

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School

Blackwell First School,
St. Catherine's Rd.,
Blackwell,
Near Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire.
B60 1BN
May 2024

Dear Families,

As we approach the last half term of the year it is a good time to reflect on the journey that the children have made this year. It has been wonderful to see the development of our youngest children in Nursery and Red Class as they mature, ready for their transition into school or Year 1. Their levels of independence have grown tremendously thanks to the hard work of the staff and the provision in Nursery and Reception. It is this provision that we will continue to develop in Year 1 in line with the developmental needs of the children.

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.

Some fabulous experiences have taken place this half term. Year 4s have been bellboating and taken part in a music event at Alvechurch Middle School, super sport's trips have taken place and Year 2s visited Worcester Cathedral. Green Class have read 'The Suitcase' by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros and Purple and Yellow Classes have used the book as inspiration for their Philosophy lessons. We were delighted when Mrs James wrote to him and he offered to meet the children on zoom from France, which happened this week. He was an inspiration to the children, sharing his approach to writing and illustration and encouraging them to become great writers themselves. The book is a beautifully, sensitive explanation of how refugees may feel when they arrive in a new country. Thank you all for your support and have a good half term break.

After half term, we embark on a 'Victorians' journey and each class will receive a brand new book. All of our texts are chosen from lists of award winning children's books such as Kate Greenaway or Carnegie award winners. The teachers will be developing the children's English, History and Art skills through this topic. Wait to find out what the class projects will be.

During this final half term, we prepare the children for transition into their new year groups by completing the learning for their year group. You will receive annual reports and will be notified of arrangements for next year as well as being invited to a parent meeting (date listed overleaf). The Year 4s will enjoy an adventurous residential trip and bellboating! The Leavers' Breakfast is planned for the last day of term and will be a memorable event. The PFTA is planning a Summer Fair which is set to be the biggest fundraiser of the year!

We are very pleased with the progress the children are making and the support you are all giving us. We look forward to a happy last half term together.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss

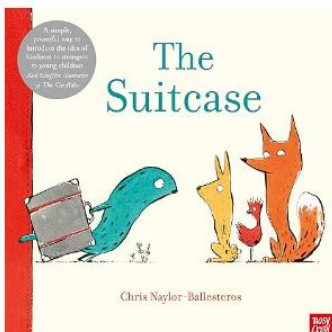


Year 2 enjoyed an informative visit to Worcester Cathedral. The awe and wonder of such a large building was breathtaking for many of the children and they learned about the features of the building, as well as practices in use. Thank you to Miss Kuriger and Miss Bailey for organising this visit.



Last year, Midland Sinfonia visited school and performed for each class, engaging the children in some wonderful music making. They will visit us again on July 15th and this time, they will also work with the school Choir prior to the Choir's concert in St Catherine's church at 3.30pm. Families of children in the choir are welcome to attend and the church will be open from 3.15pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Green Class children met Chris Naylor-Ballesteros, author of *The Suitcase*, on zoom this week. He shared with the children some ideas, answered their questions and asked them to send him some writing that they do based on his book. Green Class were excited and inspired by this conversation. Thanks to Mrs James for organising it.



Rags To Riches
Please drop off your
bags of clothes for the
June 26th collection on
June 25th, either
morning or afternoon!

Are you supporting your child's mental well being?

Nationally, children's mental wellbeing is under increasing scrutiny as modern lifestyles have an impact on children. We have previously shared with you some simple things to do to support strong mental health, such as: sharing meals, reading stories at bedtime, limiting time on technology.

As a staff, we have been trained in emotion coaching, attachment theory and trauma and some of the messages may also help you at home.

- Show emotions to children in a 'controlled' way to expose children to all emotions and verbalise the emotion to them so that they can identify different emotions that they also feel
- Support children in understanding (through discussion) that all people experience all emotions but have to learn to deal with them appropriately in different situations

Many thanks for your support with this complex area of child development.

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 (maternity leave) – Early Years Leader

Teachers: Mrs Mander (Nursery Manager), Miss Smith (welcome back!), Mrs James, Miss Kuriger, Miss Davis, Miss Bailey, Mrs Hipkiss (Music and Forest School), Mrs Hampton (cover)

Teaching Assistants- Mrs Allen, Mrs Franklin, Mrs Hampton, Miss Edwards (Group provision lead), Miss Andersen, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Marks, Miss Gregg, Mrs Grice, Mr Chan, Mrs Spurgeon, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Satchell

Blackwell Club Manager- Miss Kuriger (Mrs Thompson – mornings)

Club staff- Miss Gregg, Mrs Franklin, Miss Andersen, Mrs Satchell

School Cook- Mrs Barker, Mrs Miles and assistant Miss Shepherd

Administration Team- Mrs Tomlinson, Mrs Hilton, Mrs Satchell, Mrs Wilkinson,

Mrs Wilson

Site Manager- Mrs Wilson and cleaning team

Bromsgrove Primary Alliance manager – Mrs Wilson

We will continue with violin and piano tuition through Worcester Youth Music with Mrs Grainger and Miss Johnson. Mrs Hipkiss will teach recorder and Mrs Spurgeon teaches fife, which is an early experience of learning the flute. If you wish to sign up for recorder, fife, piano or violin lessons for September contact the school office.

Esafety – Be aware...families at Blackwell, as 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. 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.

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

Holiday Club

Holiday club is running again during the first and last weeks of the Summer holidays so please book through the school office. We appreciate your bookings as this income stream supports the general running of the school.

School Sport and the Arts

Congratulations to our current Wake and Shake champions. We look forward to selecting new champions soon. Sports' Day will take place next week weather permitting. Please come along to the main field for 9am on Friday and bring a deckchair or blanket. The children will be competing for approximately two hours. Snacks/ Drinks are on sale so please bring your purse!

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 'Appreciation' and we have focussed on the things in life that make our world a special place, from bees and butterflies to families and care. We discussed the Human Right of having a name and considered the circumstances leading to children not having a name. 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.

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 children crossing driveways. There are some disabled badge holders who park close to school.

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.

20.5.24 Class photographs

20.5.24 FILM NIGHT 5.30-7pm- book through PFTA

23.5.24 Green Class Bake Sale

23.5.24 Year 4 Arts Event- visitors from Astley Primary

24.5.24 SPORT's Day- 9am-11am Reception- Year 4/ 2pm Nursery

27th-31st May- Half term

3.6.24 School reopens

5.6.24 Science Day for Year 2 – on site

10.6.24 Year 4s bellboating

15.6.24 2pm Chocolate Bingo family event- poster issued soon

18.6.24 Dental Survey (Reception and some Y1s)

26.6.24 RAGS TO RICHES COLLECTION

24.6.24 Reception- Year 4 Educational visit

27.6.24 8.45am Purple Class family assembly

28.6.24 Non uniform- bring a bottle for the fair

1.7.24 Year 4s bellboating

4.7.24 Year 4s cross school PE event at BFS

5.7.24 Change the Rules Day – PFTA event

6.7.24 SUMMER FAIR- get ready for the PFTA event of the year. Get baking and enter the cake competition. Do you have showstopper ideas?

8.7.24 7pm PFTA AGM on school site.

10-12.7.24 Year 4 residential

15.7.24 Midland Sinfonia visits all classes and supports a Choir Concert in St Catherine's Church 3.30pm

15.7.24 5.30pm NEW Nursery parent meeting

15.7.24 6.30pm NEW Red Class parent meeting

16.7.24 8.45-9.30am NEW Nursery settling in

16.7.24 Children all visit new classes for September

16.7.24 6pm NEW Year 2 parent meeting

17.7.24 8.45am Red Class family assembly

17.7.24 6pm NEW Year 3 (and 4s are welcome)

parent meeting

18.7.24 School Tea Party

18.7.24 8.45-9.30am NEW Nursery settling in

18.7.24 Red Class and Nursery Bake Sale

18.7.24 6pm NEW Year 1 parent meeting

19.7.24 Year 4 Leavers' assembly 9am

HOLIDAY CLUB- 22-26.7.24/ 27-30.8

4.9.24 Term starts for children

14.9.24 Sponsored mile

Sainsbury's
SCHOOL
GAMES