings, make their beds in a morning, clear their plates from the table, carry their bags to school and take ownership of their reading and homework. It is a start in making them more independent in all areas of their lives.

At this point in the year, it is a good time to consider how the school supports the children in developing healthy lifestyles through healthy eating and also participation in sport and fitness. Our aim is to enable the children to develop an enjoyment of sport and fitness so that they continue to exercise throughout their lives. Through curriculum PE, daily Wake and Shake, afternoon sport clubs and extra curriculum clubs led by school staff and external instructors, the children have access to a variety of sport in school. Whilst competitive sport is not the main aim of primary school sport, we also participate in Bromsgrove 'All Active Academy' which enables all children to participate in competitive sport. Bellboating and outdoor pursuits are part of Year 4 provision. We are also delighted that so many children take part in sporting clubs out of school. Together, we aim to support this generation in becoming fit and healthy adults. Our next project, 'Happy and Healthy' helps the children to develop an understanding of all aspects of being healthy in mind and body. They will consider the role of sport, the arts, nature and community in supporting wellbeing.

Thank you to those of you supporting '**Tea & Toast**' which is open each day for the school community between 8.30-9.30am and 3-4pm. All proceeds support the resources and provision at school.

We look forward to our Coronation Sport's Day and welcome you all to this on the last Friday of this half term.

Best wishes, Mrs Moss



Paddling the canals involves learning the skill of paddling in time with others and the technique of using the paddle. It is not as easy as it looks, as the children found out.



This experience is at the heart of the school's vision of learning about the world they live in through practical experiences and awe and wonder. We hope that it lasts in their memories and inspires them in their lives.



See more photographs from our Family Arts Event to celebrate the coronation on the separate photoboard.

Moving on from Red Class into Green Class

Moving from Reception into Year 1 can be a tricky time for children as they move from the 0-5 Early Years curriculum onto a new curriculum that includes Year 1- 6 and also an increase in expectation regarding the formality of learning.

We have spent a number of years developing our Early Years provision and know from evidence that this provision works for children of this age. Five years ago, we extended our child centred provision into Year 1. We have been very impressed with the outcomes. The children have made excellent progress whilst enjoying the style of learning most suited to children of this age. External reviews have commented positively on the provision as well as reviewers from the national Quality Mark for Early Years.

The provision includes children accessing whole class teaching for Phonics, English and Maths as well as all of the other National Curriculum subjects. They also all take part in small group and individual work routinely throughout the year, and, as and when it is needed, targeted intervention will support those children with specific gaps in learning or personal challenges. Crucially, this approach enables the children to select their own learning activities but rather than accessing 'toys' as they do in Reception, they access areas of learning, such as Performance, Experiment, Design etc. During the week they are expected to complete a number of set tasks which will provide evidence for their levels of independent learning.

It is an exciting time to be moving into Year 1 and we know from experience and research that this approach to learning makes it more relevant and engaging for children of this age. As the children develop throughout the year, expectations will rise and we will support the new transition into Year 2. A never ending learning journey...

Join us for the information meeting for Year 1 2023-4 to find out more (see dates).

Collective Worship During the last few weeks we have considered the Universal Values of **Equality** and **Diversity** as well as working on **Manners** and children's ability to **Try their best**. As part of this work we discussed the diversity within our British population to prepare the children for their future lives in a multicultural nation. We will consider how equality features highly in their everyday lives and how major historical figures such as Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parkes, Martin Luther King and William Wilberforce played a significant part towards creating equality in society.

Updates

- Homework for Year 4s is now compulsory to prepare the children for Middle School. Please remind them to hand it in each week.
- Please use ParentApp to read information that we send out so that you are up to date with what is happening in school. We are sending this newsletter in paper form as a reminder to check ParentApp for letters but routinely send all information via ParentApp. The dates for the arts event last week had been on a newsletter for several weeks but some families had not been aware of the date. Please do prompt other parents to read the newsletters if they appear to not be aware of dates etc!
- For children in Red and Green Classes, please help the children to access their ebooks on their ebook shelf as this is the book that they read in school and need to revisit at home. It will help them to build fluency and independence.
- Although part of our school was built in 2016 and looks in good repair, we are at the mercy of national funding to run our school and like all schools nationally are facing increased challenges in order to maintain current staffing levels. Supporting the PFTA by joining meetings, offering support at events or just turning up to support is of huge value to the children. Please do help this community school to remain at the heart of the community.
- Year 4s will complete the national Times Tables Check soon so please keep practising them at home.
- The phonic screening check in Year 1 will take place shortly after half term so please keep reading those ebooks at home.
- The national SATs 'tests' will take place over the coming three weeks so please ensure that the children are in school wherever possible.

Holiday Club Holiday club is running again during the first and last weeks of the Summer holidays so please book through the school office.

Red Class learning journey Red Class children have made a brilliant start to school and have learned lots of basic skills and routines and are developing as early learners. They now work more in their workbooks as part of supporting them with their transition to Year 1.

It is most important in Reception that the children read every day. Please support the children with this crucial part of their learning. (Matched ebooks are particularly helpful.)

Thank you as always for your support.

School Sport and the Arts

- Voices and Visions is soon on at Worcester Cathedral and we will have a Year 4 piece of art on display.
- Mark Riley, artist in residence, will be visiting us to work with each class during June and July in order to create artwork for our back playground. Thanks to the PFTA for funding this special work. It is costly and shows how the fundraising directly impacts on the children.
- Sport's Day will be upon us in less than three weeks. The children will participate in traditional running races and novelty races and all children will also take part in additional sports and Year 4 will end with the finale of their race around the field. Tea & Toast will be open all morning so do come along to enjoy a cuppa. Come along from about 9am until approximately 10.30/11am.



22.5.23 Year 4s Leavers Photograph
22.5.23 Film Night in school- for children -PFTA event (5.30-7pm)
26.5.23 Sport's Day on the BIG FIELD- whole school except Nursery approximately 9/9.15am and finish approximately 10.30/11am
Nursery sports- 2pm (TBC) on the BIG FIELD
25.5.23 Red and Nursery Bake Sale- date has changed!

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- PFTA event
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 (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