

Blakehill Primary School

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**Autumn Term 2023**

What a busy half term this has been with visits, visitors, nativities, productions, Christingle services, cinema visits, parties, Christmas Fairs and all things festive. We have had the best time creating memories for the children at Blakehill. Thank you to staff, parents and friends for your love and support.

On behalf of everyone at Blakehill Primary School, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

PTFA Christmas Crackers!

What a huge success this year's Christmas Fair was. It was great to see so many of our families able to attend. With your support we raised £2394.50 and £959.40 from the Neon disco!

Our PTFA were in school again this week, providing gifts for all at our Secret Santa Stall. These girls really do not stop!!

All monies raised come directly back into school providing experiences, resources and subsidising activities and events. Thank you PTFA!

After School Clubs

There are a number of extra-curricular activities available for children in all year groups to get involved in next half term. These include: Art, Yoga, Drama, Cheerleading and a range of sports clubs starting in January. Please contact the school office for more details.

Punjabi Roots

Children in all classes had an amazing day of Punjabi dance, music, food and sport last week. We love working with Punjabi Roots! It is even better that this is a local, community focused group who are passionate about enriching the lives of young people.

Keeping Children Safe

We continue to work with the NSPCC, West Yorkshire Police and other agencies to help to keep the children at Blakehill safe. An E-safety session for parents, led by PC Mynott will be held in school on **Friday 12th January from 9:15am**. All parents are invited. Some classes this week have received the NSPCC Talk PANTS, helping children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. Please speak with your child's class teacher for more information.

Upcoming events/ diary dates next term

School reopens
Tuesday 2nd January

Wake up Shake up daily
8:30am -8:45am

Positive Start daily
8:30am -8:45am

Class assemblies 2:45pm:

6P: Friday 5th January

6N: Friday 12th January

3S: Friday 19th January

3D: Friday 26th January

2G: Friday 2nd February

2H: Friday 9th February

Young Voices Concert -
Sheffield

Monday 8th January

Year 2 Great Fire of London
Workshop

Tuesday 9th January

Year 5 visit to Yorkshire Coal
Mining Museum

Wednesday 10th January

E-Safety for parents

**Friday 12th January 9:15am -
10:15am**

Dinosaurs visit Reception

Tuesday 16th January

School Council visit to City
Hall

Monday 22nd January

Whole School Pantomime-
Snow White

Thursday 25th January

NSPCC in school

**Wk. commencing Monday
29th January**

Cross Country Superstars

Blakehill hosted a cross country event earlier this month with 136 children from schools across Bradford East attending. The wintery chill did not deter the children and everyone demonstrated great effort and determination. It was great to see Blakehill children compete and excel at all levels. Selection for the Yorkshire trials are on 10th January and Mr. Lumb is busy coaching some of our young runners in preparation for this event.



Drummers Rock

Well done to our group of school drummers who performed in front of an audience of children, staff and parents yesterday. You were drumtastic!!

Parent/ Carer feedback: You Say...We Listen!

Thank you for the completion of the parent survey 2023. It is great to receive positive comments commending the work of the school however it is also important for leaders to consider feedback that could help us to improve.

You said: 'More opportunities to work in school alongside children in KS2.'

School leaders are looking into this as part of our 'character curriculum' in KS2. Watch this space!

You said: 'More use of MarvellousMe to share a child's positives.'

MarvellousMe is a parental engagement tool used by school to make it easier for teachers to tell parents about their child's learning and achievements. It is particularly useful to those parents who are unable to drop off/collect their child.

Each child **should** receive at least one personalised positive message home per week linked to their achievements.

When children are happy, they do better. When teachers share positives, they are appreciated and supported by parents.

You said: More homework/less homework/more consistency with homework

The outcome for homework is the same every year with some parents stating there is too much, others too little.

Reading, spellings and maths consolidation is the minimum weekly homework requirement. Your child's class teacher may also signpost you to additional online resources that can be used to consolidate school-based learning.

Teachers are encouraged to set project-based homework and oracy homework to promote interest, engagement and 'talk.' Please speak to your child's class teacher for more information.



You said: Less demands on things costing money

I understand your concerns. School is looking at ways to reduce this wherever possible. Any parent/carers experiencing difficulties/ feeling pressurised financially should speak with Mrs Keighley - Headteacher or Miss Scott - School Business Manager.



Celebrating Success

It is always great to see children and adults achieving in school and out of school. Super well done to Miss Dickinson who graduated this week, achieving the national SEND Award.

Congratulations also to Jake who is catapulting himself to trampolining success across Yorkshire.



Blakehill Enrichment Opportunities - making learning meaningful.

Please also see your child's class pages on the school website and the school Facebook page.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....

