

Bulletin Term 5

Lead **E**ncourage **A**spire **R**espect **N**urture

Blockley School creates a caring environment where everyone is encouraged to be the best they can, with each child supported to love learning, develop resilience, respect difference, celebrate success and value others within a Christian environment.

Dear Parents/Carers,

A whole term of lock down, so not a bulletin like the one this time last year. However, it is great to hear, through your correspondence, what everyone has been doing and how you have been getting along with home learning.

School for children whose parents are Critical Workers

Pupils in school have been accessing their home learning at school and enjoying the lovely weather, eating their packed lunches outside and playing games of socially distanced tennis. They have been based in Class 3 and have enjoyed using the outside space as much as possible.

Friends of the School

Through the kind donation from the Friends of the School we have been able to purchase the maths text books that you will have received (year group 1-6). We would like to be able to use these for children in the future so please do not write in them as they will need to be returned to school at the end of the academic year. Thank you to all those parents who support FOS fundraising activities. We also have to thank FOS for organising our school Zoom disco. We hope you all had fun.

Competition

Between the 12th and the 14th of May 78 pupils from across Key Stage 1 and 2 competed against nearly 100 other Gloucestershire primary schools in the inaugural Gloucestershire Rockstars Championships. The aim was to answer as many correct times table questions as possible. In the inter-school competition we came an incredible 30th, scoring 88,695; incredible because some competing schools were 4-form entry. Our highest scoring pupil was Avril Golden, a year 3 pupil, who scored an amazing 11,609 points! Many pupils have reported that they had great fun, have improved their recall of times table facts and felt part of a team: a winner all around.

The stats tell us that participating has sped up pupils recall with the speediest mean average for Al Shears coming under a second per question and tens of children shaving seconds of their times - we can't wait for the next competition.

Church Urban Fund

You may recall that we supported the Church Urban Fund on Shrove Tuesday this year. In response to our donation we have received a lovely email, an extract of which is written below:

Thanks to you we're able to support communities which are struggling during the lockdown. We're reaching out to lonely and vulnerable people, we're keeping food provision services like food banks running in new and safe ways, we're offering guidance to people whose finances have been hit by the crisis. And it's thanks to you!

*You're receiving this email because you have donated to Church Urban Fund at some point over the last five months of this extraordinary year. We wanted to say an extra **'thank you'** and to let you know the kinds of initiatives your donation is supporting. Whether you donated through a specific campaign..., or whether you made a general donation... – **we are so grateful for your essential support at this difficult time.***

Diocese of Gloucester

The Diocese of Gloucester have put out a series of resources for households called 'Growing Together' written in direct response to the challenges brought by COVID 19. These contain activities and games looking at various different themes and have titles such as 'Choose Joy', 'Living Well Together' and 'Small Things Done With Great Love'. If you are interested in doing something different over half term they can be accessed via the Diocese or school website:

<https://blockleyprimaryschool.co.uk/growing-together/>

Blockley Church

We are unable to have our weekly visits from the Open the Book team during lock down or have school visits from Revd Canon Dana Delap but links to Blockley Church and Dana's blog can also be found on the school website:

<https://blockleyprimaryschool.co.uk/pupil-zone/useful-websites/>

Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24 May) is focusing on the power and potential of kindness which links in very well with our value of the term, Friendship. Friendship is about showing kindness to others.

Coram Life Education have issued a set of activities to help children think about kindness. They can be found through the pupil zone, useful website section on our school website or directly

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/SCARF-home-learning-plans-set-3>

If you have any concerns about your mental health or that of someone else please don't forget that there is help available. Links can be found on our school website under the pupil zone, useful website or visit the government help page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

Please do get in touch if you are struggling.

Respect

As we move into Term 6, at the start of June, our value of the term changes to Respect. There is certainly a great deal of people to respect at this time many working in challenging circumstances and putting themselves out to help others. Staff certainly have a great deal of respect for all of the parents and cares helping with the home learning. Thank you.

Vlog

If you have missed any of the vlogs that have been hosted by Mr Jones then please visit the website where they can all be found. You can even watch again! We love being guests of Mr Jones and being able to talk to you all even if you cannot reply back!

<https://blockleyprimaryschool.co.uk/physical-activity-and-well-being/>

Class 1 – wildlife and gardening

We have been looking after the caterpillars. They started very small and didn't move around much, then they ate lots and grew very big before turning into chrysalides.

We are also very pleased that the potatoes we planted in March are growing very well.

Lock Down activities

It is fantastic to hear about all the hard work that you are doing at home. Thank you to all the parents for their support with the home learning. Although it is harder to find additional new and

interesting activities to do as time goes on, here is a selection of lock down activities that some of you have been up to. Well done!

Valentino used K'nex to construct a vehicle with special powers.



Maddie has been growing seeds to plant in the veggie patch, her tomato and butternut squash plants are growing nicely. She has also made a colourful bird scarer to stop the birds stealing the seeds!



Seb and Maddie have been planting in the garden.



Seb has used some of his birthday Lego to make some exciting stop motion animations. He's experimented with different backdrops and even tried a green screen to put a Lego man on the moon!



Mariella is finally able to horse ride again after some relaxation of the lock down. Here she is with Marvin.

Imogen created a wonderful VE Day Tribute that sat outside their house.



Toby has been doing a 'Race at your Pace' challenge, whereby parents can set the goals for their children, and if achieved, they get a medal and certificate. Last month, Toby was challenged to walk 20 miles. He recorded his distances for each walk using string and an ordnance survey map to help with geography skills, although the last few walks, he tried technology with the App on a phone. He achieved his goal and hence was awarded his medal. (Race at your Pace charge for medals but they donate a percentage of the funds to coronavirus linked charities). This month, the challenge is to cycle 30 miles.



Charlie is doing a sponsored bike ride (50 miles in 1 week) for cancer research. Good luck Charlie!

Margot is missing everyone and says hello!



We wish you all well. Stay alert. Wash your hands.

With kind regards,
Blockley C of E Primary School