



Newsletter

Autumn term 2019—Newsletter One.

Welcome to our new school year. We hope you have all had a wonderful summer. It was lovely seeing all of the children arrive on Wednesday; some for their last year and some for their first. We are extremely proud of how all of our children have settled in to their new class and topics. I hope getting back in to routine for you has gone just as well. I imagine there may have been a few tired children on Wednesday night—I know lots of staff were yawning as they left.

If you have any queries or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact school or myself at headteacher@blakeleyheath.staffs.sch.uk or on 01902 893400.

PTA

Our parents and teachers association is essential for supporting the school with fundraising. Last year they raised thousands of pounds which is used to **pay for half of the coach fare for every child's first school trip.** We are also looking to **replace play equipment** which unfortunately became unsafe and had to be removed last year.

Our PTA is also an excellent way of meeting other parents and friends of Blakeley. We are desperate for volunteers to help us generate ideas and run events. If you are interested please let Miss Richards or the office know and look out for future dates for events and meetings.

It is not just for parents, grandparents and other friends or relatives are also very welcome. We are always looking out for new ideas and fun ways to raise money for our children.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are looking to hold our annual coffee morning to raise money to support the fight against cancer. This is on **Friday 27th September at 9am.** We would love for you to join us. Feel free to donate cakes and biscuits to help make our morning even more special.

E.Learning

As a school we purchase membership to a number of websites which allow your child to develop a range of skills. We have found this home learning has been more popular with our children than the traditional worksheet based home learning and has removed the battle some parents had with children over homework.

Bug club—available for reception to year 2—this allows children to read and answers questions about a text.

Spelling shed—available for year 1 to year 6—games to help your child learn their weekly spellings.

Mymaths—available for year 1 to year 6—tasks relating to the children's weekly maths topics.

Timestable rockstars—available for year 2 to year 6—games to improve multiplication knowledge and increase recall speed.

Alongside these resources children in year 3 to year 6 will also have an **accelerated reading** log in. Every time your child finishes a reading book they will complete a quiz testing their comprehension in school. As a parent you can register to have email updates informing you of your child's progress in these quizzes.

Your child should have brought log in information home. If you need any assistance please don't hesitate to ask class teachers.

TEAM BH

Last year we reviewed our school aims and values to ensure they were still appropriate for our children. We decided that it would help if there was a way to remember them, so we decided on TEAM BH:

T—Teamwork

E—Everyone is valued

A—Aim high

M—Make a difference

B—Believe in yourself

H—Honesty and Integrity

These values were introduced to the children in assembly on Wednesday. We will focus on developing these values and the related skills every half term through assemblies and lessons, especially PSHE.

Reading

Reading is our whole school focus this academic year as we know how children who lack confidence with reading can be affected in so many other subjects and situations.

We understand family life can be very busy but we need your support in encouraging reading at home. Only ten minutes a day can make a huge difference to a child's fluency and confidence. If your child is already an independent and fluent reader then asking them questions about the book they are reading will help develop their comprehension skills.

Please record any reading support in your child's reading record sent home.

After school clubs

We are always looking to increase the range of free after school clubs we provide. We know that sometimes the need to limit numbers can lead to disappointment which is why we update the majority of clubs every half term to offer everybody a new chance to attend.

Please look out early next week for this half terms letter.

Parent and toddler sessions—NEW TIME

The Blakeley Heath toddler group will be opening its doors once again on September 12th 9.30am—11 am. We've got loads of lovely activities planned for the little ones including crafts, sensory activities, outdoor play and story time. All ages are welcome, from babies to pre-schoolers, for £1 per family which includes a drink and healthy snack. Please enter through reception/Blakeley bear's gate on Sytch Lane.

School Uniform and P.E Kit

We already have lost property building up. It is very difficult to find the right owner if items aren't named. Please can you ensure that all items brought in to school are labelled. P.E kit can remain in school and we will send it home at the end of a half term to be freshened up. Children need indoor pumps and outdoor trainers dependent on the weather.

Please check your year group newsletters for your child's P.E days.

Wombourne Music Festival

Our choir have been invited to perform at Wombourne Music Festival. All parents are welcome at St Benedict Biscop church on the afternoon of **Wednesday 25th September.**

Termly Dates

- ◇ 9/9/19 at 3.45pm and 10/9/19 at 6pm —Year 4 Ingestre Hall and multiplication check information sessions for parents.
- ◇ 11/9/19—Year 4 Roman day
- ◇ 24/9/19—Year 6 Victorian day
- ◇ 24/9/19—Wombourne music festival
- ◇ 25/9/19—Year 3 trip to Cadbury's World
- ◇ 27/9/19—Macmillan coffee morning
- ◇ 1/10/19 2.30pm and 6pm —Year 6 Laches Wood and SATs information session for parents
- ◇ 8/10/19—Parent's meetings with class teachers
- ◇ 16/10/19—NSPCC day
- ◇ 22/10/19—School Photos
- ◇ 22/10/19—Year 6 to visit Wombourne Methodist church
- ◇ 24/10/19—Halloween disco
- ◇ 25/10/19—Inset—school closed for children
- ◇ Half term week beginning 28th October
- ◇ 6/11/19—Year 6 family learning - parents/carers/relatives invited
- ◇ 11/11/19—Flu immunisations
- ◇ 22/11/19—Christmas Fair
- ◇ 28/11/19—Year 4 family learning—parents/carers/relatives invited
- ◇ 29/11/19—Wombourne light switch on—Blakeley choir singing
- ◇ Week beginning 2/12/19—Key stage One Christmas production
- ◇ Week beginning 9/12/19—EYFS Christmas production
- ◇ 12/12/19—Key stage 2 carol concert at St Benedict's church at 2pm
- ◇ 16/12/12—PTA Christmas film night
- ◇ 20/12/12—School breaks up for Christmas

Inset days for 2018/2019:

Friday 25th October

Friday 14th February

Monday 20th July