



# BLOCKLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BULLETIN

September 2016

### Welcome

May I say a 'warm welcome' to everyone at Blockley School especially those that have started with us this year in Reception and others across the school. I do hope that you all managed to have a restful holiday and were able to enjoy your children at home. I'm sure that many of you had the opportunity to take your children on 'days out' or away somewhere for a holiday. The school summer holidays are a 'special time' for children where they can relax at home and enjoy family life. I should imagine that many of you took the opportunity to go for walks across the fields and enjoyed playing in the garden at home during the lazy days of summer. Once again this year we are being treated to an extended summer which we are all very much appreciating.

Children love being outside and we are all so fortunate living in the Cotswolds. There are numerous places to take your children to enjoy the 'great outdoors' so do try and find time at the weekends to take your children for a 'walk in the woods' or a 'play in the park'. Whatever the weather children generally feel better after a good dose of fresh air and a run around.

### A thank you

I have now been working at school since the beginning of September and have been made to feel exceptionally welcome especially by the children. Everyone has worked hard to ensure that my transition to this wonderful school has been as seamless as possible. Staff and governors clearly work as a unified team creating a kind, nurturing atmosphere where children feel happy and safe. In these conditions children have, and will continue to thrive and achieve their full potential.

### Looking forward

I was grateful to have the opportunity to speak to a representative group of parents last Friday in St George's Hall. For those of you that were unable to attend I would like to confirm that I will continue to have a very strong commitment to the school, just as Mrs Jeffcutt had in previous years. We will continue the high levels of support that we are able to offer and at the same time enable all children to strive towards working at greater depth. Praising children for their efforts and achievements will be a central part of motivating children to persevere when they struggle and to extend and challenge those who relish the opportunity to problem solve.

### Settling in

Within these first few days, all the children have worked hard to settle back into school life having been away from the routines for several weeks. As a staff we are very proud of the ways in which they have returned to their new classes. For many children it often takes a couple of weeks to establish or re-establish friendship groups within their new settings. At this early stage in the year we are keen to ensure that everyone settles into their new environment so that they can fully engage with their work and school life. We are all keen to establish new 'home – school' partnerships where children feel secure in the knowledge that both staff and parents are here to support their development.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new staff to the school this year. Miss Alcock has taken over teaching responsibilities in class 4 and Miss Riddle has started working as a part time Teaching Assistant in class 3. As with any new job it does take the first few weeks to be knowledgeable of how different systems functions so please could I ask parents to work with us as we all settle into this new academic year.

DATES FOR SEPTEMBER		Value of the Term
		<b>Thankfulness</b>
Thurs 1st	INSET Day for staff, school closed to pupils	'Count your blessings' is an old saying, but it reminds us to be thankful and not take things for granted.
Fri 2nd	INSET day for staff, school closed to pupils	
Mon 5th	8.40am Term 1 begins for pupils	
Mon 12th	Standards Committee Meeting	
Tues 13th	Roald Dahl Dress Up Day	
Thurs 15th	TA Training	
Mon 19th	3.30pm Harvest Fun at Blockley Allotments 7pm Full Governing Body Meeting	
Thurs 22nd	Ethos Committee Meeting	
Tues 27th	1.30pm School Harvest at Blockley Church	
Wed 28th	9-12pm Knex Challenge—Class 4	
Fri 30th	European Language Day, Dress Up Day	

## DATES FOR OCTOBER

Mon 3rd	Bikability Begins for Year 6 pupils 1pm, Resources Committee Meeting
Mon 10th	Audit begins
Wed 12th	Musicate Class 2 and 4
Mon 17th	Parents Evening 3.30pm—6.30pm
Tues 18th	Parents Evening 3.30pm—6.30pm

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Our new Head Girl, Morgan-Ruth Jones and Head Boy, Oliver Crabtree. May we wish them both every success in their newly appointed roles.

#### House Captains:

Dovedale	Eve Johnson and Joseph Harrison
Northwick	Oliver Gill and Olivia Robinson
Russell Spring	Tiree Dunn and Osian Peters
St George	Jack Mackinnon-Little and Amelie Cate

#### Prefects:

Isaac Aylmore, Harlon Baron-Copley, Colby Chalmers, Seth Daley-Allan, Kezzie Darbyshire, Olivia Graham, Cody Hutt, Dean Innes, Kate Johnson, William Kerr, Oliver Knight, Lara Pritchard, Jamie Smith, Connor Swallow and Alice Webb

*Peer mediators and class councillors will be announced in the next Bulletin.*

### Data Collection

Thank you to all those who have managed to return their Data Collection sheet. It is vital that we keep up to date information in case of emergency. If you have not returned the form as yet please could I ask that you do so as soon as possible. As a reminder, staff can only hand over your children to yourself or a designated person that you have informed us about.

### Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of; Income Support, Income-Based JSA, guaranteed Pension Credit, Income-based Employment and Support Allowance, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (not working Tax Credit), Universal Credit, then you may be entitled to Free School Meals for your child(ren). In addition to this the school could also receive extra income to support your child's academic needs in school. All enquiries are dealt with in a sensitive and confidential manner. Please look on the website <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/article/105978/School-transport-Free-School-Meals>

### Residential Visit to London: 16<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017

The annual residential trip for Years 4, 5 and 6 takes place between 16th May and 19th May 2017. We will be travelling with NST to London staying in a Safestay Hostel in Holland Park. Spaces on the residential are limited to 50 children and will be reserved on a first come first served basis. If you would like your child to participate in the visit, please log onto ParentPay and pay the non-refundable deposit of £40 before 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 to reserve your place.

### After School Care

The school offers After School Care (ASC) which is run by Natalie Hampson each week day from the end of the school day until 5.09pm. ASC is open term times only and is available to all children who attend Blockley School.

ASC also provides a daily snack and an opportunity for the children to mix and make new friends with other children from across the school.

If you would like your child to start attending the ASC please contact the office or speak to Natalie directly for further details.

### Music Lessons

A range of musical instrument lessons are on offer and can be provided during the school day. These are private music lessons and are therefore charged directly by the peripatetic teacher to the parent / carer. Instruments can be hired from Gloucestershire Music service. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument please contact the school office.



Silver Quality  
Mark 2014/15



## Security

We are keen to maintain our 'open door' policy to help support our partnership with parents. At the same time we also want to develop a sense of responsibility within all of our children. To help the process of independence we would encourage parents to 'hand over' your children at 8.40am and then leave promptly unless there is a need to speak to a member of staff. Dropping off the children and leaving them in a calm, prompt and confident manner generally helps to reduce any anxieties that the child may have regarding separating from parents and carers first thing in the morning. As usual the doors will open at 8.40am and will close at 8.50am along with the external gates to ensure the safety of all children at school.

## FOS

Friends of the School welcomes all parents old and new to the new school year. We are looking forward to the year ahead. Our first meeting will be held at The Great Western on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8.00pm. All are welcome whether you are on the committee or not, we will be discussing the events to hold over the school year so if you have any ideas then we would love to hear them, and don't worry, just because you come to one meeting doesn't mean you will be roped in to everything! For new parents to the school it is a good way to meet some other parents.

Each class now has a FOS class representative, they will be an easy contact if you have any questions about events we are holding or anything else. Details will be on each class door. We usually communicate by email, please return the form included in your brown envelope or email [blockleyfoschair@gmail.com](mailto:blockleyfoschair@gmail.com) if you aren't receiving emails and wish to. We are also trying out a website called Classlist.com, this is something you need to register on yourself. We hope it will allow us to communicate with all parents easier and also allows you to contact other parents in your child's class or year.

## Blockley School Lottery

Over the summer holidays the School Lottery has continued to pay out weekly prizes to the lucky winners. Remember purchasing one ticket enters you into 2 different draws, our own school lottery (prize determined by the number of participants) and also a national wide lottery with a guaranteed winning weekly prize of £25,000.00. Sign up and buy your ticket online at [yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://yourschoollottery.co.uk). We have now been running the lottery for 6 months and it has raised £500 for the school so far.

## Vaccine Update/Reminder

To give your child the best protection against Measles, Mumps and Rubella a child needs two doses. This is because the vaccine does not always work fully the first time. Therefore if your child has not had a second MMR as part of pre-school vaccines, I would encourage you to do this now by contacting your GP/Practice Nurse. Children in year 1, 2 & 3 are also eligible for flu vaccine this year.

Further information can be accessed from the following website

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/vaccination-schedule-age-checklist.aspx>

## New Mental Health Website for Young People

The Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group's children and young people's website has now gone live at [www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk](http://www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk)

The website provides information and signposting across a range of topics to help young people who might be struggling with their emotions and difficult situations in their life.

## Church Chat

We would love to welcome you to our church services at St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Blockley. Our Open the Door Services are continuing and happen on the first Sunday of every month. There is time for activities, craft and reflection for the whole family. There is even food on offer if you don't have time for breakfast! We look forward to welcoming you.

Pupils are looking forward to travelling to the allotments to celebrate Harvest Time. Some allotment holders will be on hand to talk to the children about growing seeds, nurturing their plants and harvesting the crops. The children will work in small groups, with adults to assist them, to dig root crops and harvest fruit and vegetables. At the end of the afternoon the produce will be taken to church ready for the school Harvest Festival service at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 27th September. Please do come along to the service in the church.



## Roald Dahl Day

Pupils and Staff had an exciting day on the 13th September when we dressed up for Roald Dahl's 100th birthday. A range of fantastic costumes were worn, which provided inspiration for a range of written work.

## Quote from Roald Dahl:

**"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely"**