

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School

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

May 2022

Dear Families,



In year 4, the children enjoy life on the canal with Andy Train, our bellboating expert. Miss Townsend is a trained helm and has been training the children for many years and Mrs Marks is always happy paddling the canals!



Bellboating is a safe water sport and the children learn about water safety, teamwork and they require effort and strength in order to paddle their bellboat whilst enjoying being outdoors. This year was a sunnier day than some years. Lucky Year 4!



Here we are again entering our last half 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 'Go Global' and whether the children were investigating travel, food, clothing or homes, the children all developed their geographical skills of enquiry, analysis and presentation of evidence with a fundraising challenge for the Red Cross.

We continue to work to support children's learning behaviours in school, particularly following the periods of lockdown where we know nationally that the youngest children have been most challenged. We strive for children who are independent, resilient and aspirational. Through work in all lessons, Collective Worship, PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education), P4C (Philosophy) and our Afternoon Clubs, we offer activities and experiences to develop these skills. Please help at home by encouraging the children to organise their own belongings, make their beds in a morning, clear their plates from the table, carry their bags to school and take ownership of their reading and homework. It is a start in making them more independent in all areas of their lives.

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.

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

Finally, **Jubilee celebrations** take place throughout next week, please see the flyer for details of what the children need, including a dressing up day, a street party food donation, a Jubilee Sport's Day and a bag of coins for making a giant crown. Thank you all for making this a special week for the children. We also thank the PFTA for a special commemorative gift.

Best wishes,
Mrs Moss



Paddling the canals involves learning the skill of paddling in time with others and the technique of using the paddle. It is not as easy as it looks, as the children found out.



Eating lunch on the canal is a bonus. This experience is at the heart of the school's vision of learning about the world they live in through practical experiences and awe and wonder. We hope that it lasts in their memories and inspires them in their lives.



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. Four 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 2022 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

- Congratulations to Miss Phipps, who has been successful in securing a new teaching position in Redditch in order to further her teaching experience in a different setting. We will miss her but wish her all the very best and hope that she takes a little of BFS with her.
- We are delighted to welcome back Miss Chamberlain who has been away from us for a year completing her teacher training qualification and prior to last year had worked at BFS for a number of years. We are delighted that she is able to return to us.
- Miss Burgess has received a promotion and will be leaving us for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant position and we thank her for her part in supporting us through this challenging covid time and we wish her well.
- Red Cross Bake Sale for Ukraine- we raised over £600.00 for the Red Cross and also donated funds to a local Ukrainian family that has settled in Burcot. We still have some hair clips, pins and brooches for anyone who wishes to buy any.
- Homework for Year 4s is now compulsory to prepare the children for Middle School. Please remind them to hand it in each week.
- 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.

Holiday Club Holiday club is running again during the first and last weeks of the Summer holidays so please book through the school office.

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



- Voices and Visions is now on c Worcester Cathedral and we have a wall hanging on display.
- Mark Riley, artist in residence, will be visiting us to work with each class during June and July in order to create artwork for our front playground. Thanks to the PFTA for funding this special work. It is costly and shows how the fundraising directly impacts on the children.
- Sport's Day with spectators is back! Although is it slightly different from our traditional one (if anyone remembers back to 2019). The children will participate in traditional running races and novelty races and KS2 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. (Timings are on the Jubilee flyer on Parent App)

- 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 School (at BFS)
- 25.5.22 PFTA funded – Athlete to visit school
- 27.5.22 Jubilee Sport's Day – Times on flyer (dress in red, white and blue ready to run)
- 30.5.22- 3.6.22 Half term- school closed
- 7.6.22 Nursery and Red Art Day – PFTA funded
- 9.6.22 Year 2 Science event with Charford First School (at CFS)
- 14.6.22 Green Class Art Day – PFTA funded
- 21.6.22 Purple Class Art Day – PFTA funded
- 28.6.22 Blue Class Art Day – PFTA funded
- 27.6.22 Whole School Educational Visit (not Nursery)
- 28.6.22 Yellow Class Family Assembly 8.45am
- 29.6.22-1.7.22 Year 4 residential
- 2.7.22 Summer Fair 12-2pm
- 5.7.22 Yellow Class Art Day – PFTA funded
- 6.7.22 New Nursery Stay and Play- with parent
- 7.7.22 New Red Class story session- with parent if not at BFS nursery currently
- 11.7.22 6pm New to Y1 parent meeting
- 18.7.22 5.30pm New to Nursery parent meeting
- 18.7.22 6.30pm New to Reception parent meeting
- 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 BFS nursery currently
- 14.7.22 Red Class Family Assembly **NB 9.30am**
- 14.7.22 5.30pm New to Y3/Y4 parent meeting
- 15.7.22 Year 3 Sporting event with Astley Primary School (at BFS)
- 19.7.22 Piano concert for some children- afternoon
- 20.7.22 Piano concert for some children- afternoon
- 21.7.22 Year 4 leavers- 9am