

## Blakehill Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs L Keighley



### Autumn Term 2021

We have successfully managed to make it to December with minimum disruption caused by COVID infections. We are forging ahead with our Christmas planning in the hope that we can continue with nativities, productions and Christingle Services, as we are desperate to invite families to these once again this year. With the emergence of a new variant, we will continue to make careful and considered decisions around reintroducing restrictions if these are necessary. I will of course update you all if/when this happens.

#### Let It Snow...

Although beautiful and fun to play in, the onset of the snowy weather usually brings disruption to travel arrangements for all of us. We always aim to inform staff and parents as early as possible of school's opening plans, to allow them to make the necessary arrangements. This can only be done once the site team arrive at school and assess the conditions of the premises and the main/side roads.

Thank you to Blakehill staff and families for responding quickly and efficiently to the most recent wintry weather, which meant that we could get to school safely.

#### Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings

I will be sending a questionnaire to parents after the Christmas break to ask for feedback on the organisation and effectiveness of the recent parent and teacher consultation evenings.

Staff feedback was very positive and recognised that waiting times between appointments was significantly reduced for parents. The structure of the meetings enabled a focused and informative conversation around children's learning in the usual 10-minute allocated time slot. We are aware that some meetings needed to be slightly longer due to the specific learning needs of individual pupils. This will be taken into account during our Spring Term consultation meetings.

#### Snacks

There still appears to be some confusion about the snacks children are allowed to bring to school to eat at break time. Children in Reception classes, year 1 and year 2 are provided with free fruit daily. Children in Year 3 - Year 6 can bring fruit or cereal bars to eat. Crisps and chocolate bars are not permitted.

This has always been our school practice and shared with parents via the school prospectus and newsletters. Parents recognise the important role that schools play in encouraging pupils to make healthy life choices, which include healthy food choices. Educating children at an early stage in their lives helps them to make considered choices and benefits them in the future. Thank you.

### Upcoming events/ diary dates this half term

*Please see our Christmas calendar which is on page 3 of this newsletter for all of our Christmas events*

School closes **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**School reopens Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**



#### A Very Merry PTFA Christmas

A massive £861.32 was raised as a result of the Film Evenings organised by our school PTFA. Well done and thank you to all who were involved in this event.

Our Christmas Fair was extremely successful and well attended by Blakehill friends and families - it was so lovely to see many of you there. Thank you for all of your kind donations and support.

#### Sponsored Obstacle Course Event

£2381.00 was raised as a result of our Sponsored Obstacle Course this term. Medals to all participants will be awarded when they arrive at school (expected next week).

Thank you to all who have sponsored the children at Blakehill.

All money raised for school funds/ PTFA events go directly to providing additional resources and special events for Blakehill pupils.

### Much to Celebrate

Every year, an Education Advisor visits schools in Bradford from the Local Authority. Our advisor visited Blakehill last week. We toured the school, visiting all classrooms and learning areas, popped into lessons, met with some of the children and staff and even managed to squeeze in a couple of playtimes. We had a great time discussing the school's journey, aims, values and school culture during the visit. We know that we have a fabulous school and take great pride in the outcomes that our pupils achieve. We constantly strive to provide our pupils with the very best quality of education. It was great to see that the advisor thought the same and recognised the achievements of our school.

I wanted to share with you some of the comments made in the report following the advisor's visit:

- The most recent nationally accredited data in 2019 is extremely impressive. Pupils at all ages exceeded national averages. Year 6 leavers' attainment and progress were particularly strong.
- Creative subjects are highly valued along with other areas of the curriculum
- Reading and the love of reading were praised in the last inspection report. School has continued to give reading and phonics a very high profile in the last 2 years. Reading, the teaching of phonics and SMART reading in Key Stage 1 are strengths.
- Early Years is a strength along with the whole school quality of teaching and learning.
- The consistency of approach is a major strength of school. This was noticeable on the learning walk during this visit.
- The team ethic, which was praised in 2019, is even stronger in 2021.
- The Headteacher demonstrates extremely strong leadership and has built very strong leadership capacity through a team model.
- School is very clear in its focus on evidence-based approaches with a strong track record.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced. There is a strong and engaging range of learning opportunities including many wider learning opportunities.
- School collaborates well with others and is outward facing. Staff show a strong commitment to sharing their practice and expertise with colleagues in other schools.

**WELL DONE TEAM!**

### Parent Governor Vacancy

Could you be a school Governor? At Blakehill Primary School we have a very successful and productive Governing Body who are always looking for enthusiastic parents to join us when a vacancy pops up. Could you be the next parent to join our team?

#### What do we do?

We work with Mrs Keighley and the leadership team to ensure sound decisions are made around finance, standards of education, policies and the strategic direction of our school. Although the day-to-day running of the school is left in Mrs Keighley's hands, we form an important part of strategic leadership.

#### What skills do I need?

Some governors have experience in finance, education, strategic planning, data analysis and human resources. We welcome anyone who is supportive, enthusiastic and wants to make a positive contribution to our school community.

#### What commitment would I have to make?

We meet as a full Governing Body 5 times a year. We have other committees for example; one focussed on **Finance and Resources** that meet termly, another for **Curriculum and Standards** that meet each half term. We also carry out monitoring visits to school and join school leaders to monitor aspects of school life such as; safeguarding, well-being, finance and our curriculum offer. Governors are always welcome to spend time in school when they can, to see how the school works.

#### I am interested. What do I do?

For more information, please contact the school office. Tel 01274 414355 or email: [office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk)

## Christmas diary dates 2021

Event	When?
PTFA Film Evening	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>
PTFA Film Evening	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>
PTFA Christmas Fair	<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>
EYFS Nativity Productions	<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2:00pm</b> <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10:00am</b>
KS1 Productions	<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10:00am</b> <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2:00pm</b> <b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10:00am</b>
Year 3 and 4 Cinema	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December (am)</b>
Year 3 and 4 Christingle	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 10am</b> at St Cuthbert's Church, Wrose. Families welcome
Year 5 and 6 Christingle	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 10am</b> at St Cuthbert's Church, Wrose. Families welcome
Year 5 and 6 Cinema	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December (am)</b>
Reception class and KS1 Christmas Parties	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December (pm)</b> <b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December (pm)</b> <b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December (pm)</b>
Christmas Dinner Day Christmas jumpers	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Carols around the Tree	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>

### It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...

Well Christmas has finally landed at Blakehill Primary and the building is buzzing with all things festive. Mischievous elves have made their annual reappearance and they are busy creating mayhem all over school. Classrooms are embracing the merriment of the season with individually designed classroom doors. Let the fun begin!



### **Secret Santa Appeal**

Labels are available from the school office if you would like to donate a gift to a child in need this Christmas as part of our Secret Santa Appeal. All gifts are gratefully receive and will go some way to making a child's Christmas morning more enjoyable. These will be collected on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.



## Curriculum Enrichment

We place a great emphasis on enriching children's learning experiences across the curriculum; promoting opportunities that help our children develop the skills and knowledge that will help them to become well-rounded and responsible young people. Here are some example of this from the last couple of weeks:

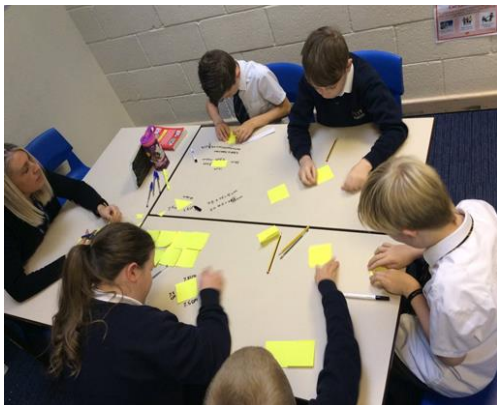


### School Council Road Safety Campaign

Our school council, made up of children in every class from Year 1 – Year 6 met with local councilors and representatives from Bradford Highways last week to discuss their road safety concerns. The children are starting their own campaign, supported by school staff, Mrs. Gould, Jeanette Sunderland and Highways to tackle road safety issues around the school premises. Well done school council - keep up the great work!



Year 5 visit to the Mining Museum gave our pupils first- hand experience of life in the mines. Given the choice, the children preferred life at Blakehill!! Thank you to parent/grandparent helpers.



There is always so much learning fun to be had in the snow, particularly in Reception class.

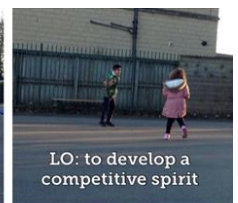
Maths made easier in year 4 by using practical methods to work out the perimeter of shapes.



Well done Charlie, here, signing on the dotted line for Leeds United!



Tranquillity Club Rocks!



## Blakehill Values and Ethos

### House Points

KINGFISHER

KESTRAL

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 **KINGFISHER** who were our house winners for the whole of last term and celebrated with a non-uniform day today!



## Attendance - making every day count!

Current whole school attendance is **94.7%**. 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!

Well done to 4J and 2S top attending classes - £5 vouchers for you this week!

Well done Sarah (RP) Ethan (6R) Justyn (6R) and Ollie (2S) 100% attendance winners

### Persistent Absenteeism

Schools are legally obliged to do everything they can to ensure that all pupils attend school as regularly as possible. If attendance falls below 90%, this is classed as persistent absenteeism. Long-term persistent absenteeism could result in prosecution. Parents will be kept informed of their child's attendance regularly should this become a cause for concern.

Celebration Award winners **Monday 22nd and 29th November**. Well done children we are very proud of you!



### 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: 5G	11th March: 5J
15th October: 5J	18th March: 5G
22nd October: 4R	25th March: 6H
5th November: 4J	1st April: 6R
12th November: 1D	29th April: 1G
19th November: 1G	6th May: 1D
26th November: 3S	20th May: 3R
3rd December: 3R	10th June: 3S
14th January: 6R	17th June: 4J
21st January: 6H	24th June: 4R
28th January: 2S	1st July: RP
4th February: 2P	8th July: RW
11th February: RW	14th July: 2P
4th March: RP	15th 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