

Blakehill Primary School

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Spring Term 2024

Welcome Back

I hope that you enjoyed a restful half term with family and friends. It is lovely to see the children back in school; they all look as if they have grown that little bit more.

I am sorry for not sending a newsletter out during the final week of the half term as scheduled. It was an extremely difficult end to Spring 1 for staff and pupils.

Thank you all for your understanding, messages of love and support and condolences. This means a lot to us. Our love and prayers of course are with Mrs Pringle's family and friends.

Early Years Rock

Following a review by the Local Authority of Blakehill's Early Years setting last month, we are delighted to share the outcomes. Officers recognised that *staff have clearly worked very hard to ensure the provision and learning meets the needs of all of the children.*

Here are just some of the comments made in the report:

'All provision areas are planned meticulously to enable the children to access the resources independently, develop their learning and consolidate new skills that have been modelled and introduced by an adult.'

'It is evident the staff have spent time in the autumn term, empowering the children to confidently and independently operate in Reception. The awe and wonder of the dinosaur theme greets you as you enter the provision.'

'Staff know exactly what pupils should learn. They enable and support the children's learning through play.'

'The adults skilfully support the children by supporting them in whole class teaching, working alongside them in the classroom or in separate interventions.'

What a great start to their primary education for children at Blakehill – congratulations to our Reception Team!



Upcoming events/diary dates this term

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

Positive Start daily **8:30am-8:45am**

Easter Egg Appeal Assembly **Tuesday 27th February**

Royal Navy working with Year 5 **Tuesday 27th February**

Year 5GH parent/child DT workshop **Thursday 29th February**

Under 11's football coffee morning/raffle: **Friday 1st March**

Falconry People visiting Reception **Monday 4th March**

Class photos: **Wednesday 6th March**

Parent SEND Meeting with Alison Copley: **Wednesday 6th March 3:30pm-4:30pm**

World Book Day: **Thursday 7th March**

Year 2 visit to Harlow Carr **Tuesday 12th March**

U11's football final in Accrington **Thursday 14th March**

Mid-term report to parents **Friday 15th March**

Year 6 visit to Tropical World **Monday 18th March**

Spring term parent/teacher consultation meetings

Tuesday 19th March 3:45pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday 20th March 3:45pm – 7:00pm

Times Tables Superstars

Year 4 are working extremely hard on their multiplication tables in preparation for the National Multiplication Test in June. Mrs Keighley will be handing out special times table champion badges every Friday to children who can answer quick fire multiplication and division questions.

You've got this Year 4!!



Staff News

Farewell, good luck and thank you Mr Brigg (PE coach) who left Blakehill at the end of last half term. We wish you all the very best in your new job. We are really looking forward to working in partnership with Fisical Sports who are delivering our PE Curriculum until summer.

The Blakehill Brew

Hosted by Mrs Shaw, this is a weekly opportunity aimed at parents who are interested in being more involved in school life (refreshments provided). Meet the school council, visit classes, learn about playtimes at Blakehill, discover more about the learning opportunities we provide, talk to staff and meet people that work with school to further support our pupils and their families.

The Blakehill Brew will meet every Friday **9:00am -10:00am** starting **Friday 8th March**. Parents and toddlers are welcome! Look out for the flyers around school.

Parent Conferences – Working Together

Alison Copley, a specialist teacher from the SCIL team (Speech, Language and Communication) with specialism in SEMH is back in school on **Wednesday 6th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm** to deliver a workshop on supporting children with meltdowns. This is an additional session for parents who struggle to attend during the day due to work commitments.

This is an opportunity for parents who have similar concerns or worries to share experiences and speak with key professionals. Everyone welcome! Thank you Mrs Gould for organising.

Our School, Our Community

Come and Play: Weekly from Tuesday 27th February – 5:00pm – 6:00pm at Blakehill Primary School - £2.00 per child

Parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs can find it difficult to meet up in public places without judgement or feeling uncomfortable in the presence of others. This is exactly the view of Jess from Farsley who has a small child with additional needs and was struggling to meet up with other SEND parents on a regular basis in a safe, non-judgemental and spacious play- based environment. Hopping from venue to venue this small group of parents from Leeds were desperate to find a permanent base. Blakehill Primary School to the rescue...

If you have a child with additional needs aged between 3-8 and would like access to a 'come and play' session then please come along – we will even throw in refreshments! We look forward to seeing you.



Backing Our Boys

Parents of our superstar Blakehill U11's football team are fundraising for the team's European tournament in Blackpool at the end of March.

Everyone is invited to a coffee morning in school, on **Friday 1st March from 9:00am**. There are numerous raffle prizes and plenty of cakes to entice you all. For more information, please speak to Mr. Lumb.

World Book Day Thursday 7th March

This year's theme is 'adjectives.'

Are you bossy? Cheeky? Messy? Well, here's your chance to show off that side of your personality by dressing up as your most favourite adjective.

In addition to dressing up, why don't you enter one of our competitions? Wooden spoon story characters or how about story in a jar? There's lots to get involved in.

Parents should have received a letter this week providing more details.



Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Gardner who is expecting her second child in the summer term. We are all very excited for her and her family.

Parents and children in 2G will be informed of their new teacher after Easter.

Spring Term Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings

Tuesday 19th March 3.45pm - 7.00pm

Wednesday 20th March 3.45pm - 7.00pm

We look forward to seeing you all at our Spring Term Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings. These provide an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss their child's learning with class teachers.

Ten-minute slots are available for parents to discuss their child's progress, attainment, effort and behaviour.

Appointments available via eSchools. Please contact the school office should you require help with accessing this.

You Say, We Listen

Your child's midterm report will be sent to parents on **Friday 15th March**. This has been revised in light of parent feedback. We hope you find the new version easy to understand and parent friendly.

Broadening Horizons and Building Character

We are always exploring ways to make sure that the children at Blakehill Primary School have access to high quality teaching, learning and provision. Our extra-curricular and after school provision is exceptional and we love working with a host of external providers to make sure that our children enjoy and excel in school and beyond.

New this term is a Stage 84 drama club, Forest Schools, Art Club, a singing club and Commando Jo activities. Our aim is to provide a broad and exciting range of activities that will interest every child at Blakehill and encourage them to try something new. Since September 2023, 264 (63%) of children have participated in an extra-curricular activity with numbers increasing each half term.

We believe that no child should miss out. If finance is a barrier to your child attending an afterschool club, please speak with Mrs Keighley or our School Business Manager, Miss Scott.



Enjoy and Excel

Blakehill Primary School continues to be a sporting force to be reckoned with as team after team, event after event we stomp home with certificates, medals and trophies. These awards recognise superb sportsmanship, respect, skill and resilience – all fantastic life skills.



Anti-Bullying – Speak Up, Speak Out

No one deserves to be bullied is the key message of our whole school anti-bullying campaign this term. Children are learning about the different types of bullying, being encouraged to recognise signs of bullying, understand what bullying is and what bullies do and how to stand up for themselves and others.

We are working with West Yorkshire Police and other agencies to embrace a collective stand against discrimination and bullying. Pupil work will be displayed across the school in preparation of parent's evenings in March.

Together We Can and We Will

The Best Days of our Lives

We look at enriching learning experiences every day, providing our children with a curriculum that is broad, rich, engaging and meaningful. Take a peek at some of our learning so far...



Odd socks day in Reception celebrating our very own uniqueness.



Working together to practise division – just how maths should be; fun and practical!

Turban tying is so tricky. It's a good job Mr Singh was on hand to help pupils in Year 5.



Ooo just look at that. The oo digraph on balloons. Great learning Reception.



Year 1 loved designing and making castles after their visit to Skipton Castle – some even had a draw bridge!

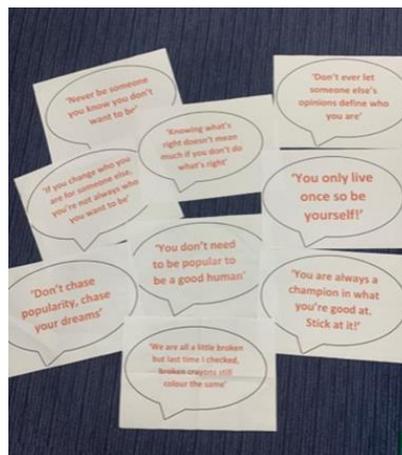
1W taking full advantage of the snowy weather.



Blakehill's cross country participants at Temple Newsam yesterday.



Year 2 Developing breadmaking skills as part of the Great Fire of London project.



Year 6 anti-bullying mottos



What a creative afternoon Year 5 and 6 pupils and their parents had this week making mine carts and fairground rides.

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 Monday morning celebration assembly, the house with the greatest number of house points achieved the previous week is announced.

Well done to **JUPITER** who were our house winners this half term

Class assemblies are held every Friday at 2:45pm. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. Please ensure that you are on time to avoid disruption to the assembly. The dates and time of these are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1W: Friday 23 rd February | 2G: Friday 14 th June |
| 1M: Friday 1 st March | 2H: Friday 21 st June |
| RD: Friday 8 th March | 1W: Friday 28 th June |
| RS: Friday 15 th March | 1M: Friday 5 th July |
| 5GH: Friday 12 th April | Both Reception |
| RW: Friday 19 th April | Classes: |
| 4SJ: Friday 26 th April | Friday 12 th July |
| 4So: Friday 3 rd May | |
| 3S: Friday 10 th May | |
| 3D: Friday 7 th June | |

Please Note: For safeguarding purposes, we request that photos and videos are used for personal use only and not shared on social media unless permission from the parents concerned has been given. Thank you.

Celebration Award winners on Monday 29th January, 5th and 19th February.

