

Blakehill Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs L Keighley



Autumn Term 2026

On behalf of staff and governors, we would like to wish you all a warm welcome back, especially to our newest children in Reception classes and their families. The children have settled really well and we are looking forward to another busy and rewarding term.

Our school newsletters are sent to parents every two weeks to provide information of forthcoming events and to keep you up to date with Blakehill 'news'. They are sent via email every second Friday and are also available on our website. I apologise in advance for the overload of information in this newsletter.

Your child's Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant are best placed to help with any day-to-day queries or concerns you may have. They spend the majority of the school day with your child.

Meet Blakehill Primary School's Senior Leadership Team.

They each have specific responsibilities in school in addition to their Class Teacher role and are also available to support the pupils, staff and parents in school.



Lisa Keighley
Headteacher/DSL



Rachel Gould
Deputy
Headteacher



Sacha Nelson
Assistant
Headteacher



Sarah Dickinson
Assistant Headteacher

Safeguarding

Could parents please notify school if the usual arrangements for collecting your child at the end of the school day changes. In the interest of your child's safety, staff particularly in KS1 will not allow a child to go with an unknown adult unless notification has been received.

Media and Photography Consent Form

Unless we have parent/carer written consent, we are unable to use images/photos of your child on our school newsletters, website etc.

If you have not already done so, please complete and sign the school's Media and Photography Consent Form which can be obtained from the school office. Parents wanting their child to be exempt must also indicate their wishes.

Staff News

A warm welcome to Miss Raan, Miss Blackburn and Mr MacKinnon (Teachers) and Miss Chellam and Mrs. Graves (Teaching Assistants) who joined Blakehill Primary at the end of summer term. We are looking forward to working with you all.

Upcoming events/diary dates this half term

Wake up Shake up daily
8:30am -8:45am

Year 6 Parent Meeting – Bewerley
Park Residential
Wednesday 23rd September at 3:30pm

Languages Day
Thursday 24th September
(non-uniform day)

Year 3 Visit to Yorkshire Wildlife
Park
Thursday 24th September

Flu Immunisation Programme
Friday 25th September

Year 1 Monster Day
Monday 28th September Year 5/6
Cross Country Event – Bingley
Wednesday 30th September

Individual pupil photographs:
Friday 2nd October

Year 6 Chocolate Factory Visit
Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October

Year 4 residential to Nell Bank
Wednesday 14th October – Friday 16th October

Parent Sleep Clinic
Wednesday 21st October at 9:00am

Year 1 visit to Industrial Museum
(Washday Workshop)
Thursday 22nd October

Reception Parent Phonics Meeting
Thursday 22nd October at 3:30pm

School Closes:
Thursday 22nd October. This will be a non-uniform day

School Reopens:
Monday 2nd November

Year 5 Residential to Buckden House
Monday 2nd – Friday 6th November

School Uniform

How smart do our pupils look in their school uniforms? Particularly those pupils in Year 3 who are now wearing a school tie? So far, (touch wood) these seem to have caused very little distraction! We have received so many compliments from staff and parents about the appearance of our pupils in school.

Please note: There are no requirements for any of the items to have the school logo displayed as we understand the cost implication to families that are linked to branded clothing.

We still have many items of preloved uniform in school. These have been donated by parents and are free of charge should you require anything. Please contact Miss O'Brien if you require any items of uniform.

Every class in school has PE twice a week: one indoor session and one outdoor session. PE kits should be worn on the days that your child has PE. A full list of uniform requirements is on the school website. PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING etc. ARE NAMED. This helps us to return items quickly and easily if misplaced.

For health and safety reasons we ask that children do not wear jewellery. This includes hooped earrings. Nail varnish is not part of school's uniform policy. Thank you for your support with this.



Parking Reminder

With the return to the new school academic year, along comes the frustration of limited parking availability at the start and end of the school day.

Inconsiderate and unsafe parking is an ongoing cause for concern among residents and parents/carers, and school are often asked to intervene, particularly when conversations become heated.

This unfortunately is a problem that we all have to manage in the best way we can.

Our main priority is the safety of our children and their families.

The stretch of Highfield Road outside of the school gates is particularly hazardous.

Please Park with care and consideration. A few minutes late is better than an early morning altercation in the presence of children.

Thank you for your support. Please stay safe.

Food, Snacks and Drinks in school

Food allergies

Following recent government guidance around allergies, and with an increasing number of children in school living with complex food allergies, we are asking families not to send in sweets or other confectionery for children to share for birthdays or other celebrations from September onwards.

We appreciate that this may be disappointing for some children, particularly when sharing birthday treats has been a familiar tradition. However, the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all our children must always come first.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to keep our school a safe and welcoming environment for every child.

Keeping Hydrated

We encourage all children to stay well hydrated throughout the school day. Children may bring water, flavoured water or sugar-free diluted juice into school.

Snacks

Children in Reception classes, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit daily. Children in Year 3 - Year 6 can bring fruit, vegetables or **nut free** cereal bars to eat. Crisps, sweets and chocolate bars are **not** permitted.

The school tuck shop, available to children in Years 3 - 6 sell toast/juice at break time. The cost of toast is 20p and a drink is 30p.

We recognise the important role that schools play in encouraging pupils to make healthy life choices which include healthy food choices. Educating children at an early stage in their lives helps them to make considered choices and benefits them in the future. Thank you.

Medication

All medication, including inhalers were returned home wherever possible at the end of term in July. If your child requires medication in school, could you please make sure that this is handed in to staff in the school office. Parents need also check expiry dates on prescribed medication. Thank you!

Supporting Sensory Needs

We understand that some children benefit from sensory resources during the school day. The school has a range of resources available to support children with sensory needs, so we kindly ask that children do not bring fidget toys, squishes or similar items in from home.

Safeguarding

School is responsible for the safe handover of every child to a responsible adult at the end of the school day. We are also responsible for ensuring that older children, walking home unsupervised, are safe and that there is a responsible adult at home when they arrive.

To help us to keep your child safe, please notify your child's class teacher or the school office in writing/email if you give permission for your child to walk home alone.

If there are factors that may impact on the safety of any child, school will ask to speak with parents/carers.

Mobile phones and SMART watches

Blakehill Primary School is a mobile phone free environment. This means that phones are not used by pupils or staff during directed time and only used in designated areas and at break/lunch times by staff. Devices that can take photos or record, including SMART watches, are not allowed to be worn by pupils in school.

Pupil mobile phones should be switched off once on the school premises and handed over to the class teacher for safe keeping until the end of the school day.

ClassDojo Online Parent Communication Tool

ClassDojo is Blakehill's online parent communication tool. It is used by Class Teachers and staff to send positive messages and reminders to parents and carers and supports parental engagement.

If you have not yet received an invitation to ClassDojo or you cannot access the App, please contact your child's Class Teacher or the school office.

Blakehill Residentials

It is almost time for pupils and staff in Year 4 and 5 to dig out their wellies and waterproofs as they prepare for their annual residential visits as part of their geography fieldwork and science topics. Residential visits are a fantastic opportunity for outdoor learning and encourages children to build relationships, stamina, resilience and self-esteem.

Year 4 visit Nell Bank Outdoor Activity Centre from **Wednesday 14th October – Friday 16th October**

Year 5 visit Buckden House Outdoor Centre from: **Monday 2nd November - Friday 6th November**
Kit lists/medical forms etc will be sent out shortly.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

It is that time of year again when our Year 6 parents receive information about applying for a place at secondary school for their child. If parents have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Year 6 teaching team who will be able to help you.

Extra- curricular Clubs

We are incredibly proud of the range of extra-curricular activities offered at Blakehill. We are always looking for ways to extend opportunities for the children in school to participate in a rich and diverse offer of enrichment activities. After school clubs started on Monday 7th September. Look out for letters home about clubs in school and speak to Mr Lumb, the school's Sports and Personal Development Officer for further information or if you have new ideas. *Due to safeguarding procedures please do not enter the school grounds until 4:10pm for collection.* Please see the school website for a list of clubs this half term.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is one of the key factors to a child's success in primary school. Being involved in your child's learning helps to build strong foundations that benefit early education, leading to future success.

There will be a series of opportunities to be part of your child's learning journey throughout the year with our class 'Come and Learn' sessions.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Could you please ensure that our office staff are notified if you have changed address, email or telephone number? Having the correct contact details of parents/carers, (e.g., current mobile and telephone numbers) are vital when children are ill and immediate contact needs to be made.



Blakehill Enrichment Opportunities - making learning meaningful.

Please also see your child's class pages on the school website.



New school year, new beginnings and new experiences. Welcome back to all of our Blakehill children



Feeling like you belong is an important part of our work at Blakehill. All children should feel like they have a place. By giving responsibility and by being part of teams helps us to achieve this. This week we appointed prefects, playground buddies, librarians and our garden buddies. Thank you for your help children!



At the beginning of a new academic year, we reflect on new additions to our school during 2025/26. These include:

- KS1 playground renovation
- New school library and resources
- New class libraries, books and resources
- Year 3/4 and 5/6 boys' toilet renovation
- All classrooms from year 2-6 were decorated
- Classes from year 1-6 had new tables
- Redesign of wasted space into a well-being garden
- Playground equipment investment
- New hall projector

PLUS: in addition to a Teaching Assistant in **EVERY** class, an additional Teaching Assistant across each year group! ❤️

And we won't stop there- watch this space for more projects this year!

Together We Can!



Blakehill Values and Ethos

House Points

Pupils at Blakehill receive house points for demonstrating a positive attitude to their learning, trying their best, never giving up, even when faced with challenges, high-quality work and supporting others in their learning. This system encourages pride, achievement and teamwork. House points recognise individual and collaborative achievements. All children belong to a house team. The names of these teams have strong links with Bradford and are named after Jowett cars.

KINGFISHER

KESTREL

JAVELIN

JUPITER

During our Friday afternoon celebration assembly, the house with the greatest number of house points achieved the previous week is announced.

Statutory Pupil Outcomes 2025/26 Headlines

We are incredibly proud to share with you Blakehill's Statutory Assessment results. 2025/26 was a great year for academic achievement. Well done to all of our children and staff for their hard work and to our families for your support.

KS2 SAT Results

	2024 ARE		2024 GDS		2025 ARE		2025 GDS		2026 ARE		2026 GDS	
	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill
Reading	74%	86%	28%	31%	75%	86%	33%	34%	75%	92%	30%	42%
Writing	72%	86%	13%	17%	72%	82%	12%	27%	73%	92%	13%	35%
Maths	73%	81%	24%	26%	74%	84%	26%	34%	75%	87%	27%	28%
GPS	72%	79%	32%	28%	73%	82%	29%	43%	74%	85%	30%	47%
Combined	61%	72%	8%	13%	62%	75%	8%	13%	63%	82%	8%	13%

Year 1 Phonics

Phonics	2024		2025		2026	
	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill
	80%	86%	80%	82% (APS 32)	82%	93% (APS 38)

Early Years GLD

GLD	2024		2025		2026	
	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill	National	Blakehill
	68%	62%	69%	77%	72%	77%

Attendance

Excellent effort Blakehill – we were in the top **10%** of primary schools nationally for attendance during 2025/26.

Blakehill attendance = 96.8%

Proud to be Blakehill.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Holidays taken during term time are subject to a fixed penalty notice as part of the Local Authority campaign to improve attendance across the district. Schools do not benefit from any fines - this is paid directly to the council however Local Authority schools like ours are obliged to follow the guidance and procedures.

Class Assemblies

Class assemblies are on a Friday morning at 9:15am. Parents and carers are welcome to attend these. The dates of the 2026/7 class assemblies are:

6N: Friday 15 th January	3R: Friday 12 th March	Both Reception Classes Graduation Ceremony: Friday 9 th July
6J: Friday 22 nd January	RD: Friday 23 rd April	
5R: Friday 29 th January	RP: Friday 7 th May	
5M: Friday 5 th February	<u>1W: Thursday 20th May</u>	
4N: Friday 12 th February	1M: Friday 28 th May	
4R: Friday 26 th February	2H: Friday 18 th June	
3G: Friday 5 th March	2B: Friday 25 th June	

Please note:

For child protection and safeguarding purposes, we request that photos and videos are for personal use only and not shared on social media etc. unless express permission from the parent concerned is given.
PLEASE LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AFTER DROPPING PUPILS OFF AND QUEUE AT THE OFFICE GATE.

Attendance - the key to success!

Making every day count!

100% attendance at school is extremely important in helping all pupils achieve their full academic potential. We recognise that good attendance and punctuality are crucial to raising standards and pupil attainment. Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning.

During our weekly celebration assembly, the highest attending class of the week receives a £5 voucher to spend or save.

All children that have 100% attendance that week are entered for a weekly prize draw.