

Blakehill Primary School

Highfield Road, Idle, Bradford. BD10 8QN

Telephone: 01274 414355 Fax: 01274 414356

Email: office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr T Patterson

Head of School: Mrs L Keighley



**Autumn Term
2019**

This is the final newsletter of 2019. On behalf of all staff and governors at Blakehill, I would like to wish our children and their families a happy and peaceful break. School closes on Friday 20th December and reopens on Tuesday 7th January at 8:45am.

Best wishes, Mrs Keighley

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



Sponsored Obstacle Course

A brilliant response to our Sponsored Obstacle course resulted in a staggering £2326.65 raised for school. Well done to Freddie (1W) for raising the highest total of £60.

Thank you as ever to the energetic Mr Patterson for organising the event!



Secret Santa Appeal

Thank you for your kind donations to our Secret Santa Appeal this Year. All presents were collected today and will be sent to Father Christmas in time for disadvantaged children from across our district to receive them on Christmas Day.



Upcoming events/ diary dates this half term

PLEASE SEE OUR CHRISTMAS DATES ON PAGE 3 OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Community Events

Year 5 and 6 Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's Church, Wrose:
Wednesday 18 December - 2:00pm - 2:45pm

Year 3 and 4 Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's Church, Wrose:
Tuesday 17 December - 2:00pm - 2:45pm

Everyone Welcome!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Walking Nativity, the Idle Lights Switch on and the Carols Service at Morrisons where our school choir performed a series of carols. £120.00 was collected at the Morrisons event for Candlelighters. The children, as always, were great ambassadors for our school.

School Dinners

**From January 2020,
school meals will
increase to £1.90.**

Christmas Fair

Thank you to staff, PTFA, pupils and our families for making our Christmas fair 2019 such a success!

It was very well attended and hopefully everyone left with something. Who knew chocolate could be so popular.

Curriculum Enrichment

We place a great emphasis on enriching children's learning experiences across the curriculum at Blakehill; promoting opportunities that help our children develop the skills and knowledge that they will need to become life-long learners and responsible young people. Here are some example of our children's learning during the last two weeks.



Year 2 identifying and recording human and physical features in Geography

Please see our school Twitter account and website for more learning!

KS1 Christmas Production



Spanish Class - learning colours



Year 3 English work-exploring adjectives



Reception Class Nativity



Parent Survey Feedback

Attached to this newsletter is the outcome of our recent parent questionnaire. We received 309 completed surveys and we thank you for the overwhelming support that you have for our school and staff and all that we continue to do to ensure that our pupils receive high quality education.

We take feedback seriously and comments are followed up whenever contact details are left. Here is some of the written feedback left by parents:

You said:

"Praise the children who are good all of the time - seems that there is a lot of emphasis on the challenging children being good for one day with rewards for this."



THANK YOU- We did:

As part of our new behaviour procedures we have introduced 'Hot Chocolate Friday' - please ask your child about this.

We are also trialling Marvellous Me in Reception class. This app allows teachers to send out messages directly to parents' phones. This is expensive and we need to evaluate the impact of this strategy, hence the trial period.

We do recognise that some pupils display challenging behaviours at Blakehill. We implement provision to support and manage this to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly and behaviour is managed in line with school policies and procedures.

Fantastic school.
Thank you for all
of your hard work.

You said:

"School Trips are too expensive at Blakehill - maybe some funding needed e.g. Ingleborough at Blakehill approximately £200, another school £30 for the same time/activities."



THANK YOU - We did:

Funding is allocated by the Local Authority and is decided on a number of factors including:

Schools with higher numbers of disadvantaged receive **additional funding** via the Pupil Premium grant to their annual budget.

Schools with significant numbers of pupils with high needs under the Special Educational Needs framework and/or have a designated specialist unit also receive **additional income**.

Blakehill is not a school that has high numbers of either of these and therefore receives a budget that reflects this. In an attempt to support our families, school pay for transport for residential visits and offer support to families who are struggling to meet payment deadlines which is explicit on all educational visit letters.

Brilliant school!

My child is loving school

You said:

"I feel that there is a lack of feedback unless it is Parents' Evening. It would be helpful to receive texts/ emails/ updates about progress and any achievement/behaviour."



THANK YOU - We did:

We acted on this as a result of parent feedback (2018-19) by introducing Open Classrooms in Autumn Term and by increasing our annual mid-term reviews to parents from one to two.

Marvellous Me has been introduced in our Early Years- we will review the impact that this is having.

Classes in KS1 have recognition boards - these are usually on the external doors for this purpose.

We are always looking for ways to ensure that communication between home and school is informative and effective. We will continue to consider alternate methods to address this during Spring Term.

Top marks!

School Council

Last week, at our School Council meeting, the topic of lining up places was discussed. Traditionally, the children line up at the beginning of the school day and at the end of playtimes and lunchtimes in lines of boys and girls.

Our council decided that it would be a better idea if children lined up in their 'House Teams' of **Kingfisher** and **Kestrel** and **Javelin** and **Jupiter**. What a splendid idea!

From January, this will be implemented across school.

Children
come first at
Blakehill

Staff News

Next week, we welcome back Mrs Javed, Mrs Russell and Miss Gardner to Blakehill, who are returning to school after their maternity leave.

A special thank you to Mrs Timothy (1G) who has done a fabulous job in teaching our Year 1, making sure that these children had a successful transition from Reception to Year 1 during the Autumn Term.

PTFA Secret Santa Gift Stall

Please remember that our PTFA are holding a gift stall in school on **Monday 16th December**. Gifts are £2 each and all children will be given the chance to visit the stall.

A special thank you to our PTFA who spent £980 on spotlights for our school. These were used to provide the stage lighting for the Reception class and KS1 performances.

Christmas Dates for your Diary

Whole School

Whole school Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day: **Friday 20th December**

Break up for Christmas: **Friday 20th December** and return to school on **Tuesday 7th January**

Reception Class Party: **Wednesday 18th December (pm)**

Key Stage One (Year 1 and 2)

KS1 Christmas Party: **Tuesday 17th December (pm)**

Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4)

Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's Church: **Tuesday 17th December 2:00pm – 2:45pm** (all welcome)

Year 3 and 4 Cinema visit: **Wednesday 18th December**

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's Church: **Wednesday 18th December 2:00pm – 2:45pm** (all welcome)

Year 5 and 6 Cinema visit: **Thursday 19th December**



Attendance

Tackling Attendance

At Blakehill we strive for excellence across all aspects of school life for our children, the staff and their families. Poor attendance and punctuality has a negative impact on our success and gives children the impression that 'school doesn't matter.'

As adults, it is our responsibility to make sure that our children attend school regularly and on time if we are to give them the best possible opportunities to succeed early in their learning journey.

We recognise and understand that due to illness, it has been particularly difficult for some children to attend this term.

14 families regularly arrive at school late.

37 families took their child out of school for a holiday this term

Mainly as a result of holidays taken in term time, whole school attendance has fallen to 95.7%

Well done to the following children who received celebration certificates in assembly on Monday 2nd December

RD: Niamh Jordan

RJ: Hania Sydor

1W: Layla Connolly

1G: Ceejay Bebb

2P: Archie Reardon

2S: Mia Meyers and Dottie Royston

3R: Fraser Ignatowski

3Ro: The whole class

4P: Cora Crabtree

4H: Ivy Thornton

5L: Ethan Blackburn

5HJ: Kizzi Peltier

6SR: Ammarrah Malik-Akram

6G: Kesja Kazmierczak

Class Assemblies 2019 – 2020

Class assemblies are on a Friday afternoon at 2:45pm. Parents are welcome to attend their child's assembly. The dates of all class assemblies are:

10th January: 6SR

1st May: 5J

17th January: 6G

15th May: 5L

31st January: 1W

22nd May: 1W

7th February: 1G

5th June: 1G

28th February: 2P

12th June: 4P

6th March: 2S

19th June: 4H

13th March: RD

26th June: 2P

20th March: RJ

3rd July: 2S

27th March: 3R

9th July: RJ (Thursday)

24th April: 3Ro

10th July: RD

Please note: For child protection and safeguarding reasons, we request that all photos and videos should be for personal use only and not shared on social media without the consent of other parents.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a lunchtime Supervisor. Please contact the school office for further details.