

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School

Blackwell First School,  
St. Catherine's Rd.,  
Blackwell,  
Near Bromsgrove,  
Worcestershire.  
B60 1BN  
October 23

Dear Families,

Man on the Moon is a very popular book in Green Class and the children enjoyed making their scarecrow ready for the festival.



Mrs Hampton travelled to Cheltenham with her daughter to meet Sophie Dahl, Roald Dahl's grand daughter, and BFS now has a signed copy of her book, Madame Badobedah.



We have reached the end of this half term and as a school we wish to thank you all for your support in helping the children settle in so well to this school year and for supporting the PFTA with their fund raising events. The 'Big Books' scarecrow festival at the weekend was a wonderful example of the community spirit at Blackwell and it is lovely to see how proud the children are of their school. Thank you PFTA. We hope that you all have a good rest over half term so that the children are refreshed and ready for a busy half term leading up to Christmas.

One of the most rewarding aspects of working in a school is seeing the children so happy. The children know that my job is to keep them safe, help them to be happy and learning well. The school staff do a wonderful job of ensuring that this happens, helping the children learn how to keep themselves safe, risk assessing situations for themselves, right from in the sand pit in Nursery!

Many thanks to everyone for a successful half term. We bid a very fond farewell to Mrs Dudek. She joined us back before our new building was built, endured the challenges of teaching during the building works, has taught across the school, led choir, enrichment clubs and returned from maternity leave to a variety of roles in school. She will be taking a little time off from work before returning to teaching when her children start school. We wish her all the very best and hope that she will return to us in the future!

On the previous newsletter we shared many events that will take place in the run up to Christmas and will be sharing a poster of these events to help you plan for the coming weeks and also prioritise possible spending. There will be options such as fundraising calendars, Christmas cards and a Christmas storynight. Our annual theatre trip is the main event, which we know will benefit the children hugely and is an important experience for them.

During the next half term, we are due to be visited by Ofsted and we look forward to sharing our journey with the inspection team. We have already had our annual local area inspection this term and the outcomes of that were strong, with the report stating that, 'there is a culture of exceptionally high expectations across the school...the highly skilled staff supported by the relentless drive of leaders ensures pupils get the best possible start in life and achieve highly'.

Best wishes to you all for a happy half term.  
Mrs Moss



Please come and visit 'Tea and Toast' at the start or end of the day to support fundraising here at Blackwell.



Beowulf has been the story enjoyed by Blue Class this term and Grendel's mother certainly scared a few of us on Saturday...whereas Fantastic Mr Fox seemed tame in comparison!



### SPORT and THE ARTS

**SPORT-** Our football club, sport's club and PE lessons are so popular! Mrs Webb oversees all sport at BFS and enjoys seeing the children so active and happy.

**ARTS-** Mark Riley, artist in residence, has completed the work with the children on the seating on the back playground and they enjoyed the inspirational sessions based on community and the work of the artist Hundertwasser. We have been working hard to ensure that children develop a sense of their place in the community and the wider world.

Nursery and Red Class shared scarecrow making and 'The Scarecrow's Wedding' was the mystery word that everyone searched for during the trail.



### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This week we have been focussing on 'Happiness' in our Collective Worship and that true happiness is achieved by what we do to support others. Using aspirational people as motivators inspires the children in their developing citizenship. This week we reflected on the work of the Dalai Lama and his relentless drive for kindness.

### PARENT CONSULTATIONS & KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Thank you for your attendance at Parent Meetings last week. We had almost 100% attendance and are following up the last few people who were unable to make last week. We shared the children's successes, progress and strengths with you and also targets that you can work on at home. Assessments will take place next half term. We keep you informed of what the children are learning each half term through the homework sheets (Year 1 upwards) and the weekly parentapp message for Early Years. The 'Help at Home' mental maths, phonics/ spelling and handwriting sheets shared at Parent Meetings will also help you.

### AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT CLUBS

All of the children at Blackwell are fortunate to have free access to extra curricular enrichment clubs that broaden, deepen and revisit the core learning. These sessions are popular with the children and range from Forest School or Art to Recorders or Wild World. This enables the children's personal development and behaviour to be developed both in the classroom and beyond ensuring that their skills are embedded across the school day.

