

Welcome back to school. As we begin the last half term of the year it is a good time to reflect on the school year and how quickly time passes for the children and families. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support of the children and the school community.

We have enjoyed watching the children in Nursery and Reception become more independent and confident this year. Our Year 1s and 2s have been working very hard under the careful direction of the staff, enabling them to develop the vital basic skills of speaking and listening, reading, writing and maths whilst also developing the key skills of independence, resilience and problem solving that our school curriculum supports. As for our Y3s and Y4s, the expectations increase considerably in anticipation of Middle School and they are rising to the challenge. Well done everyone.

Exciting learning at BFS- Summer 2024



Thanks to Mrs Webb and the staff for our wonderful sport's day, celebrating the enjoyment of sport and also the competitive element that can be associated with team games and individual competition. Well done everyone.



Blackwell pets...



For those who were not at BFS when Hetty arrived, she is our school dog! She is looked after by one of our PFTA members during evenings, weekends and holidays and visits school each day. Most of her day will be spent resting but she will 'work' during Collective Worship and support some of our children during the day. She is named after the first girl listed on Blackwell's admission book from 1911.



We also enjoy our Guinea Pigs and the Year 2s in particular take on the responsibility of caring for them each day. Miss Kuriger supervises and takes them home at weekends and in holidays.

The benefit of having a school dog has been documented and supports children with both mental health and life skills. Hetty is fully trained and passed a 'test' before being able to come to school.

We also have our chickens thanks to support from the PFTA. **We are always looking for some experts; who may be able to help us care for them and organise a rota for holiday care. If anyone is able to help us, please let the office or Mrs Moss know.**

'Animals are used to help humans in different ways. Studies suggest that the effects of pet ownership can be beneficial to physical, social and psychological wellbeing. Research has found that stroking a pet can be relaxing and can result in a reduction in blood pressure. The presence of pets can also promote social interaction and reduce psychological responses to anxiety' Hall & Malpas (2000)

Academy conversion

On June 1st, Blackwell First School became a founding member of the Worcestershire Hills Trust. For all of us so far, the most visible change has been regarding paying for invoices! The trust is dedicated to 'growing stronger together' and there has been a significant amount of work behind the scenes ensuring that the transition is smooth and that the day to day work of the school continues.

For the school moving forwards, we will be supported by a small network of other schools, working together and sharing some of the more bureaucratic burdens of school life. Working together to ensure that the children have the best possible educational experience will be our aim as a trust.

We look forward to sharing future liaison work with the trust over the coming months.

Learning during the last half term

As the children move into the last half term of the year, teachers will be working to ensure that the children make as much progress as possible in order to help them transition well into their new year groups.

Supporting them with reading, times tables (Y2-4), completing homework and talking to them about school will help them to engage with school and appreciate the value of education.

During the introduction to their 'Victorians' topic on Monday, they learned about Abraham Follett Ostler, who lived in Burcot Grange, John Cadbury, who lived in Lickey and Mary MacArthur, who helped to establish equal pay for female chain makers of Cradley Heath. The children learned about the Industrial Revolution and the role of wealthy industrialists as well as the impact of class inequality during this time, including child labour and a lack of education. Hopefully, this will help them to appreciate how lucky they are not to have been born into child labour during the Victorian era.

This topic will help children to gain a sense of History beyond living memory and make comparisons between other historical periods learned about this year. They will place Victorians chronologically onto a timeline and develop their chronological understanding. As part of this exciting topic, they will all visit a living museum (letters to follow).

Later this half term, Science will be the focus during a topic on 'Food and Farming' and teachers will share more specific details about learning this half term in their class newsletters. These newsletters share the class learning with you all along with the homework sheets.

We hope that you all enjoy the last half term in school before the summer break.

Collective Worship

In current times, it is more important than ever that we support the children in becoming responsible citizens in a changing world.

This week our theme has been 'Patience' and we will consider why this is an important value and how famous people in history have shown patience and its value, for example Marie Curie, Nelson Mandela, Shakespeare.

It is important for us to support the children in understanding and valuing differences in our society and helping them play their part in living as part of our British culture with shared values that underpin a successful nation. Community is important for people's mental well-being and supporting their community will form part of work this half term.

Sport and the Arts

Sports – Well done for a superb Wake and Shake Champion performance last half term from Nursery and we look forward to next term's finale performance from Blue Class.

Sport's Day was a huge success thanks to Mrs Webb's hard work and was very much enjoyed by old and young alike.

Arts – The School Council will work towards a new arts project with Mark Riley, artist in residence, next term.

Sainsbury's
SCHOOL
GAMES

Parking at 'Drop off/ Pick up' times

In an effort to keep everyone safe at the start/end of the day, please continue to park safely (not obscuring driveways). Please supervise scooters and do not scoot (or ride bikes) on the playground as there are so many children around.

Remember that it is illegal to park on the yellow zig zags and, to ease congestion if you are able, please walk to school. Where this is not possible, please use the full length of road to park and the roads at either end of St Catherine's to walk along. Thank you.

TERM DATES- Summer Term 2024

- 3.6.24 School reopens
- 5.6.24 Science Day for Year 2 – on site
- 10.6.24 Year 4s bellboating
- 15.6.24 2pm Chocolate Bingo family event- poster issued soon
- 18.6.24 Dental Survey (Reception and some Y1s)
- 26.6.24 RAGS TO RICHES COLLECTION
- 24.6.24 Reception- Year 4 Educational visit
- 27.6.24 8.45am Purple Class family assembly
- 28.6.24 Non uniform- bring a bottle for the fair
- 1.7.24 Year 4s bellboating
- 4.7.24 Year 4s cross school PE event at BFS
- 5.7.24 Change the Rules Day – PFTA event
- 6.7.24 SUMMER FAIR- get ready for the PFTA event of the year. Get baking and enter the cake competition. Do you have showstopper ideas?
- 8.7.24 7pm PFTA AGM on school site.
- 10-12.7.24 Year 4 residential
- 15.7.24 Midland Sinfonia visits all classes and supports a Choir Concert in St Catherine's Church 3.30pm
- 15.7.24 5.30pm NEW Nursery parent meeting
- 15.7.24 6.30pm NEW Red Class parent meeting
- 16.7.24 8.45-9.30am NEW Nursery settling in
- 16.7.24 Children all visit new classes for September
- 16.7.24 6pm NEW Year 2 parent meeting
- 17.7.24 8.45am Red Class family assembly
- 17.7.24 6pm NEW Year 3 (and 4s are welcome) parent meeting
- 18.7.24 School Tea Party
- 18.7.24 8.45-9.30am NEW Nursery settling in
- 18.7.24 Red Class and Nursery Bake Sale
- 18.7.24 6pm NEW Year 1 parent meeting
- 19.7.24 Year 4 Leavers' assembly 9am
- HOLIDAY CLUB- 22-26.7.24/ 27-30.8
- 4.9.24 Term starts for children
- 14.9.24 Sponsored mile
- 19.10.24 Scarecrow trail

Mrs Anna Moss, Head teacher

Interested in a Nursery Provision for two year olds at Blackwell First School? We will be consulting on opening a provision from September 2025. Wait for news and please email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk if you'd like to register your interest...

