

Newsletter



Malvern and bellboating in Year 4

Blackwell First School,
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July 2021

Dear Families,

Time flies when you are having fun! At the end of this year, it seems that so much has happened, from visits from the CBSO and themed storynights to topic events in school, such as remote class assemblies and Sport's Day. The only thing missing is the opportunity to invite you into school and we miss that very much. At the end of the year, we reflect on the last twelve months in school and consider the progress the children, staff and school have made. I wish to thank all of the school staff for their excellent contribution to the children's welfare, development and learning this year, particularly during this very challenging COVID disrupted year. We are grateful for the support of you as parents, our collaborative schools in Bromsgrove and to the Governing Body for their contribution to the leadership of the school. We are particularly grateful to Dr Evans, Chair of Governors, and Mrs Wilson, Vice Chair, and thank them for their superb dedication to the school.

Thanks also to the PFTA for tremendous fundraising efforts during this difficult year, so essential to ensure that we can continue to offer the rich and varied educational opportunities currently available whilst the budgetary demands are increasingly challenging. Particular mention must be made to our Year 4s and their families for their support to the school over the years. Please see the attached reviewed school development plan that shares with you the progress that we have made this year.

This year, schools have not been able to provide normal provision throughout the year, but, despite this, our results show that the children have again made progress using the remote and onsite provision. They are working well towards national expectations and given increased 'normality' next year, this progress will be maintained, supporting children's return to expected levels for their age. When they leave us in Year 4, they have developed into individuals who are often working securely at or above expected standards and who have life skills of independence, communication and an excellent sense of moral purpose. This group has been a class of resilience and it has been rewarding to watch them develop over the years and the progress that they have made from Red Class to Blue Class has been tremendous.

The school works hard to fulfil its role as a real community school and remains at the heart of the village. The work we do supports children in developing that sense of community and their own role within a community and as part of the UK. Developing the children as local and global citizens is an important aspect of our work as could be seen during our Collective worship themes on values. Our community work this year on the Community Quilt, Sea Shanty, Reading Room and PFTA events such as the Scarecrow and Summer Fair trails have all served to unite us.

Finally I would like to say, on behalf of everyone at school, thank you for your support and your kind words throughout the year. Your support of the children at home and at school has enabled the children to have a settled year despite national disruption. Good luck to adults and children who are moving on, we wish you well and hope that you come back to see us. Have a good summer break and we will all meet again on 6th September when we welcome our new Nursery and Reception intakes and new staff members.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss

As a school that was judged as outstanding by Ofsted in 2011, we have not been the focus for inspections for many years, although we do expect to receive an Ofsted during the next couple of years. In order to ensure that we continue to offer high quality education, we commission external validation which forms an integral part of the self-evaluation of the school.

This year, we have been inspected by Worcestershire Children First and an external consultant. Both of these experiences have been very positive and some comments from the reports provide a flavour of the comments in the reports.

Leaders and teachers were extremely knowledgeable and messages were clear and consistent by all members of staff.

The curriculum is thoughtfully and thoroughly planned and pitched to all year group expectations and shows a clear progression of skills expected to develop throughout all subjects as the children move through the school.

The comprehensive school App and You Tube Channel promote (an) enriching and captivating, ambitious curriculum offer to stakeholders and have effectively been used as prominent vehicles for communication to parents throughout the recent lockdown periods.

High standards of effective middle leadership within the school.

Teaching assistants have been able to support individual children and the children have flourished as a result. There have been high expectations of learning throughout lockdown. All children in school have enjoyed and engaged with familiar adults and have felt safe and been able to learn.

All of this information is used to support the development of next year's School Development Plan.



Some of the Wolf Run children- many thanks to all who took part to raise funds.

Reports

Last week, you received your child's report and there was a covering letter to help you understand how your child is achieving in line with the national standards. It is most important that you look at the children's **progress** comment as this indicates whether they are working well. Whilst some children do reach this high national standard, it is important that you do not feel that your child is unsuccessful if they are not currently working at the standard. Many children are not, and this is not unexpected as learning has been disrupted during the previous two years. It is also important to remember that children develop at different rates and that many children who may be described as not working at the expectation when they are very young, will go on to reach expectations later on during their primary school years. It is also important to note the general comments and skills development sections as these indicate your child's development in areas that are crucial to their future as learners.

Summer Holiday 'Keeping up!'

Over the summer, the children need a good rest and break from school. Due to the disruption over the past two years, however, teachers are preparing some 'Keeping up work' for over the summer to prevent children losing learning they gained this term in school.

This will be sent home to you during the last few days of school and includes:

- Links to stories read by their new teachers;
- Reading, spelling and mental maths activities and
- Links to Yoga and Wake and Shake sessions.

The teachers may also send some particular work home for individuals who they feel would benefit from specific work. Please support them with this learning and keep reading!

Collective Worship

During this last week, we will be concentrating on 'Freedom' as a theme and discussing the freedom that comes from living in the UK and the associated rights that we have. With such rights come responsibilities, and we talk (as part of British Values) about the need to follow the law and what this means.

As part of this work, we discuss the lack of freedom for some people across the world and discuss this in terms that the children understand, such as a lack of freedom to go to school, have friends, wear what they want, choose a job and have beliefs that are different from others.

Arts and Sport

Congratulations to BFS for achieving the Artsmark Gold for continued work towards the Arts.

Well done to Red Class for achieving 1st place in the County Reception Wheelchair Tennis competition.

Thank you to our lovely Y4s for visiting Worcester Cathedral for the Voices and Visions exhibition at the weekend.

Malvern and Bellboating adventure

The Year 4s had a super trip to Malvern, showing their developing resilience, teamwork and spirit. These aspects of learning behaviours have been developed during their time with us and we hope that they continue to flourish at their new schools.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed their overnight adventure in school and their bellboating.

Thank you very much to the teaching staff who gave up their Friday evening (and all night) and Saturday to enable the Year 4s to have such a wonderful end to their time at BFS.

RECEPTION/KS1	
ST PLACE: Franche Primary School, View Profile	ST PLACE: Broadheath CE Primary School, View Profile
2ND PLACE: Green Meadow First School, View Profile	2ND PLACE: Hockley First School, View Profile
3RD PLACE: Ashwood Bank Primary School, View Profile	3RD PLACE: Walsworth Primary AND Packheath First School, View Profile
RECEPTION/KS1	
ST PLACE: Franche Primary School, View Profile	ST PLACE: Backwell First School, View Profile
2ND PLACE: St Mary's Primary School, View Profile	2ND PLACE: Ashwood Bank Primary School, View Profile
3RD PLACE: Walsworth Primary School, View Profile	3RD PLACE: Franche Primary School, View Profile

COVID- 19 update We are currently surrounded by schools with closed 'bubbles' and we ourselves have staff and pupils self isolating. Please continue to adhere to protective measures. We would be so glad to reach the end of term without a closure. Schools still open after July 19th are advised to follow current protective measures until the end of term.

Changes in guidance from next term will be shared with you closer to September, as guidance could change as cases increase over the summer.

We have been advised that 'bubbles' will be removed from September, along with the requirement for pupils who are contacts of positive cases to self isolate. There is still an expectation of responsibility for additional cleaning, handwashing and ventilation in school and we will adhere to all of these guidelines.

We will inform you during late summer of our procedures. Many thanks to everyone who has helped us to stay open by keeping children off school when they are ill, following guidance on testing and social distancing/ wearing face coverings. It is greatly appreciated.

PFTA We owe a huge thanks to the PFTA for their excellent summer fair trail and for raising over £2,300. All of the people involved have worked extremely hard to ensure that they raise as much for the children as possible. This year, the PFTA has donated over £7,000 for resources including the High Street (thanks to a large donation from a kind benefactor), the traversing wall, playground equipment and Hetty. Thank you to all involved.

At a time of ever decreasing budgets, this support is invaluable and the funds that school is able to raise through our Before and After School and Holiday Club provision as well as Nursery, School Kitchen, and fundraising events, supports the school on its journey.

Thanks to Sally Teare as Chair, Claire Richards as Vice Chair, Alison Taylor as Secretary and Carrie Whitehouse as Marketing as well as a wonderful new treasurer who has a child starting Nursery soon and the whole committee and all those who help to organise fantastic community events throughout the year. From Storynights to Summer Fair trails and everything in between, the PFTA has been active all year. A group of amazing past and present children also took part in the Wolf Run and raised over £800.00, thank you so much! Thank you for supporting PFTA events as without you attending, the PFTA would not be able to contribute as much as they do.

Supporting transition into Year 1

*A class of children is not a homogeneous group of learners. The learning of young children is neither linear nor predictable. Developmentally, there is very little difference between a Reception child and a Year 1 child. **Key changes come around the age of 7.***

(Julie Fisher, Moving into KS1)

What a year our Year 1s have had and we are proud of their learning and attitudes. They will be moving onto Year 2 with far stronger skills and attributes than previously as a result of the provision this year.

Thanks to Miss Davis and the Y1 team for all of their hard work during what has been an interesting, but exciting, year.

Autumn term dates

Holiday Club- please book slots asap if needed.

6.9.21 School opens- welcome back (Red Class part time for two weeks)

28.9.21 School trips for Red, Green and Purple Classes

29.9.21 School trips for Yellow and Blue Classes

22.10.21 Teacher Training Day/ School closed for Half Term

- Music tuition payments needed ASAP- piano, recorder and violin.
- Extra-curricular and after school club bookings needed ASAP with payment.
- Lunch orders needed ASAP with payment
- Uniform collection ASAP for those who have been notified.

Thanks for using P45 online payment. It is really helpful to us!