

Blakehill Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs L Keighley



Spring Term 2024

Proud to be Blakehill

School leaders seek regular external verification of the work that we do to ensure that children at Blakehill receive high quality education. This is a strong and valuable feature of our practice and promotes an ambitious and self-reflective culture.

Since Christmas, we have been visited by the Head of School Improvement for the Local Authority, completed a quality assurance review of school's support for our early careers teachers by Exceed Teaching Hub and undergone a review of our Early Years Provision.

These have all been highly successful and feedback:

*'The children and their families are central to everything that Blakehill do. There is an inclusive culture across school embodied by the headteacher and all leaders. The school is outward facing and reflective.'* **Local Authority SIP (School Improvement Partner)**

*'Blakehill Primary School is a pocket of excellence. We recommend that Blakehill are part of one of our case studies of best practice.'* **Exceed Teaching School Hub**

We are exceptionally proud of all that we achieve and recognise the significant part that our parents play in our successes. Thank you.

Oh Yes We Did!

A fabulous time was had by all watching the pantomime production of Snow White yesterday. Children were kept engaged, entertained and included in this whole school treat, funded by our PTFA.

The production company are returning to Blakehill on **Friday 23rd February** to perform 'The Secret Garden' for children in Years 4-6 with special 'behind the scenes' workshops following the performance.

Upcoming events/ diary dates this term

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

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

NSPCC in school  
**Wk. commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 3 Nell Bank Parent Information Meeting (revised date)  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 4:45pm**

Tag Rugby Competition  
British Dodgeball Competition  
**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

World Number Day  
**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Year 3 Stone Age Workshop  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Break the Rules Day (no fine)  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

School closes  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

School reopens  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**



**Catherine Scott**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Early Years Leader

Staff news

Congratulations Mrs Scott on her appointment to Assistant Headteacher following the promotion of Mr Sidebottom in the summer. In addition to her role as Year 3 Class Teacher with Mr Rhodes, Mrs Scott has responsibility for: safeguarding across school, Early Careers Teachers, student mentor and Early Years. We wish her all the best in her new role.

School Council Rule What a memorable experience our school council had this week, visiting City Hall. Thank you to school governor, local councillor and grandparent Ian Parsons and Cllr Sabiya Khan for providing information about the building and what it is like to be a councillor.



Parent Workshops – Working Together

Parents/carers of children with additional needs, SEND and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs often feel isolated and frustrated when seeking support for their child. Blakehill SENDCos and the pastoral team are relentless in their mission to provide Blakehill parents with onsite support, information and guidance from local and national professionals.

It was great to see so many parent/carers attend the parent workshop – Supporting Children with Meltdowns – in school this week. We understand that many of you are unable to attend these workshops during the day and have arranged a re-run of this on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 3:30pm -4:30pm** with Alison Copley, a specialist teacher from the SCIL team (Speech, Language and Communication) with specialism in SEMH.

This is an opportunity for parents who have similar concerns or worries to share experiences and speak with key professionals. Everyone welcome! Thank you Mrs Gould for organising.



**Rachel Gould**  
Assistant Headteacher  
and SENDCo

Medication

We understand that from time to time contact details, medical information and dietary needs change. It is always a good idea to check with staff in the office to ensure your child’s details are up to date. This is particularly important if your child is preparing to go on a visit, residential or is ill at school and we need to contact you.

Please also check expiry dates on medication.  
Thank you

Striving for Excellence

We are really looking forward to school governors visiting school on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Together with school leaders, governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school and ensuring the children at Blakehill get value for money from their education.

We are lucky to have a number of parent/carer governors on our school board, all of whom bring an individual skill set and are passionate about high quality education for all children.

During their visit, governors will visit classrooms, engage in learning activities, speak with staff and pupils, complete monitoring activities and best of all...have lunch with the children. Happy days!

Lost Property

It is that time of year again when hats, gloves, scarves, wellies and shoes get misplaced in addition to the jumpers and pumps that go astray on PE days. The winter months mean that children are arriving at school with even more clothing than usual.

Those of you that have visited school will know that our cloakroom and corridor space is limited. 180 children, those children in year 2, 3 and 4, share a cloakroom which is also the main walkway from KS1 to KS2.

If clothing is named, staff try their best to return it to its owner.

We currently have bags full of unnamed clothes. These will be displayed in school on the last day of half term on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**.

Our U11 football team will play teams from across the region at Accrington following their success as top of the Bradford Schools League.

This is a massive achievement and if successful, they will make their way to Wembley to represent Bradford nationally.  
Good luck boys, we are all behind you!

Follow our Facebook posts providing information about the U11 European tournament in Blackpool in March.



Discussing children’s mental health and wellbeing with the school council.



The Best Days of our Lives

We look at enriching learning experiences every day, providing our children with a curriculum that is broad, rich, engaging and meaningful. Take a peek at some of our learning so far...



Reception transformed into the Land of the Dinosaurs. Who's afraid? NOT US!!

Another group of champions...this time cross country!



Being detectives in Year 6 as part of English work – hot seating is a great activity, just look at the fun we have.



Science as it should be; investigative, practical, engaging and fun! Year 5 and 6 lessons.



Combining art, geography and English – Katie sure does travel a lot, she is now in Edinburgh!



# Blakehill Values and Ethos

## House Points

Pupils at Blakehill receive house points for demonstrating a positive attitude to their learning, trying their best, never giving up, even when faced with challenges, high quality work and supporting others in their learning. This system encourages pride, achievement and teamwork. House points recognise individual and collaborative achievements. All children belong to a house team. The names of these teams have strong links with Bradford and are named after Jowett cars.

**KINGFISHER**    **KESTREL**    **JAVELIN**    **JUPITER**

During our Monday morning celebration assembly, the house with the greatest number of house points achieved the previous week is announced.

Well done to **JUPITER** who were our house winners last week – a high scoring week for house points!

Class assemblies are on a Friday afternoon at 2:45pm. Parents and carers are welcome to attend these. The dates of the 2023-24 class assemblies are:

- |                                       |                                      |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 5GH: Friday 10 November               | 1W: Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February |  |
| 5J: Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November  | 1M: Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March     | 2G: Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June                           |
| 4SJ: Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November | RD: Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March     | 2H: Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June                           |
| 4So: Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December  | RS: Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March    | 1W: Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June                           |
| 6P: Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January    | 5GH: Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April   | 1M: Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July                            |
| 6N: Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January   | RW: Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April    | Both Reception<br>Classes:<br>Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July |
| 3S: Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January   | 4SJ: Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April   |  |
| 3D: Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January   | 4So: Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May      |  |
| 2G: Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February   | 3S: Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May      |  |
| 2H: Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February   | 3D: Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June      |  |

Please note:

For child protection and safeguarding purposes, we request that photos and videos are for personal use only and not shared on social media etc. unless express permission from the parent concerned is given.

100% attendance winners!

RS was the top attending class for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week running!



Whole school attendance for last week was 94.8%  
National expectation is: 96%

Celebration Award winners on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

