

NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

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

May 2025

Dear Families,



Blackwell Fringe was well attended with a fabulous day of dancing, music, flowers and fun at school as well as events all around the village.



Swing your partner...



Here we are again entering our last term of the year, finding it hard to believe that the Year 4s who arrived as new Red Class children with Mrs Webb 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 'Let's Travel' and whether the children are investigating travel, food, clothing or homes, the children are all developing their geographical skills of enquiry, analysis and presentation of evidence ready to present to the school later this half term.

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.

I had the privilege of attending a Royal Garden Party for 'Services to Education' to represent the school earlier this week and was touched by so many lovely comments from children and families. This job is an important one, impacting so many children's lives. The staff team is talented and hard working here at BFS and offer such a wonderful school for your children to thrive in. I'm lucky to have the support of the staff, children, families and community here in this special school.

Many thanks to the children for the amazing Choir Concert on Saturday as part of the Village Fringe event. Families were overwhelmed by the children's beautiful singing. They were inspirational! The next generation has talent...

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

Finally, Sports Day takes place on the last day of this half term (weather permitting). Please come along for 9am on the main field where refreshments will be available. You may need a blanket or picnic chair with you. If the weather is poor, we will postpone the event until after half term. Fingers crossed this dry spell lasts for Sport's Day.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss



Choir performed in St Catherine's Church as part of the Blackwell Fringe on Saturday and were amazing!



Wednesday was a special day for Mrs Moss who visited Buckingham Palace to represent the school, with lots of others who work in the education sector. BBC Hereford and Worcester picked up the story...

[BBC Hereford & Worcester - Tammy Gooding, "I'm very proud of her" - the Bromsgrove headteacher who's heading to Buckingham Palace!](#)



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. Seven 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.

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 2025 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. The quality has been excellent so far this term!
- 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.**
- Mark Riley, artist in residence, will be working with the children on a large scale piece of art which will be housed in the main corridor in school. It will represent all of the inspirational people that we learn about as part of the Blackwell Curriculum. The people have been chosen by the children on the school council and we can't wait to share it with you once it has been completed later this term.
- The Year 4s and Year 1s will take part in their national tests after half term so keep practising times tables (Y4s) and reading (Y1s)!
- JULY 1st- Year 3 and 4 Bromsgrove Schools singing event at the Artrix (all day) with a concert for families in the evening. Ticket sales open in June. Information to follow in a letter.
- JULY 7th/8th- Choir Concert jointly with Worcestershire Hills Trust at the Henrician Theatre, Prince Henry's High School, Evesham. Parents welcome to the concert on the 8th July. Information to follow in a letter.
- JULY 15th – Choir Concert in St Catherine's Church after school- TBC

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. Thank you as always for your support.

School Sport and the Arts

- Sport's Day will soon be here! The children will participate in traditional running races and novelty races and the 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.



19.5.25 Class photo day
22.5.25 Blue Class cross school arts event at Blackwell First School- VE Day theme
22.5.25 Purple Class Science Day at Charford First School (packed lunches provided by Blackwell Kitchen)
22.5.25 PFTA After School Bake Sale (donations please on the day from Purple, Yellow and Blue families)
23.5.25 Sport's Day 9am on school field (Nursery 2pm)- weather permitting!
26.5.25- 30.5.25 Half term holiday
23.6.25 Purple Class Educational visit
25 or 26.6.25 TBC Red Class Olympics event (visit)
26.6.25 Purple Class Family Assembly 8.45am
27.6.25 New Red Class children story visit 8.45am
30.6.25 Blue Class Bellboating
1.7.25 Blue and Yellow Class event all day at Artrix (TBC) with an evening concert performance. This is a cross school Bromsgrove event.
3.7.25 New Red Class children story visit 8.45am
5.7.25 Summer Fair 12-2pm
7.5.25 Choir rehearsal at Prince Henry's High School- time TBC
8.7.25 Choir concert at Prince Henry's High School – time TBC
9-11.7.25 Residential Blue Class
10.7.25 New Red Class children story visit 8.45am
10.7.25 TBC Yellow Class PE event at Charford First School
14.7.25 TBC transition visit for Blue Class children to their middle schools (morning only requiring drop off and pick up by parents. Letters from middle schools to follow)
14.7.25 Children visit new classes for September 25
14.7.25 5.30pm New Nursery parents family meeting
14.7.25 6.30pm New Red Class parents family meeting
15.7.25 Midland Sinfonia music day ending with a 3.30pm concert from Choir in St Catherine's Church
15.7.25 6pm September 25 Green Class family meeting
16.7.25 6pm September 25 Purple Class family meeting
17.7.25 Red Class Family Assembly 8.45am
17.7.25 6pm September 25 New to Yellow or Blue Class family meeting
18.7.25 Blue Class Leavers' assembly 9am
18.7.25 End of term