

Blakehill Primary School

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Spring Term 2021

Welcome back everyone!

The run up to the end of Autumn Term was a busy one. Thankfully, we managed to hold and invite families to all of our Christmas events for which we are very grateful. These shared times are precious to all of us. Despite the initial frustration and confusion caused by the change to some of the COVID-19 guidance, we have had (so far,) a smooth return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you need any advice or support - we do try to keep well informed of the constant changes.

We are looking forward to working with our families during Spring Term!

After school clubs

To help ease some of the congestion at collection times from our after-school clubs, children attending the Young Voices Choir and Mindful Colouring clubs can be collected from the KS1 playground. Parents should continue to enter and exit the school premises via the main entrance as we need to ensure the site is secure for children attending Night Owls.

Parents of children attending these clubs should have received a text message earlier this week regarding this. Thank you for your cooperation.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Johnston who is expecting her first child and Mrs Javed who is expecting her second child; both babies expected in March/ early April. We would like to wish them both much love and happiness.

Parent/ Teacher Consultation evenings will be rescheduled to ensure that both class teachers are able to complete these before they commence their maternity leave.

The children in 4J and 5J will have the opportunity to meet with their new class teacher shortly after they are appointed.

Parent Meetings

If your child is in year 1,2,4 or 6, your child will participate in a nationally standardised end of year assessment. Pupils in these year groups across the country are subject to these external tests and children sit the assessments at the same.

This half term, we are holding a number of meetings to provide parents with information and support to help to prepare their child for the upcoming assessments.

Your child's class teacher will write to you shortly with further information. Please also see the dates for your diary section of this newsletter.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact your child's class teacher.

Upcoming events/ diary dates this half term

Year 6 parent meeting - York/
Transition and SATs:
Monday 24th January

Year 4 Parent Meeting - End of
Year x tables test and
Ingleborough:
Thursday 10th February

Parent Meeting - Helping your
child Year 2 SATs:
Wednesday 9th November

Parent Meeting - Preparing for
Year 1 Phonics Screening Test:
Tuesday 8th February

World Number Day
Friday 4th February

Year 3 - Yorkshire Sculpture
Park: **Monday 7th February**

Reception parent meeting -
Reading and Phonics
Monday 7th February

Year 3 Parent meeting - Nell
Bank Residential:
Thursday 17th February



Sponsored Obstacle Course

A special well done and thank you to Archie in RW who raised a massive £110 for our Sponsored Obstacle Event!

Improving Playtimes

In the coming weeks, our school council will be looking at ways to improve provision at break times. There has already been a suggestion of a fitness zone, complete with secured gym equipment suitable for parks and playgrounds, sprinting tracks and playground marking to encourage circuit training!

Our children are always full of great ideas!

Once we have a plan in place, the children will consider ways of raising funds for our chosen project in addition to the money raised from our obstacle course in October.



Online Gaming and Social Media

At the beginning of this new term, I would like to remind parents about the importance of regularly checking the content of their child's online activity and communication.

Online interactions, as we know, can be highly inappropriate, cruel and damaging and can have a significant impact on the wellbeing of children. School is often asked by parents to intervene and address concerns that they have about incidents that are happening on social media. We are happy to help you with this.

Technology moves quickly and platforms change regularly which poses the additional risk that children can be in contact with 'strangers,' making them increasingly vulnerable to abuse and grooming.

School will continue to deliver Esafety learning activities this term to educate pupils and help them understand the implications of playing, working and communicating online.

If you have any concerns or would like support from school, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the teaching team.

Jewellery

Polite reminder:

We have always recommended that rings, bracelets and necklaces are not worn by children school. We also advise that pupils who have had their ears pierced should only wear studs and not sleepers. These precautions are in place to minimise any health and safety risk and loss or damage to personal/valuable items.

Nail varnish should also not be worn to school.

Thank you for supporting us with this.

Holiday Dates

The holiday dates for 2022/23 have been approved by our Governing Board and are published on our school website.

Parents are asked to consult with the school holiday schedule prior to booking holidays to avoid these being taken during term time wherever possible.

All holidays taken during term time are subject to the implementation of school's attendance procedures.

Parent Feedback

We have always been a school that values the feedback provided from our school community. This includes Blakehill pupils, their parents and the staff. Feedback allows us to evaluate our current practices and procedures to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the children at Blakehill and supporting our families effectively.

An email will be sent to parents shortly containing a link to a parent survey. This can be completed and submitted online. Parents are asked to include their contact details if they would like a member of staff to contact them.

The outcomes of the staff, pupil and parent surveys will be shared with you in a future newsletter once all responses have been received. Thank you

Lost Property

Below is a photo of our year 2, 3 and 4 cloakrooms. 180 children hang their coats, bags, wellies, hats and scarves, PE kits and other belongings in this area. This corridor is also the main walkway from KS1 to KS2.

As you can see, the children in these year groups try really hard to make sure that this area is kept as tidy and as organised as possible. This is particularly difficult in the winter months when children bring more items of clothing to school.

This is not an ideal space and often items of clothing are misplaced. The lost property boxes are full of odd garments (the occasional sock, ear muffs and hats) which staff sift through to try to return to its owner. Children cannot always recognise their own belongings, particularly if clothes are not named or they are new and not familiar.

We are hoping to display items of lost property once a half term so that parents can try to locate any misplaced clothes. We will let you know in advance when this will be.

Samm our site manager and Mel our on-site cleaner will return items if they are clearly labelled.



Outdoor Library

Our outdoor library holds a range of books that children can keep, borrow or swap. It's a great way to get hold of a good book and it's absolutely free!



It's a Kind of Magic

Mrs Rashid and Mrs Hall have been busy arranging whole school projects for Spring and Summer Term. The theme for this term is MAGIC. A travelling magician will make a surprise appearance in school on 1st and 2nd of March and will enchant the children of Blakehill with a display of mind boggling and flick of the wrist illusions. Children will be able to practice magic tricks and participate in all manner of wizardry! Time to brush off the magic wands!

Year 6 SATs

Well done to our Year 6 pupils who have completed their practice SATs under test conditions this week in preparation for their end of KS2 assessments in May. You have all given 100% and demonstrated maturity and positive attitudes.

School Lunches

From January 2022, the cost of a school lunch has increased from £1.90 to £1.95

The Power of Talk

One of our school development priorities this year is to improve pupil engagement and attainment by developing the quality of talk in the classroom. Staff are using strategies that encourage and enable children to reason, discuss, argue and explain rather than provide brief, factual answers in order to develop higher order thinking, confidence and articulacy.

Developing effective oracy skills enable young people to present themselves and communicate with others positively and is a beneficial life skill. You may want to talk to your child about their 'talk rules' and how they are being encouraged to use these when engaging in classroom discussions.

Watch out for homework tasks which will be asking families to discuss hot topics and table talk themes.

Celebration assembly on a Monday morning is a great way to recognize and celebrate children's achievements. We also love sharing the recognition and awards that our children receive from out of school clubs. We encourage children to bring trophies, certificates and medals into school to show on a Monday. These should be handed to class teachers for safe keeping.

