



BLOCKLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

BULLETIN

February 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

Have you all recently noticed the birds sharing their dawn chorus, the lighter mornings waking us up and the extension of our working day until 6.00pm? The beginning of spring is without any doubt a glorious time of year. There are many things to look forward to in the countryside at this time of year especially as the new green shoots begin to add a splash of colour to the landscape. I'm sure that we are now only a couple of weeks away from seeing new lambs leaping around the fields enjoying their freedom to roam. When you get the chance, do invest time going for a family walk to enjoy the stunningly beautiful countryside.

Attendance:

I am very aware that during and since half term we have had a number of children absent due to ill health. There appears to have been two or three quite severe bugs/ viruses affecting children and adults, as well as a bout of chicken pox in the youngest class. I hope that for all concerned the worst is now over and that we will once again have our full complement of children attending. As well as appreciating the difficulties of child illnesses I must, as Headteacher, also remind all parents about the importance of good attendance. All schools have a duty to ensure that the pupils in its care have acceptable regular attendance. The DfE has set a minimum figure of 90% attendance for each individual pupil. This means that when individuals fall below this figure, schools are then obliged to follow these up with a reminder letter to parents. This is to highlight the fact that for some reason an individual's attendance has tailed off.



World Book Day:

This will be held on Thursday 2nd March this week when a range of reading activities will be in place for the day including allowing all children to 'dress-up' in the style of a book character for the day. Please do encourage your child to bring in a favourite book from home so that they can share it with everyone else.

Cross Country:

In the final week of last term Mr Jones and Mrs Daley-Allan took a group of boys and girls to the annual district Cross Country event at Moreton Fire College. Despite the cold weather all of the children performed brilliantly and definitely participated in the spirit of the event. Two races took place, one for the boys and one for the girls with some excellent results. Amelie Cate came in 3rd closely followed by Olivia Robinson in 8th position. Both girls have been invited to run for the North Cotswold District team at the County Finals to be held at Newent Community School. Jack Mackinnon-Little had an equally good race and managed a very commendable 17th position. We should remember that there were more than 150 good quality runners in each race. Congratulations must also go to: Tíree Dunn, Alice Webb, Zara Sampson, Kezzie Darbyshire, Sophia Rose, Cody Hutt, Dominic Luff, Wilf Harrison, Harry Bradley, Seth Daley-Allan, Oliver Crabtree, Joe Harrison and Alex Grane, for competing so well.

DIARY DATES			DIARY DATES		
Thurs	2nd March	World Book Day, Dress Up	Thurs	30th March	Experience Easter at Church— for pupils
Fri	3rd March	Internet safety talk (Class 4, Class 3 Year 4 pupils),	Fri	31st March	House Matches
Tues	7th March	6.30pm KS1 Maths Meeting	Thurs	6th April	1.30pm Easter Service, Blockley Church, parents welcome
Wed	15th March	6pm Marvellous Music evening	Fri	7th April	2.30pm Easter Bonnet Parade, parents welcome to watch
Mon	20th March	BDFAS in Hall	Fri	7th April	Term 4 ends
Wed	22nd March	Youth Speaks	Mon	24th April	Term 5 begins for staff and parents BDFAS in hall
Mon	27th March	Experience Easter at Church—for pupils			
Tues	28th March	Experience Easter at Church—for pupils			
Wed	29th March	Experience Easter at Church—for pupils			

Value for term 4 is: Justice

'Be fair and do what is right'

When thinking about 'justice', some people may first think about giving wrongdoers the punishment they deserve. 'Justice' evokes ideas of 'just deserts', 'the punishment fitting the crime', 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. However, that would be a one-sided picture of justice. Justice also means giving all people - particularly the poor and oppressed - what it is right and fair for them to have: life, health, freedom and dignity. It is about acting out of a concern for what is right and seeing right prevailing. It is about social justice, especially for those who suffer most and are least able to protect themselves.

Parent's Evenings:

Firstly I would like to thank our wonderful group of bell ringers; Kezzie, Tiree, Morgan-Ruth, Amelie, Oliver G and Lara, whose job it was to sound the bell along the corridors to remind teachers and parents that their consultation time had come to an end.

I would also like to thank all the parents for coming and working in partnership with the school to learn about the progress and development of your children. This sends a clear message to your children that, what they are doing in school is important and you value their hard work and continued endeavours.

I must insist however, that all parents keep to the simple rule that each consultation lasts 10 minutes and that when the bell is rung as a reminder, it is both polite and mindful of others that the consultation must be curtailed. I am very disappointed that a very small number of parents did not abide by this and caused considerable disruption to other parents. I sincerely hope that these parents will be more considerate next time and fully appreciate the upset that this can cause to others.

PE Kit:

Could all parents regularly check that their children's PE bag is in school each week? We presently have a number of children who have no PE kit in school and we don't have enough spare resources to kit them all out. It is really important that your child has the right clothing to fully participate in PE lessons.

Musicate:

We had a busy term 3 with our Musicate project. Jess came in on the 8th February and worked with both Class 2 and 4. In the morning Class 4 focused on two classical pieces of music. They learnt all about different notes and sang a song in a cannon style. Jess played for us alongside George from Class 4 who accompanied her on the Piano fantastically! Class 2 worked on rhythm and listening to a Jazz piece called Chameleon. We came up with some fantastic games and if you ask nicely they will show you their fish and chip game. We look forward to the next visit where Jess will be working with all classes.



Emergency Closure Procedure

If the school has to close for any reason notification will be placed on the Gloucestershire Closed School Website: <http://www3.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

A quick reminder that entries for the quiz close this Friday. Upcoming dates: 31st March, non uniform day and cake sale (cake donations please!)
1st April - Forest Area Spring Clear Up (volunteers please!)
1st April - Frog Racing at 7:30pm St Georges Hall (tickets on sale soon!)



Thought for the Day:

'I express my care and concern by responding to situations with a cool head and to people with a warm heart. If I remain aware that as fellow human beings we are all part of one family, and that even the smallest of gestures can make a difference in people's lives, I am always blessed with a caring heart. It takes so little to show that I care, yet it can mean so much'.

SATs week: (a further reminder)

The date for the KS2 SATs test this year is week commencing Monday 8th May. These are statutory tests at the end of Key Stage 2 in English and Maths. At the same time children in year 2 will also sit their end of Key Stage 1 tests which forms one aspect of the overall judgements about attainment and progress for these pupils.

Whilst specific groups of children are required to complete their statutory tests we take this opportunity to also assess other year groups to give us an indication of the skills and knowledge that they have learnt during the year. It is therefore really important to ensure that all children are in school throughout this particular week.

Learning:

Good learning takes place where there is high quality teaching in an environment that is creative and inspiring. Along with that comes, a positive attitude and a willingness to try, even when challenged to do things that first appear beyond their grasp. Gaining resilience, being able to persevere and being self-motivated are all attributes that can be learnt as key skills to support learning and development. We can all show children positive attitudes both in and outside of school and in doing so we can all support your children's overall learning potential.

Parking:

Please can everyone continue to use St George's car park with the greatest of caution, as nobody wants to see anyone get hurt, least of all a child. Everyone's continued careful driving is appreciated by all – thank you.

Parent Support Advisor (PSA):

Our PSA is Tracey Baker and she works directly with parents and carers to ensure the best possible outcomes for children by providing access to information for families. Tracey can help parents and carers by offering friendly, non-judgemental support for a range of issues such as: poor attendance, behaviour concerns, family issues such as bereavement, separation or lone parenting. Tracey is available most Thursday mornings in school. If you have not already spoken to her and would like to do so please make an appointment at the School Office.

Lent:

Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. It starts today on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Eve (sometimes called Easter Saturday). But if you look in a calendar or diary and count the days they come to more than 40! This is because you don't count the Sundays in Lent!

For Christians, Lent is a time to prepare for Easter and to think about their relationship with God. It represents the 40 days when Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the desert. During this time he didn't eat or drink anything. Because of this, some Christians give up some food or 'fast' for Lent. For some people this is giving up all food and just drinking, but for others, they just give up luxury food like chocolate or cream cakes!



Sharing Assemblies:

Like everyone at the last Sharing assembly I really enjoyed Class 1's performance. All the children were a delight to watch and along with all the staff I too felt very proud of them all. During their assembly they showed us some of the wonderfully creative ways that they have been learning. I was particularly pleased with their reading ability and confidence at such a young age.

I'm sure that we shall all look forward to a second wave of sharing assemblies which begin again in Term 5 on Friday 12th May.

Best wishes and kind regards, Mr Pudifoot, Headteacher

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.

Church Chat

Please join us for the next Open Door service on Sunday when we are thinking about Lent, with purple play dough! Children and families are especially welcome to eat bacon butties at 9.30am followed by a short service which will finish at 10:30am.

The children will be coming to Blockley Church for Experience Easter over the week of 27 March. It's an interactive way to explore the Easter story, and every class will be invited to participate.