



Newsletter

Blackwell First School,
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Worcestershire.
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Blist's Hill visit
June 2024

July 2024

Dear Families,

What a busy year this has been! From a visit to Blist's Hill, sporting events and music events to theatre trips, it has been a successful year. Amongst all of the school events, we also joined the Worcestershire Hills Trust. We are now looking forward to inviting you into school for end of year parent meetings. 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 the difference they make to the children's care and learning this year. This year, we do not have anyone leaving for new roles, but we say farewell to Mrs Webb for a short while whilst she enjoys her maternity leave. We do welcome Miss Smith (who worked with us as a student this year) and Mrs Kuriger (Miss Kuriger's sister in law) who will work in Nursery and across the school.

We are grateful for the support of you as parents, our collaborative schools in Worcestershire and to the Governing Body for their contribution to the leadership of the school. We are particularly grateful to Isabel Welch, Chair of Governors, and Mrs Wilson, Vice Chair, and thank them for their superb dedication to the school. We are truly grateful to the governors for their tireless support of the school.

Thanks also to the PFTA for amazing 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. I say it each year, but without the PFTA funds the school would not offer what it does. During this term alone, they have part funded the trip to Blist's Hill, paid for bellboating for Year 4s and their end of year dictionaries. Particular mention must be made to our Year 4s and their families for their support to the school over the years. You were our COVID Red Class and look how far you have come!

Our results show that the children have again made strong progress, which has been supported by excellent teaching. When the children leave us in Year 4, they have developed into individuals who are mostly working securely with many children at above expected standards and with life skills of independence, communication and an excellent sense of moral purpose. This group has been a joyful class of polite and hard working children 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 superb.

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 'Tea and Toast', work with the residents of Burcot Grange and the Summer Fair 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. Good luck to adults and children who are moving on to new schools and new adventures. 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 4th September when we welcome our new Nursery and Reception intakes and new staff members.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss

Following our Ofsted Inspection in December 2023, we were pleased with many aspects of the report. We have consulted with families about the curriculum and thank you for your helpful and supportive feedback. 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.

There is a culture of exceptionally high expectations across the school. There is a very strong vision for learning based on the development of the whole child; this was clearly evident in all parts of the review. The highly skilled staff supported by the relentless drive of leaders ensures pupils get the best possible start in life and achieve highly.

Children working at above national expectations are extended through challenges and complexity of task or questioning. Children working below national expectations are clearly supported through scaffolding and adaptation to teaching/learning task

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



The children learn so much when they experience educational visits as they bring learning to life. Thank you for your support in enabling us to provide these opportunities.

Reports

This week, you will receive your child's report and there is 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. Some children are not, and this is not unexpected as learning has been disrupted during the previous few years and some are still closing the gap. 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. It is important to keep the children reading if you possibly can. Please keep them reading books of their choice and

-Watch stories read by their teachers (on BFS YouTube) and
-Spelling and mental maths activities.

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 have concentrated on 'Changes' to help with transition as well as having 'Freedom' as a theme and we will discuss 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

Thank you Mrs Webb for leading sport so well. Miss Bailey will lead on sport whilst Mrs Webb is on maternity leave. Thank you to families for continuing to pay for school trips, including sport trips, which form such an important part of the children's educational experiences but which cannot be funded by school. Each class will enjoy and learn from a trip to the theatre at Christmas and a second main trip as well as sport's trips. Letters and details of payment will be shared nearer to the time, but if you would like to set up regular payments in advance to manage the cost, please speak to the school office.

Malvern and Bellboating adventure

The Year 4s are enjoying their 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 bellboating during this term. Thank you very much to the teaching staff who gave up their time to enable the Year 4s to have such a wonderful end to their time at BFS.

School budgets

School budgets have unfortunately not kept pace with the costs of staff, services and resources, hence the increasing reliance on the PFTA and donations. Several members of staff are working for other schools/ organisations which Blackwell benefits from by charging for our services. A separate financial newsletter will outline the school's finances, explaining that in order to keep offering the excellent education, we are relying on external funding. Thank you for your support. Our recent 'Fun Run' raised £1413.00 with Purple Class raising the most, closely followed by Blue Class. The 'Rags to Riches' raised £171.60. Thank you so much! Look out for the PFTA events newsletter which will be sent out and save dates!

PFTA We owe a huge thanks to the PFTA for their excellent summer fair for raising about £2,000. 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 £6,000 for resources and school visits. Thank you to all involved. We hope to replace computing equipment next year as well as create a new area for music lessons. The PFTA will help us fundraise for this. 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 supports the school on its journey. Please do use Holiday Club and Blackwell School Club. Thanks to Claire as Chair, Manjit and Amanjit as Vice Chairs, Claire as Secretary, Carrie as Marketing and Becky as treasurer and the whole committee and all those who help to organise fantastic community events throughout the year. From Storynights to Summer Fair and everything in between, the PFTA has been active all year. Next year, Emily and Manjit will take on the Chair role jointly, Emily will become Vice Chair, Emma will continue as secretary and Jo will take on treasurer with Carrie continuing as media. Thank you for supporting PFTA events as without you attending, the PFTA would not be able to contribute as much as they do. **THIS ALL BENEFITS YOUR CHILDREN!**

Autumn term dates

Holiday Club- please book slots asap if needed.
4.9.24 School opens- welcome back (Red Class part time for a week and a half)
13.9.24 Chocolate bar sales- PFTA
14.9.24 Sponsored Mile on the main school field- PFTA
20.9.24 Quiz Night- PFTA
1.10.24 Educational Visit for Blue Class- 7.30am departure and c. 6pm return
9.10.24 6-7pm Open evening for current parents- opportunity to visit all classes
17.10.24 Blue Class Bake Sale after school
19.10.24 Scarecrow Festival – PFTA
22/23.10.24 Parent Consultation meetings
23.10.24 8.45am Blue Class Family assembly
24/25.10.24 School closed for children- training days
4.11.24 Individual photograph day for all children
6.11.24 6pm Red Class family learning evening
9.11.24 Open Day for prospective families for Reception and Nursery
20.11.24 Wreathmaking evening – PFTA
25.11.24 Book Fair in school each after school all week
28.11.24 5.30-7pm Christmas Storynight for children and Craft Fair for adults
30.11.24 10am- 4pm CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY (Leave your children at school) – first come first served book from September...
4.12.24 Red Class theatre trip
5.12.24 Green/Purple Classes theatre trip
10.12.24 Yellow/ Blue Classes theatre trip
12.12.24 9.30am Nursery Christmas Performance – school hall
13.12.24 9.30am Reception Christmas Performance- school hall
16.12.24 9.30am Green Class Christmas Performance- school hall
17.12.24 9.30am Purple Class Christmas Performance- school hall
18.12.24 9.30am Yellow Class Christmas Performance- school hall
19.12.24 9.30am Blue Class Christmas Performance- school hall
20.12.24 School closes

- 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.
- The Nursery for 2 year olds consultation will commence in September with a view to opening to a small number of children in April 2025 and a larger group in September 2025