

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School

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

April 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the summer term at Blackwell First School. As we start this term, the teachers have already assessed the children through observations and daily learning tasks. Everyone in school is mindful of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the children and the support needed to help them feel settled and happy in school. As a result, the children really are ready to learn and we are helping them to make strong progress.

We are following a full National Curriculum, with some minor adaptations to address areas that were not taught during the past two years or were taught in less detail. We are revisiting these areas at the start of each new topic. In order to support your children, we ask that you work on any targets shared by the classteachers during parent consultations last half term or any areas on the half termly homework sheet. This sheet identifies the learning that the children are experiencing each half term and can be used as a discussion point, even if the optional homework is not completed.

Some of the easiest areas to support, but also the areas requiring the most repetition, are spelling practice of key words, times tables (Y2-4), number bonds and doubles and halves to 20 (YR-2) and reading.

As we often mention, reading is the means by which we open up all learning and, as a result, the world. The more help you can provide with reading, the better. Below are a few ideas for helping with reading:

- **PRACTISE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL READING BOOK** – Hear them read their familiar book in Red, Green and Purple Classes (use their ebooks in Green and Red Classes) and listen to them read their books in Yellow and Blue Classes.
- **READ ALOUD** – Reading aloud to your children shows them that reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.
- **FAMILY READING TIME** – Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.
- **BOOK CHAT** – Book chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too.

Research shows that children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.

Our first topic this term is 'Go Global' and each class will be learning through Geography, Science and RE. Yellow and Blue Classes will read most of 'Journey to Jo'burg', focusing on equality and big issues such as racism and social injustice. As part of their work, they will learn about Holland (and the link between Holland and South Africa) and Switzerland, where the Red Cross headquarters are.

Purple Class will read stories from West Africa, based on the traditional Anansi spider stories and Green Class will read 'Handa's Surprise' introducing them to African countries and considering the battle between progress and tradition. Red Class will focus on a traditional Polish story and learn about Poland and Europe.

Uniting all of the classes, the children will design some sponsored events in order to fundraise for the Red Cross. Alongside, the Bake Sale for Red Cross Ukraine, the children will consider how the Red Cross supports countries across the globe, including all countries studied as part of this 'Go Global' topic.

Look out for the class newsletters which will explain more about the children's learning for this half term and how you can support them to make more progress with tasks to practise at home.

Please come along to our Bake Sale for the Red Cross on Tuesday 26th April after school, or pop in between 2-3pm (if the weather is dry) for a quiet cuppa without the children. If your child is attending After School Club, please send them in with money to buy a cake if they wish. If you are able to bake or bring some cakes for our sale, please drop them into school before 1.30pm on the 26th April.

Best wishes, Mrs Moss



Easter Holiday Club 2022

We have really enjoyed having a 'normal' Holiday Club so that the children from different classes could play together. We even welcomed back some of our Year 5s and 6s. We thank Mrs Moran and Mrs Reid for running club during this holiday and for all staff who supported us in opening.



Easter celebrations with 'Singing on the Steps', Green and Blue Class assemblies, an art exhibition and storynight ended the Spring term perfectly.



Summer Holiday Club is running during the first week of the summer holiday and at the end of August. Booking forms will be available shortly.



'Tea and Toast'

In order to continue to offer the strong provision that we do, with high staffing levels and excellent resources, we rely heavily on the PFTA for additional funding. In collaboration with the PFTA, we are now opening our 'Tea and Toast' community café. Initially, we plan to open at school drop off between 8.30-9.30am for either 'eat on site'/ 'take away'.

This may be time for a chat after dropping off the Children or an opportunity to take something away as you leave for work. Knowing that you are supporting school by purchasing a tasty treat from us will make your purchase extra special! Many thanks to our 'volunteers' who will run the café each morning.

Muffins
Teacakes
Toast
Coffee
Tea
ALL PROCEEDS TO
SCHOOL FUND

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

SPORT – We held our Wake and Shake competition last half term and the joint winners were Blue and Yellow Classes. There are still two competitions this year so we look forward to celebrating a new class winning next time.
ARTS – Work will soon begin on improving our front playground. Mark Riley, artist in residence, will work with each class to create art work to brighten up the entrance to school.

One of our Family Wall Hangings, that you all kindly created last summer, will be on display at Worcester Cathedral as part of Voices and Visions this summer between 22.5.22-26.6.22. You may spot it, amongst lots of artwork from Worcestershire schools, if you visit the cathedral during those times.

Payment for Schools on line payment

We continue to face challenges with the online payment system operated through WCC and Civica. Thank you for your patience. We have given notice to the company and will take on a new contract shortly. In the meantime, please continue to pay cash/cheque if P4S is not working for you.

office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

SCHOOL DIRECT/ SCITT – TRAIN TO TEACH

If you know someone who would like to train to teach, please let them know that they can train with us through Bromsgrove Primary Alliance and can email office@bptsa.worcs.sch.uk

This option of School Direct/SCITT training is only available to candidates who already hold a degree and is a one year full time programme.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

On their return to school after the Easter break, the children will be learning to APPRECIATE the world around them, considering people, places, the natural world and man made wonders. This fits in well with the Go Global project that the whole school, from Red Class upwards, will work towards. As part of their learning in Geography, RE and Science, the children will consider a dilemma. The dilemma will be based on a charitable fundraising mission for the Red Cross and each class will make a pitch for funding to support the charity. The children will work hard to develop an understanding of the value of charitable causes.

The following week, in Collective Worship, will consider the issue of EQUALITY and the children will consider how the wider world is unequal and how to remove inequalities. Using the inequality of water supply and vaccine supply will link this learning into their Go Global project.

Considering these 'BIG ISSUES' is part of the vision of the school, enabling the children to learn from real life dilemmas and opening their eyes to the wider world.

YEAR 4 ADVENTURE

We look forward to our 'Year 4 Adventure' this year and have planned a residential at our Outdoor Adventure facility between 29th June- 1st July. The children will take part in a Beacon Walk, archery, low ropes, zip wire and a range of other activities including bed making and preparation of their own lunch.

When contacted recently by Luke, a former pupil who had just celebrated his 21st birthday, he said that he still remembered Miss Townsend and Mrs Moss demonstrating how to put on a duvet cover. 'Developing the whole child' in action is demonstrated here!

Updates

- Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council has provided us with a grant of £500.00 to use for an historical notice board for our front playground. Many thanks to them.
- Claire James from Shelter led Collective Worship to support the children's developing understanding of difficulties faced by some families in the wider Bromsgrove/Birmingham area during April.
- Red Nose Day (Comic Relief) raised £250.00. Thank you everyone.
- Mrs Moss has just completed an eleven day Trauma Informed Practitioner training, which means that, alongside Blackwell having two mental health first aiders for children (Mrs Moss/ Mrs Webb) and a mental health first aider for adults (Mrs Reid), we also have a trauma informed practitioner and all staff trained in emotion coaching, an introduction to trauma and relationship based approaches to behaviour.

Forest School Clothing

No matter what the weather is doing, please send the children in long sleeved tops and trousers for Forest School. With deer living in our Forest School, it is important that we minimise the risk of contracting Lyme Disease.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

Thank you for your co-operation.

Dates

25.4.22 School opens for summer term
26.4.22 **Please support our Bake Sale for Red Cross Ukraine 2-4pm**
2.5.22 Bank Holiday
5.5.22 Recorder concert 8.45am- Front playground
9.5.22 7pm PFTA meeting- zoom
21.5.22 PFTA Spring Ball
22.5.22-26.6.22 Voices and Visions Art Exhibition – Worcester Cathedral
23.5.22 Class photographs
24.5.22 Year 4 Arts Event with Astley Primary School (at BFS)
25.5.22 Athlete to visit school
27.5.22 Jubilee Sport's Day
30.5.22- 3.6.22 Half term- school closed
9.6.22 Year 2 Science event with Charford First School (at CFS)
27.6.22 Whole School Educational Visit (not Nursery)
28.6.22 Yellow Class Family Assembly
29.6.22-1.7.22 Year 4 residential
6.7.22 New Nursery Stay and Play- with parent
7.7.22 New Red Class story session- with parent if not at BF5 nursery currently
11.7.22 6pm New to Y1 parent meeting
12.7.22 or 18.7.22 5.30pm New to Nursery parent meeting DATES TBC
12.7.22 or 18.7.22 6.30pm New to Reception parent meeting DATES TBC
13.7.22 New Nursery Stay and Play- with parent
13.7.22 6pm New to Y2 parent meeting
14.7.22 New Red Class story session- with parent if not at BF5 nursery currently
14.7.22 Red Class Family Assembly
14.7.22 5.30pm New to Y3/Y4 parent meeting
15.7.22 Year 3 Sporting event with Astley Primary School (at APS)
19.7.22 Piano concert for some children- afternoon
20.7.22 Piano concert for some children- afternoon
21.7.22 Year 4 leavers- details TBC

Mrs A Moss (headteacher)