



# BLOCKLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BULLETIN

November 2016

### Providing support where it is most needed:

During term 1 and term 2 I have been evaluating the provision that was primarily set in place at the end of the summer term by Mrs Jeffcutt and the Governors. At the same time I have also been looking at data that has become available during this academic year. Having looked carefully at the existing provision and comparing it to the needs of the children across the school I feel that some adaptations now need to be made.

Presently we are providing additional teaching provision in class 1 to support the effective introduction of the 2016-17 Reception children. This has consisted of two members of the teaching staff concentrating their efforts to support all the children in class 1, four mornings of the week. In this situation the 11 year 1 pupils in class 1 have been working with Miss Overton-Short and the Reception pupils have worked with Mrs White and Mrs Miles. This provision was put in place, to boost the English and Maths skills of the year 1 pupils in class 1, whilst at the same time enabling the class teacher to concentrate on the Foundation Stage curriculum with the Reception pupils.

Having monitored these groups during these first two terms it would appear to have had the desired outcome for both groups. Having achieved a level of success we do not want to completely remove this provision but as a whole school we do have to give consideration to other priorities as well.

Another area of the school that is in need of additional support is class 4. At the end of the summer term it was not deemed necessary to provide additional provision to this group of children which consists of a mix of year 4 and year 5 pupils. However, now that this group have been together for a term and a half it is evident that a level of support is necessary to enable all the children in class 4 to succeed as well. Once again this is based on careful classroom monitoring and analysis of data.

Some of you will have already noticed that one additional afternoon of a Teaching Assistant's (TA) support was put into place as from the start of November. This now means that class 4 has got full time TA cover each day of the week.

The school Governors have agreed that the level of provision, which presently existing in class 1, needs to be adapted so that addition support can also be made available to class 4. Some of the pupils in class 4 only have 21 months before they start Secondary School and we have a responsibility to make sure these pupils are 'Secondary Ready' by September 2018.

Our school's pupil numbers remain very similar this year as compared to last year which means our school budget and resources also remain the same. For this reason it means that we have to be both adaptable and flexible with our existing staffing provision.

It has been agreed that as from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2017 Miss Overton-Short will reduce her additional provision in class 1 from the existing 4 mornings to 2 mornings per week in the New Year.

This means that Miss Overton-Short will then be available to provide 2 mornings a week additional provision in class 4 instead. Once again she will be given a defined group of pupils to work diligently with, in the additional teaching space upstairs in the Drama Room. These levels of provision, for classes 1 and 4, will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Mrs Luff and I will also be providing two separate weekly 'short burst' additional reading sessions at lunch times, starting in January, for two small groups of children in class 4 who would benefit from the extra input and support with reading.

To support Miss Alcock, in her new role as class teacher at Blockley, we have identified some additional professional training to develop her early career in teaching. This training has already started and will continue throughout this academic year. This will help her to gain confidence in teaching and to further understand the needs of class 4.

Mrs Dodgson-Hatto will be mentoring Miss Alcock in the coming terms. This will allow them both to work together (in both classrooms) to observe how to get the best out of children through good teaching. Through close monitoring and the support of an experienced team of educators, I believe that we will, by dedication and hard work, be able to improve the opportunities for all those pupils based in class 4.

### DIARY DATES—DECEMBER

Mon 5th	BDFAS in St George's Hall
Tues 6th	KS1 Nativity, 1.30pm
Wed 7th	KS1 Nativity, 6.30pm
Thurs 8th	Optional late start for KS1 pupils, 10am
Mon 12th	Film for pupils KS1 Christmas party (optional—bring in party clothes to change into)
Tues 13th	9.30am School Christmas Service at St Peter and St Paul Church, parents welcome Father Christmas visits school
Wed 14th	School Christmas lunch, Christmas jumper and school uniform
Thurs 15th	Reports to parents KS2 Christmas Party (optional—bring in party clothes to change into)
Fri 16th	2pm End of Term

**DIARY DATES—JANUARY and FEBRUARY**

Fri 13th	Class 2 Sharing Assembly
Fri 20th	Class 3 Sharing Assembly
Fri 27th	Class 5 Sharing Assembly
Fri 3rd Feb	Class 4 Sharing Assembly
Mon 6th	Parents Evening
Fri 10th	Class 1 Sharing Assembly

**Emergency Closure Procedure**

If the school has to close for any reason notification will be placed on the Gloucestershire Closed School Website: <http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closedschools/> and our school website. A message will also be sent out via ParentPay and be given out via local radio stations. Please check before you travel if we have heavy snow.

**FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL**

In our inaugural FOS bulletin, post AGM, we would like to introduce ourselves as the new Joint Chairpersons; Kerry Bolam and Susan Clark, together with Hayley Baron-Copley as Vice Chair.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Hannah Webb and Clare Duckett as outgoing Chair and Vice Chair for their outstanding contribution to the role to date - you're a hard act to follow!

We are extremely excited about the year ahead and always welcome any new fundraising ideas.

Feel free to either pop us an email at [blockleyfoschair@gmail.com](mailto:blockleyfoschair@gmail.com), via Classlist or chat to us during the school run and remember everyone is welcome to join one of our informal meetings which generally involves a glass of wine!

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 25th January at 8pm at The Great Western.

**An overview of our plans ahead:**

We'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to all who contributed to the school fair, we raised a fantastic £627.72. Each class will receive £100 each to spend as they wish. The rest will go towards this year's project. (see below).

**NATIVITY:** Tues 6th and Wed 7th are the dates of the KS1 Nativity. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle we would be very grateful and ask for contributions to be handed in to the office asap or by FRI 2nd DEC if possible. This is so we can give the whole school the opportunity to hear about this year's raffle and buy tickets in advance particularly if you are a parent in KS2 and not attending. We have some great prizes already from 360 Gym, The Great Western, The Regal Cinema, Batsford Arboretum, Budgens, A super-duper facial voucher, 2 tickets for Jump In (Children's Trampoline) and lots more!

We will be asking for donations of mince pies and biscuits for the Nativity refreshments (homemade or bought!) to be bought in on Mon 5th Dec please.

**ON-LINE SHOPPING:** One last plea this term is that you do your on-line shopping via [easyfundraising.com](http://easyfundraising.com). It's really easy to use, just follow the instructions and while you shop you raise money for our school! Most big retailers including Amazon are associated with this website and donate a % of your spend to your chosen charity. It all adds up really, really quickly and costs us nothing. If you'd like further info, please email us. [blockleyfoschair@gmail.com](mailto:blockleyfoschair@gmail.com)

**THIS YEAR'S FUNDRAISING PROJECT:** As most of you will be aware, last year the Friends of the School focus was on fundraising specifically for new laptops for the school and with that improved Wi-Fi connection within the school. This year we (the Committee) have decided to turn our focus to another area much loved by the children; the forest. It has come to our attention that this fabulous area requires some TLC to reach its full potential, therefore fundraising will be focussed on bringing new life to this area. We will begin as soon as possible (before the end of term) with an evaluation of what work is required (some of our wooden fixtures require removal due to rot and are unsafe for the children now) and then we will consult with relevant parties; staff and contractors and propose a plan which will be shared.

We will then have a fundraising target and as previously stated all energy will go into this. If you, or someone you know has relevant expertise in this area we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

A lot of information to share with you for an exciting year ahead! Many thanks from Kerry, Sue and the F.O.S Committee P.S Please see F.O.S Noticeboard (situated to right of main doors) for reminders, notices and information from us!

**A Comprehensive Business Start-Up Course for Women**

**Price:** £99.00 including all materials and tuition\*

**Time:** 9.30am to 2.30pm

**Date:** Weds only 18<sup>th</sup> Jan – 22<sup>nd</sup> March (no session 15<sup>th</sup> Feb and 8<sup>th</sup> March)

**Venue:** Chipping Campden School, Cidermill Lane, GL55 6HU

**Chipping Campden School—Community Collaboration**

This flexible and comprehensive course, specifically designed for women will help answer your questions and support you in exploring how being self-employed might work for you. [sjm@sjmcoachingandtraining.co.uk](mailto:sjm@sjmcoachingandtraining.co.uk) or Tel: 01386 701868



**Remembrance:**

A Service of Remembrance was held at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Blockley on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The congregation was full and included a number of parents and children from school.

Following on from this Service the congregation, led by Canon Reverend D Delap, then assembled at the War Memorial. Here, in a moment of silence the 'fallen' were remembered by all. All those named individuals, within the Parish of Blockley, were given the respect they deserved. Wreaths and crosses were carefully laid to rest upon the War Memorial in a fitting tribute to all those who had lost their lives. I was pleased to see so many of our parents and their children attending this important and very moving Service of Remembrance.

**Making a difference in Africa**

In the summer term, many families donated books through Blockley School to the Tishigu School in Tamale, northern Ghana. The Ghanaian school was delighted to receive their parcel, and sent back a treasure box with a gift for every class and letters from the children. For Harvest in September we collected Smartie tubes of coins for Tishigu School, an amazing £384 in change. When added to the church collections we have sent nearly £900 to the school, enough to begin a new library and computer block - they have never had one before. Thank you to everyone. Your generous donations are making a huge difference to the education of children in Tamale.

**Shoe Boxes—Operation Christmas Child:**

Thank you for your donations to Operation Christmas Child. The school along with Blockley Church and Blockley Hub managed give over 100 shoe boxes full of goodies to the charity. The boxes, containing everything from toys to toothbrushes, note books and pens, colouring books and of course sweets will be shipped across the world to children who would otherwise go without a gift at Christmas. The pupils were delighted to be helping children who are less fortunate than they are, and generosity of parents, church goers and people from the village was celebrated in an assembly at school and in church on Sunday.

**Christmas Services at St Peter and St Paul Church, Blockley:**

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service - come and help us make a bed for the baby.

Christmas Day 9:30am Service to welcome Christmas - come dressed as a shepherd, angel or magi to take part.

New Year's Day 9.30am Service to welcome the New Year, with breakfast and Star Trek.

**Musicate Update:**

Throughout the year we are focusing on 5 different Building Blocks to help us become better listeners and players of Music. We have been busy in the run up to Christmas focusing on our Attention Block. Miss Overton-Short and Miss Alcock have attended another successful training day with the Musicate team and have been inspired by this to invest a little more in getting boys to reach all their potential vocal range. If anyone has any 'cds' with male vocalists, who have a varied vocal range, you could donate them to school which we would be extremely grateful.

**DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER**

Bishop Rachel invites you to a celebration of the new Diocesan Vision. 'An all age party to celebrate our faith and to be inspired as we launch our new vision.' The event is free and Bishop Rachel will give a message at 5pm. Saturday 26th November, 4pm—6.30pm, Francis Close Hall, Swindon Road Cheltenham, GL50 4AZ.

**Science Event:**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> November Class 5 were lucky enough to be invited to a talk given by the British astronaut Michael Foale. The children listened to an inspiring speech about how he persevered despite many rejections along the way to achieve his dream of becoming an astronaut. They were shown a number of videos of his space walks and the fun to be had when working in a weightless environment such as drinking water which forms into balls in space. It was a brilliant morning and the children had their picture taken with Michael!

**Always giving our very best:**

A school environment is the one of the best places to gain knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills. It makes greatest sense to encourage all of our children to make the most of this opportunity to learn. Generally speaking the more effort that we, as individuals, are willing to put into something the more we will receive back in terms of satisfaction and overall development. We can all benefit from having a positive attitude towards our work and daily life. We want all children to develop a positive 'can do' attitude towards school life. A sunny and happy disposition helps us all to get the most from every day. We often need to remind ourselves that there is always someone else with greater challenges than ourselves and that fact alone can spur us on to give our very best.

**Value for Term 2: Creativity**

Each person has a creative spirit within them. We should celebrate and enjoy our world, explore and understand it, marvel at its diversity, seek to understand some of its mysteries, show a responsibility for it and look after it and share its riches with all.

### **Panto:**

On Friday 18th November we attended our annual school visit to the Chipping Norton Pantomime which this year was Robinson Crusoe. The story was simple yet entertaining and the children had a great time cheering and jeering (especially the mean pirates!) We sang our Blockley hearts out when asked and were a credit to the school as always!

### **BEd Students:**

During the first two terms of this year the school has supported two BEd students from the University of Gloucester. Miss Hannah Kelly worked in class 2 alongside Miss Williams and Miss Pearson was based in class 5 with Mrs Dodgson-Hatto. Pupils in school always enjoy having students in class as they often bring a new vibrancy to a class. They both performed very well during their placements with us and we would all like to wish them well in their chosen career.

### **Internet Safety:**

PC Nick Westmacott recently came into school to give two Internet Safety talks, one to the Infants and the other to the Junior phase. The Police are very well trained in Internet Safety and so this was the right organisation to provide support and guidance for our pupils as they become increasingly proficient at using computers and mobile devices both in school and at home. As parents and carers you will have seen some of the high profile 'safeguarding' cases in the media in recent years. Based on this recent history we all have a responsibility to ensure that our children grow up to be safe users of the Internet and know what course of action to take if things do go wrong.

In school we restrict children's access, have a secure filtering system run through the South West region of the country and monitor children's use continuously. The Police regularly inform schools to remind parents that they too should carefully monitor their children's use of the Internet by making sure that parental controls and filters are adequate and in place.

### **Sports News:**

There have been many sporting activities taking place both in and out of school. We have successfully competed in cross country, floorball and tag rugby events in the past month. Notable performances from our cross country team, at the North Cotswold Cluster Cross Country event at Chipping Campden School, include; Amelie Cate and Jack Mackinnon-Little both finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Year 5/6 Girls and Boys races. We also had an amazing achievement by William Kenyon who finished first in the Year 3/4 race completing the 2.5k course with ease and well ahead of any rival competitors.

We took our 'B' Team to a floorball competition at Chipping Campden School and with the bare minimum of players the children were undefeated in their round of matches.

At the end of the month we sent a Tag Rugby team to a cluster event at the Fire College, near Moreton in the Marsh. The team, led by outstanding performances from Jack Mackinnon – Little, Joe Harrison and Ebony Dean-Brown, won every game comfortably. The whole team were praised for their attitude towards the opposition and showing respect especially when winning!

We are so proud of our children and their sporting achievements, if they are achieving outside of school in any sporting activity we would love to know and put a photo of them on our sports notice board outside class 3. Please hand any information, of this nature, to the school office and it will then be sent to the relevant person.

### **Parents Information Evenings:**

This term the staff has put together three Information Evenings, Reception intake 2017, KS1 Reading and Writing and KS2 Reading and Writing evenings. All three sessions had a really good and encouraging number of parents turn up to the events. Each session was specifically directed at different groups of parents. Lots of information was shared by the staff that organised and ran the information evenings. I am delighted to say that they were all very successful.

### **Children in Need:**

We set aside Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate Children in Need. Pupils and staff enjoyed wearing something 'Spotty' for the day in return for a small donation. This year the children managed to raise a fantastic £179 for a very worthy cause, so well done everyone.

### **New School Website:**

A small group of Governors and staff have recently been involved in researching a company to redevelop our school website. The existing site has done the school proud for a number of years but with the advancement in new technologies we recognise the need to replace it with something a little more up to date. After much scrutiny we have now chosen to work with a relatively local company who hope to have our new site up and running by the beginning of term 4. The existing site continues to function as normal.

### **Dinner Payments**

A reminder that all school meals should be paid for in advance or on the day of consumption. The easiest way to do this is to ensure that your child's dinner account is in credit on ParentPay. If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals please apply through the website: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/educationgrants> or ask at the school office.

### **Drive Safely**

- *Please take heed of the flashing speed restriction reminders on the approach to the School site.*
- *Please take extra care as soon as you drive into St. George's Hall Car Park and park sensibly not on the slope which restricts access for other drivers.*
- *Please take charge of your child when you are walking across the car park to deliver or collect them from school.*
- *Please take great care when you reverse your vehicle on the car park. Our drop off and collection area can be quite congested and we ask that every driver remains extra vigilant. Please keep all our children safe.*