



Blakesley CE Primary School

Newsletter 10th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another busy term at Blakesley.

Our children have already been working hard and making us very proud.

Key Stage One had an 'Out of this World' start to the term with the launch of their 'Space' topic bringing an invasion of aliens, storm troopers, astronauts and rockets (and a few things I'm still struggling to name!) Thank you parents for your efforts and creativity in making the children's costumes look so amazing. Thank you also to the Key Stage One team for giving the children such a fun and engaging launch to the term.



The Blue Butterfly Project

PC Tara from Northamptonshire Police visited us last week to introduce the children to 'The Blue Butterfly Project', an initiative to teach children about keeping safe, sharing their worries and who to talk to if they are worried about something. All of the children gave really positive feedback about the sessions. Please see our display of hands showing our 'personal safety networks' and featuring 'Bertie', the Blue Butterfly!



Phonics Workshop for parents

We were delighted to have so many parents joining us to see how Phonics is taught across Keys Stage One. The feedback that we received was really positive about how helpful the information and strategies shared were. It was lovely to see parents and children learning together. Thank you to the Key Stage One team for making the session such a success.

Fun with Phonics



News of further workshops for parents to follow!

Athletics Success

Our amazing children finished a fantastic second place in the Sports Hall Athletics competition at Sponne yesterday. We are so proud of their achievement which takes them through to the district finals later this year. Well done to everyone and special thanks to Mrs Bloomfield, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Sutton and to all of the parents who helped with transport and gave support and encouragement.



Mrs Johnson

Our achievement in the Sports Hall Athletics is a fitting tribute to Mrs Johnson who leaves our school today to follow her life-long dream of setting up her own dog-walking service. Mrs Johnson has shaped the lives of many of the children that have walked through the corridors of Blakesley CE Primary School. Her commitment to school sports (with trusty fellow coach Mrs Bloomfield) secured us the Gold Sainsburys School Games Mark in July 2016. Mrs Johnson's determined support and guidance, whatever the weather, has brought our competitive teams great success and her care of the youngest members of our school community mean that all of Blakesley's children get the very best start to their primary school career. After 14 years at Blakesley, it will be sad to say goodbye to Mrs Johnson, but we send her off with fond memories and our best wishes – we will miss you Mrs Johnson!

Mrs Ella Sutton will be working closely with Mrs Bloomfield to ensure that Sports provision and participation at Blakesley remains a strength. She will also be developing the school's Health and Wellbeing provision – thank you Mrs Sutton.

Also moving on...

Mrs Douglas will be leaving us at Christmas time. We would like to thank her for her contribution to the education of our Year One pupils and wish her happiness and success in her future.

We have appointed Mrs Emma Darby as our 0.4 Year One teacher. Mrs Darby brings a wealth of experience of teaching in Key Stage One, having previously worked in an

Outstanding local primary school. I know that you will join me in making Mrs Darby feel welcome when she joins us in January.

National Anti-bullying Week

Next week is National Anti-bullying Week; we will begin our work on this important theme on **Monday 13th November** with an assembly about Bullying which parents are welcome to attend. The assembly will start at 9am; this will be followed up across the school through a range of activities during the week. Please ask your children to tell you all about their learning.

Keeping our children safe

Please could I remind parents and carers to drive and park responsibly when dropping off and collecting your children from school.

Please avoid **parking across the school gateway** adjacent to the playground or **using the school gateway as a turning spot**. We have had a couple of 'near misses' in this spot in recent weeks. We want to ensure that all of our school community travel to and from school safely; please play your part in ensuring this. Please also avoid parking on the yellow zig-zag lines to the front of the school.

Christmas 2017

As the school has grown so rapidly in numbers over the last academic year, we have decided to involve all of our classes in leading different aspects of our Christmas celebrations.

Class 3 will be leading our **Christingle Service in St Mary's Church at 9.30 am on Friday 1st December**. Please join us to share the magic of readings and hymns by candlelight. All of our children will make and hold a Christingle, if any parents are able to help with making the Christingles, we would value your support. Please let your child's class teacher know.

Our **Year 6 pupils** will be singing in the annual **Towcester District Choir on Tuesday 5th December at 5.30 in St Lawrence Church, Towcester**. A separate letter will be sent to parents of all Year 6 pupils with further details.

Class 4 will also be leading our whole school '**Carols Around the Tree**' celebration in the school hall at **2.30 on Tuesday 19th December**. Please join us to sing a range of traditional carols and popular Christmas classics. FABs will be selling mince pies and mulled wine – what better way to get into the Christmas spirit?

Reception and Key Stage One will be performing this year's **Christmas play** – an 'out of this world Nativity' (well, what else?) Performances will take place at **5.30 on Thursday 14th December** and at **9.20 on Friday 15th December**. More details to follow.

Supporting our community at Christmas

During our visit to the Towcester Foodbank to deliver our Harvest contributions, the volunteers explained to the children how they always have well-stocked shelves in October when schools and churches make Harvest collections for them. The children were concerned to hear that many families in crisis find Christmas a time of true hardship. The

foodbank told the children that they made special appeals at Christmas time to ask for donations of 'Christmas treats' to add to their food parcels.

We would like to start a collection of non-perishable Christmas treats (for example: biscuits, chocolates, crackers, Christmas puddings and mince pies) for the foodbank.

A hamper will be placed at the school's front entrance and we would greatly value any donations from our local community. Please support us in making a difference to a local family's Christmas. Thank you.

Other forthcoming events:

Monday 20th November: Class Photographs will be taken by the Tempest photographer (individual photographs will be taken later in the year).

Thursday 23rd November: Magic with an e-safety and anti-bullying message. Please ask your children about the messages that are shared.

Thursday 30th November: Flu Immunisation. Reception to Year 4. Please return your consent forms.

Wednesday 6th December: History Off the Page Egyptian Day for KS1, details to follow.

Tuesday 12th December: History Off the Page Egyptian Day for KS2, details to follow.

Monday 18th December: School Christmas lunch, children can wear party clothes for the day as the lunch will be followed by our **Whole School Christmas Party!**

Wednesday 20th December: school closes at 3:10 pm. Happy Christmas everyone!

Wednesday 3rd January 2018: Training Day for teachers

Thursday 4th January 2018: School re-opens for pupils.

We hope that you will join us in our celebrations this term.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Sally Beaton.
Headteacher.