



NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

...developing the whole child...



Some of our Year 4s visited the Henrician Theatre at Prince Henry's High School as part of our partnership working. The children were impressed by the talented performers from the school. Something to aspire to for our budding actors!

February 2025

Dear Families,

The children have enjoyed a positive half term and their 'Let's Perform' topic has enabled them to share their learning with the whole school in a performance morning. As part of their 'Beliefs' work, several classes have visited places of worship, learning about respect and tolerance. These meaningful opportunities help the children to broaden and deepen their learning.

Special thanks to everyone on the PFTA and those supporting events who are enabling us to purchase resources at this very challenging time for school budgets. Thanks to Mrs Hampton for her family Yoga! I am sure you can imagine that staff cover costs and energy costs have risen significantly, without any further government funding. Our school budget has been taken up entirely with running and staffing costs, meaning we rely heavily on fundraising from the PFTA and are grateful to them for their excellent work. The PFTA is funding 10 ipads and waterproof jackets for Forest School. The PFTA has also kindly agreed to fully fund the considerable cost of bell boating for the Year 4 children, during a year when Year 4 families already fund the children's residential trip. This is a significant cost and all children will benefit from this as they move into Year 4.

Thank you for returning parent questionnaires. We always send them out at this point in the year as it provides feedback for us for the rest of the year rather than being an end of year feedback which is easily forgotten. Thank you for your ongoing positive comments and support. We will address any queries.

I have enjoyed visiting each class over the last week to formally monitor the children's learning and am delighted to see how well the children are learning across the school.

We recruited three new members of staff last week: Mrs McDermott who starts after half term working with individual children, Mrs Brown who will work in Nursery once we admit our two year olds after Easter and Mrs Pemberton who will join us in September. Congratulations to them all and welcome to the team.

Finally, please do get in touch with either myself via email or the classteachers after school if you would like to ask any questions about your child's learning or any other aspect of school life. We are always here to help. Parent Consultation meetings will take place next half term and teachers will share some 'home friendly' targets and we would be grateful for your help with these, as extra practise will help the children to make more progress.

Many thanks and best wishes,
Mrs Moss

Blue Class talking to the author of their book on zoom and PFTA Family Yoga! Lots of exciting learning...



Visiting the synagogue, Hindu temple, Grand Central Mosque and church have been highlights of the children's learning during the last two weeks. It helps develop the children's British Values of tolerance and respect.



The children enjoy their PE lessons, afternoon sports club and extra curricular sports after school. Helping them to live active lives is an important part of the school's work.



Mrs James leads Science and the teachers work with Mrs James to make the subject practical and exciting. Mrs James recently took part in some teacher training and as a result has acquired lots of new resources. The children will benefit from this support from Birmingham University.



Please join us for QUIZ NIGHT on April 4th to raise funds for school and the children. Check the PFTA poster on parentapp when it is published or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk for further information. Supper included and a bar is available... Can you beat the staff team? Or the governor team? There's a challenge!

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

Sport- Competitive events have been taking place between schools across Bromsgrove and the Year 2 children will enjoy a dance festival this half term. Miss Bailey will plan for a Sport's Day for families to attend during the summer term, usually during the Friday before May half term in the morning. We will keep you informed. All After School Sports continue this half term and all children have enjoyed afternoon sports club.

Arts – All of the classes will work with Mark Riley, artists in residence, next term to create artwork. These projects are thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children and provide them with memorable arts experiences and a chance to apply their art skills. Art projects from previous years feature across the school and are a highlight of the arts curriculum.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We start the next half term considering Caring and as part of this will explain bullying to the children. Understanding and identifying when and how being unkind or falling out moves into bullying is a challenge. The message we give the children is to always tell both adults in school and at home if something is happening that worries them and we will work to help them solve such problems.

Parking

Please remember to park safely and courteously to support our school neighbours. We have distributed some safe parking slips for neighbours to place on windscreens when their driveways are blocked to help remind people. Please do not block driveways, even for a short time. Many thanks.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you for your returned questionnaires. We had a high number of returns this year and are particularly pleased that you have shared your views with us. We have analysed them and share the responses with you below.

Areas that all families see as strengths (100% agree or strongly agree):

- My child feels safe
- Blackwell deals with bullying effectively
- My child has SEND and they are well supported
- Blackwell has high expectations
- I would recommend this school to another parent

Many responses acknowledged the excellent provision for the Arts and Sport and recognised the increase in extra curricular sport provision, following on from last year's questionnaire. Thank you for noticing the improvements we have made!

There were two parent questionnaire responses that would benefit from a meeting to discuss concerns about individual children and we would be grateful if those parents could get in touch with Mrs Moss to resolve any ongoing issues. We are not aware of any issues so need your help to clarify! Many thanks.

Here is a selection of comments, thank you.

...the school has exceeded my expectations and I am absolutely thrilled that my son is able to thrive in such a fantastic environment...

...their greatest strength is in nurturing the whole child, developing confident, happy, well rounded children for their future lives...

...the ethos aligns perfectly with my child's needs, and I truly appreciate how welcoming and friendly the staff are. It's clear that they genuinely care for all the children which is wonderful to see...

...excellent teachers who genuinely care about each child...there's just so much that makes this school so special...

...warm loving environment, nurturing the growth and development of the child. Your child isn't a number here but a small person that is given the tools and equipment to navigate the next stages in their education journey...

...would like to highlight and appreciate the personal touch by each and every staff member and a genuine concern towards the children...

...the quality of education she receives is outstanding. All the teachers work exceptionally hard to ensure all the children are happy, feel safe and make progress...

...Amazing School! Amazing teachers!...

...the club offer and wider curriculum opportunities is second to none...staff are kind and caring and work their socks off to care for and educate my children. They really go above and beyond...

...My child is thriving and there are no improvements that we can think of. The staff are brilliant and it is clear how much thought goes into each aspect of the school...

THANK YOU TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORTIVE COMMENTS.

Parent Consultations - keeping you informed

Now that we are in the second term of the year, we can reflect on the children's progress so far this year. It is time for Parent Consultation meetings soon and letters have been sent home for you to book appointments. These times are opportunities to consider the children's progress so far this year, share information regarding their social and emotional development and any other relevant information that the teachers and families find useful to share. If you have specific issues that will require further discussion, the classteachers may advise you to book a separate appointment so that they do not keep other parents waiting unnecessarily. These appointments will take place on site, unless you specifically book a zoom appointment, in order for you to view your child's workbooks.

As a school we aim to keep you informed about how to **support your child** and also about their **progress** through:

- School newsletters that keep you up to date with school events as well as educational news;
- Class newsletters and homework sheets that share the learning in each class so that you are aware of learning in all curriculum areas each half term;
- Early Years workshops;
- Reports (1 short and 1 longer), that provide information on your child's progress in line with the assessments teachers complete in school;
- Information meetings prior to moving year group;
- Website with all learning for each year group and
- Termly parent consultations.

World Book Day

We celebrate reading all of the time and plan 'dressing up' events when it matches our projects. This means that children **do not need to dress up on March 6th** but if they would like to bring in a book that they love, to share, they'd be most welcome.