

Blakehill Primary School

Highfield Road, Idle, Bradford. BD10 8QN

Telephone: 01274 414355 Fax: 01274 414356

Email: office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs L Keighley



Spring Term 2022

This is my final newsletter to you before the end of the half term. It has been a challenging start to the New Year with staff absences affecting almost every year group. Behind the scenes staff have pulled together to make sure there has been as little disruption as possible for the children at Blakehill. Multiple staff absences impact on everyone's workload and have prevented us from offering some of usual face-to-face events that are vital in bringing people together as a school community. The half term break will be a chance for us all to recharge our batteries.

Thankfully, as the final restrictions are lifted and the recommendations around self-isolation are relaxed, we may at last be getting back 'normal life.' This means that we will be able to invite parents into school more readily and strengthen those home school links that are valued at Blakehill.

I would like to thank all staff and parents for their understanding and support, ensuring children are safe, happy and learning. School closes on **Friday 18th February** and reopens on **Monday 28th February**.

Parent Meetings

I hope that you found the recent parent meetings useful and informative. It was so lovely to be able to invite you into school and meet with so many of you again this week. Your child's class teacher will be able to provide details if you were unable to attend.

Forum for parents of pupils with SEND

We understand how difficult it is for parents of pupils with additional needs to find the support they need. Parents often say that they feel isolated and uncertain of what to do and who to speak to for the best advice.

You are not alone!

We are starting our first ever parent forum at Blakehill with the intention of providing opportunities for parents to meet together, share experiences and seek and offer advice and support. Our first parent coffee morning/forum is at 9:00am on Wednesday 9th March in school. ALL parents welcome.

Staff News

Good luck to play worker and SEN support Sean McVey who will be leaving Blakehill at half term after 11 years' service. Sean is taking on new work challenges and is looking forward to a new and successful career. Congratulations and best wishes Sean!

Break the Rules Day

Organisers of the Wrose Carnival are hoping to raise enough funds to hold the parade again this year. Blakehill are joining other schools in the local area to help them with their fundraising. **On Friday 18th February**, pupils at Blakehill will be encouraged to 'Break the Rules.' Children LOVE to break the rules so this is the perfect opportunity to do just that!

It will be great to see the return of the Wrose Carnival to our community!

Entrance gates are now open from 8:15am to ease the congestion outside of school at the beginning of the day.

Upcoming events/ diary dates this half term

SEND Parent Meeting - **Monday 14th February – 9.30 a.m.**

Year 3 Parent meeting - Nell Bank Residential:
Thursday 17th February – 4.45 p.m.

Break the Rules Day: **Friday 18th February**

Year 3 Cathedral Visit:
Monday 28th February

Year 4 Swimming lessons commence **Thursday 3 March**

Year 2 visit to Harlow Carr:
Monday 7th March

Year 2 Gurdwara
Wednesday 9th March

Year 6 Visit to Tropical World:
Monday 14th March

Open Classrooms: **Tuesday 15th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm**

Red Nose Day – **Friday 18th March**

Year 3 Visit to Leeds Discovery Museum: **Thursday 24th March**

Spring Term Parent/Teacher Consultation evenings: **Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd March**



18th February Pay 50p per rule or pay £2 to break all of them

The outcome of the 103 parent questionnaires received is attached to this newsletter. The responses reflect the high regard that parents continue to have of our school. The outcomes have been shared with staff and Governors.

Prompt	Agree	Disagree
The school has a strong focus on attendance and punctuality so that disruption to learning is minimised.	100%	0%
The school has a positive and respectful culture.	99%	1%
My child is taught well at school.	99%	1%
Blakehill Primary School is well led and managed.	99%	1%
I believe that my child is happy at school	94.2%	5.8%
The school has clear routines and expectations for the behaviour of all pupils across all aspects of school life.	98.1%	1.9%
I believe that my child makes good progress at school	98%	2%
My child is well looked after at school.	97.1%	2.9%
I would recommend Blakehill Primary School to another parent.	97.1%	2.9%
The school responded well to any concerns I have raised (if applicable).	95.7%	4.3%
I believe the school has created an environment where my child is safe and in which bullying and discrimination - online or offline – are not accepted and are dealt with quickly, consistently and effectively whenever they occur.	94.1%	5.9%
Communication between home and school is good.	92.2%	7.8%
My child receives the right amount of homework.	89.3%	10.7%
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	87.4%	12.6%

Blakehill is a very pleasant and structured environment for my child to be in and I am very pleased with the choice we made.

Pupils know the school rules and expectations and carry these out

We feel the school really focuses on children learning in a happy and friendly environment.

I'd like to know more about my child's progress and what level they are on compared to peers

I prefer face-to-face meetings.

No real opportunity to ask questions due to time restraints

This year we wanted to gather your views on the Autumn Term virtual Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evenings and the staggered start and end times to the school day. This is what you said...

	Agree	Disagree
I found the 'open classrooms' session where I could look at my child's book and classroom useful.	86.7%	13.3%
I believe the school's staggered start and end times are beneficial.	84.3%	15.7%
I found video calling simple and easy to use.	81.2%	18.8%
Last term's Parents' Evening was informative and worthwhile.	81%	19%
I preferred using video calling to talk to my child's teacher.	59.4%	40.6%

Parent comments are really useful in helping school leaders meet the needs of our families. As a school team we aim to work with our families to ensure that we provide the best possible start to your child's education as possible.

Homework

There is always an ongoing debate about homework, with parents stating that there is too much, too little, just right and this year was no exception. As educators, we understand that homework at early primary level is not particularly effective unless it is directly linked to classroom work. At Blakehill homework tasks focus on reading, spelling and number. Project based learning tasks are set each term and pupils in years 5 and 6 receive age appropriate activities in preparation for their secondary education. Parents that attended the meetings this week will have received information of how they can help their child at home and useful links to additional resources are on our school website.

Communication

School have varied ways of communicating with our parents to ensure that all families can access information more readily. Newsletters, Marvellous Me, Facebook, Twitter, email and letters are all used by school staff to relay information.

The effectiveness of everyone's communication has been limited by the lack of opportunity we have had during the last two years, to meet in person. Staff are planning various events and activities that will provide opportunities for parent to be more involved in their child's learning at school.

Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings

Whilst many of our parents could see the benefits of virtual meetings, your feedback on the whole indicated a preference towards the return of face-to-face meetings. Teachers commented that the lack of in person meetings affect relationship building that we pride ourselves on at Blakehill. The Parent/Teacher Consultations in March will be face-to-face. Parents can book appointments from Monday 28th February on the School cloud platform. Please contact the school office for support if necessary. Please note: Due to both class teachers being in the last stages of pregnancy, Parent Evenings for 5J and 4J will remain virtual in March.

Blakehill Values and Ethos

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

KESTRAL

JAVELIN

JUPITER

Well done **JAVELIN** who were our house winners last week with **570** house points!



Attendance - making every day count!

Current whole school attendance is **94.6%**. National is 96%. Making sure that your child attends school as regularly as they can is important!

Let's make sure we achieve 96% attendance target Blakehill!

Congratulations to
our 100%
attendance winner!

Well done to 2P and 6R top
attending classes - £5 vouchers for
you!



Persistent Absenteeism

If attendance falls below 90%, this is classed as persistent absenteeism 65 pupils at Blakehill are identified as persistent absentees. The majority of these have valid reasons for their poor attendance e.g. COVID, long-term illness etc. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their child attends school as regularly as possible and schools are legally obliged to monitor and address poor attendance. It is our job to help to support you and prevent long term persistent absenteeism resulting in prosecution. Parents will be kept informed of their child's attendance regularly should this become a cause for concern.

Celebration Award winners **Monday 31st January and Monday 7th February**. Well done children we are very proud of you.



Happy half term everyone!

Class Assemblies 2021-22

Class assemblies are on a Friday afternoon at 2:30pm. It is a pleasure to once again be able to invite our parents into school to watch their child's assembly. The dates of all class assemblies are:

PLEASE NOTE: 2P assembly in July is on a Thursday.

8th October: 5G15th October: 5J22nd October: 4R5th November: 4J12th November: 1D19th November: 1G26th November: 3S3rd December: 3R14th January: 6R21st January: 6H28th January: 2S4th February: 2P11th February: RW4th March: RP11th March: 1G18th March: 1D1st April: 6R29th April: 5G6th May: 5J20th May: 3R10th June: 3S17th June: 4J24th June 4R1st July RP8th July: RW14th July: 2P15th July 2S

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