

Blakehill Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs L Keighley



Autumn Term 2023

On behalf of staff and governors, we would like to wish you all a warm welcome back, especially to our newest children in Reception class and their families. The children have settled really well and we are looking forward to another busy and rewarding term.

Our school newsletters are sent to parents every two weeks to provide information of forthcoming events and to keep you up to date with Blakehill 'news'. They are sent via email every second Friday and are also available on our website/school Facebook page. I apologise in advance for the overload of information in this newsletter.

Your child's class teacher or teaching assistant are best placed to help with any day-to-day queries or concerns you may have. They spend the majority of the school day with your child.

Meet Blakehill Primary School's senior management and leadership team.

They each have specific responsibilities in school in addition to their class teacher role and are also available to support the pupils, staff and parents in school.



Rachel Gould
Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo



Helen Hall
Assistant Headteacher and Year 3/4 Leader



Catherine Scott
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Early Years Leader



Jamie Nicklin
Year 5/6 Leader



Kirstie Gardner
Year 1/2 Leader

MacMillan Coffee Morning
We would love you to join us for our school coffee morning on **Friday 29th September from 9:00am** in the school hall. It's a great way to enjoy a coffee and cake with friends whilst helping to raise money for Macmillan. We rely on donations of buns and cakes for this event and staff and parent/carers are always incredibly generous, helping us to make events like this really special. Donations by Thursday 28th September please.

Upcoming events/ diary dates this term

Year 5 Ingleborough information drop -in **Wednesday 20th September 3:30pm**

Year 5 residential to Ingleborough: **Monday 25th - Friday 29th September**

Macmillan Coffee Morning **Friday 29th September-9:00am**

Year 4 residential to Nell Bank: **Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th October**

Individual pupil photographs: **Friday 6th October**

Year 2 visit to Saltaire **Tuesday 10th October**

AWARE SEND Parent Workshop **Wednesday 11th October 9:15am - 10:45am**

Year 1 visit to Industrial Museum (washday workshop) **Thursday 12th October**

Year 3 and 4 parent meeting - supporting your child's learning: **Monday 16th October 4:45pm**

Year 5 and 6 parent meeting - supporting your child's learning: **Tuesday 17th October 4:45pm**

Year 1 and 2 parent meeting - supporting your child's learning: **Thursday 19th October 4:45pm**

Year 6 visit to Blackpool Pleasure Beach: **Friday 20th October**

School Closes: **Friday 20th October**
This will be a non-uniform day

School Reopens: **Monday 30th October**

ADVANCE NOTICE

SEND Parent workshop - SEMH/ Communication and Interaction **Wednesday 1st November**

PTFA Come and get involved!

Are you interested in being part of a strong team of parent/friend volunteers who help to raise funds for the pupils at Blakehill Primary? Our first 2023-24 Parent, Teacher and Friends meeting is on **Tuesday 19th September at 6:00pm** in school. All new members welcome.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

It is that time of year again when our Year 6 parents receive information about applying for a place at secondary school for their child. If parents have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Year 6 teaching team who will be able to help you.

School Uniform

How smart do our pupils look in their school uniforms, particularly those pupils in KS2 who are now wearing a school tie? So far, (touch wood) these seem to have caused very little distraction! We have received so many compliments from staff and parents about the appearance of our pupils in school.

Please note: There is no requirement for any of item to have the school logo displayed as we understand the cost implication to families that are linked to branded clothing. We still have many items of preloved uniform in school. These have been donated by parents and are free of charge should you require anything. Please contact the school office if you require any items of uniform.

A pump bag is required for pupils in Reception to Year 4. Rucksacks can be brought to school for pupils in Years 5 and 6, although a pump bag is more desirable due to the congestion caused in the limited space in these cloakrooms.

Each class has PE twice a week: one indoor session and one outdoor session. PE kits should be in school on the days that your child has PE. A full list of uniform requirements is on the school website. PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING etc. ARE NAMED. This helps us to return items quickly and easily if misplaced.

Safeguarding

Could parents please notify school if the usual arrangements for collecting your child at the end of the school day changes. In the interest of your child’s safety, staff particularly in KS1 will not allow a child to go with an unknown adult unless notification has been received.



Parking

After a year-long campaign by our school council, Bradford Council introduced speed calming measures on Highfield Road during the summer. There are plans in the pipeline to introduce additional road markings to promote safe parking in and around school. With the return to a whole school start and end time to the school day comes the frustration caused by limited parking availability.

Inconsiderate and unsafe parking is an ongoing cause for concern among residents and parents/carers and school are often asked to intervene, particularly when conversations become heated. This, unfortunately is a problem that we all have to manage in the best way we can. Our main priority is the safety of our children and their families.

The stretch of Highfield Road outside of the school gates is particularly hazardous, and the absence of a crossing patrol person increases the risk potential.

Please park with care and consideration. A few minutes’ walk is better than an early morning altercation in the presence of children.
Thank you for your support. Please stay safe.

Snacks

Children in Reception classes, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit daily. Children in Year 3 - Year 6 can bring fruit, vegetables or cereal bars to eat. Crisps, sweets and chocolate bars are not permitted.

The school tuck shop, available to children in Years 3-6 sell healthy snacks at break time. The cost of each item is 20p.

We 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.

Medication

All medication, including inhalers were returned home wherever possible at the end of term in July. If your child requires medication in school, could you please make sure that this is handed in to staff in the school office. Parents need also check expiry dates on prescribed medication. Thank you!

Media and Photography Consent Form

Unless we have parent/carer written consent, we are unable to use images/photos of your child on our school newsletters, website, Facebook etc. If you have not already done so, please complete and sign the school’s Media and Photography Consent Form which can be obtained from the school office. Parents wanting their child to be exempt must also indicate their wishes.

Extra- Curricular Clubs

We are incredibly proud of the range of extra-curricular activities offered at Blakehill. We are always looking for ways to extend opportunities for the children in school to participate in a rich and diverse offer of enrichment activities.

After school clubs start from Monday 18th September. Look out for letters home about clubs in school and speak to Mr Lumb, the school’s Sports and Personal Development Officer for further information or if you have new ideas.



Safeguarding

School is responsible for the safe handover of every child to a responsible adult at the end of the school day. We are also responsible for ensuring that older children, walking home unsupervised, are safe and that there is a responsible adult at home when they arrive.

To help us to keep your child safe, please notify your child's class teacher in writing if your child walks home alone.

If there are factors that may impact on the safety of any child, school will ask to speak with parents/carers.

Mobile phones and Smart watches

Devices that can take photos or record, including Smart watches, are not allowed in school.

Pupil mobile phones should be switched off once on the school premises and handed over to the class teacher for safe keeping.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Could you please ensure that our office staff are notified if you have changed address, email or telephone number?

Having the correct contact details of parents/carers, (e.g. current mobile and telephone numbers) are vital when children are ill and immediate contact needs to be made.

SEND Parent/ Carer Meetings

Do you have a child with additional needs? Do you feel unsupported, alone, at a loss of who to speak to or where to go for help? Do you just need other people to talk with and share experiences and ideas with? YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

It is our ambition that parents of all children, including children with additional needs, are fully supported and involved in their child's education.

Mrs Gould (SENDSCO) works closely with SEND agencies to organise meetings in school aimed at providing information, a support network, advice and a chance to speak to lead professionals in a safe and supportive environment

This term there are two meetings scheduled. These are during the school day:

**AWARE SEND Parent Workshop Wednesday 11th October
9:15am-10:45am**

**SEND Parent workshop - SEMH/Communication and Interaction
Wednesday 1st November**

It really is a great way of meeting other parents/ carers in our school community and developing links with external agencies. Everyone welcome.

PLEASE SEE MRS GOULD/MISS DICKINSON for further information/advice.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is one of the key factors to a child's success in primary school. Being involved in your child's learning helps to build strong foundations that benefit early education; leading to future success.

Would you like to know more about what your child is learning and how you can help them? Do you know what the end of year expectations are for children of a similar age and if your child is on track to achieve this? Are you aware of the end of Key Stage SATs, the Year 1 phonics screening check and the Year 4 times table test and what they mean for your child? How well would you do in a standardised test?

Results from our last parent survey (November 2022) indicated that some parents wanted more information about their child's progress.

Therefore, we invite you to join us for a series of parent meetings aimed at getting you more involved in your child's education. Please see the diary dates section of this newsletter for dates/times of the meetings this term. All welcome.

Blakehill Residentials

It is time for pupils and staff in Year 4 and 5 to dig out their wellies and waterproofs as they prepare for their annual residential visits as part of their geography fieldwork and science topics. Residential visits are a great opportunity for outdoor learning and encourages children to build relationships, stamina, resilience and self-esteem.

Year 4 visit Nell Bank Outdoor Activity Centre from **Wednesday 11th October - Friday 13th October**

Year 5 visit Ingleborough Hall Outdoor Centre from **Monday 25th September - Friday 29th September**

Have a wonderful time children!



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 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 **JUPITER** who were our house winners this week!

Attendance - making every day count!

Making every day count!

100% attendance at school is extremely important in helping all pupils achieve their full academic potential. We recognise that good attendance and punctuality are crucial to raising standards and pupil attainment. Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. During our weekly celebration assembly the highest attending class of the week receives a £5 voucher to spend or save. All children that have 100% attendance that week are entered into a weekly prize draw.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Holidays taken during term time are subject to a fixed penalty notice as part of the Local Authority campaign to improve attendance across the district. Schools do not benefit from any fines - this is paid directly to the council however Local Authority schools like ours are obliged to follow the guidance and procedures.

Class Assemblies

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



2H and 6P-
top attending
classes this
week!

Congratulations to our 100% attendance prize draw winners this week



Celebration Assembly award winners **Monday 11th September**. Well done children.

