



## Blakesley C of E Primary School

### Newsletter Spring Term: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Dates to add to your Diary

\*\*\*\* New dates have been added in red

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March, 2.45pm **Repeat of session held on 8/3/19	Year 2 SATS Information Meeting for Parents, please join us to find out about the forthcoming KS1 SATs.
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 9am – 2m	Early Years Outdoor Area Working party task force. Please join us to help with Phase 1 of our Early Years Area Improvements
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March approx. 9.30am	Year 1 Phonics Screening Information meeting for parents. Please join us to find out more about the Y1 screening tests
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	PCSO Visit to Class 4
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am	Mothers' Day Service, led by Reception Class
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 9am – 2pm	Early Years Outdoor Area Working party task force. Please join us to help with Phase 2 (make the changes happen!!) of our Early Years Area Improvements
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Bikeability Level 2, Year 5 pupils
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Bikeability Level 1 – Years 3 and 4 pupils
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April, 9.30am	Easter Service, led by Class 2
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for Easter
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	School re-opens to pupils
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS Tests – please avoid taking time out of school this week
May 2019	KS1 SATs, please avoid taking Year 2 children out of school
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 Residential visit, Whitewater Lakes
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Years 5 and 6 Puberty and wellbeing talks
Week commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Year One Phonics Screening. Please avoid taking Y1 children out of school this week
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	NSPCC visitor – Speak out, Stay Safe
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Blakesley Primary School, 350 years community celebration
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Residential Visit (1 night) to Everdon Details to follow, trip subject to sufficient interest
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Rescheduled Life Education Bus Visit
Weekend of June 29 <sup>th</sup>	FABS Family Camp out event (details to follow)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Induction Days at Sponne
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes to pupils for Summer

Please note that all dates listed may be subject to change, we will notify you at the earliest point possible that changes are made.

Our Blakesley Values: Fellowship Courage Compassion Thankfulness Wisdom

## *A Busy Week!*

*We've had a fun and busy week at Blakesley ...*

### *World Book Day*

The children looked AMAZING in their World Book Day Costumes, thank you for your support in helping to bring their favourite books to life. The children really enjoyed trying to find their Where's Wally teachers this morning and Class 1 children loved sharing a book with their parents to start the day.



### *Shrove Tuesday*

What better way to celebrate Shrove Tuesday than with a pancake race followed by a pancake feast? Our children showed great dexterity, speed and appetite towards all aspects of our celebrations!

### *Young Hatters' creativity is un-locked!*

Our Class 1 children's creativity has been set alight this week with a visit from Ben, a daddy who works at the hatters Lock & Co. Ben and his co-worker Sarah inspired our Reception children to make the most amazing hats this week. They provided each child with a Lock & Co hat box and shared cakes crafted into hat designs. A huge thank you to Ben and Sarah both for their generosity and for the fascinating information and inspiration that they provided – it really was a day to remember!



### *Young Illustrators*

Class 1 also had an amazing experience working with Alex, learning how to illustrate book covers. Their intricate and imaginative work will be displayed in our entrance hall soon. Our thanks go to Alex for sharing his talents and providing such inspiration to our children.

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*Our young illustrators in action:*



### *Red Nose Day*

Next **Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March**, we will be celebrating Red Nose Day in style with a **Blakesley Danceathon!** Dancing will take place at various points throughout the day to raise money for Comic Relief. Children are invited to wear their brightest outfits to school – dance themed outfits are even better! – in return for a donation of £1. Parents are invited to their own Dance session at 3pm – Dust off those legwarmers!

### *Website.*

For those of you who have not yet seen our website, please take some time to look through the information shared in it. The calendar provides details of events – hover over or click on the event to see details of what’s happening at Blakesley! Please visit: <https://www.blakesleyprimary.org.uk>

### *We are a Nut Free School*

Please could parents be aware that Blakesley is a nut-free school. Some of our children have nut allergies and, to ensure their safety, we respectfully ask that parents are considerate in ensuring that nuts are not sent into school, peanut butter should also be avoided as a sandwich filler. Thank you for your support and consideration.

### *FAB – u – lous Fruit*

*‘The pears are sweet, the apples are juicy and the bananas are fresh’* – HP Cl4

*‘It stopped people eating their lunch (like crisps) at playtime.’* – PK, Class 4

*‘The apples have been ripe and sweet, perfect for wobbly teeth!’* – ER, Class 3

*‘It’s been lovely to have a fresh fruit snack every day’* – HK Class 3

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Our children's feedback to having a fresh fruit snack every morning over the last two weeks has been overwhelmingly positive. Not only a healthy option, the fruit has been really enjoyed by all of our children. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to FABS for providing the fruit for the children and to Vicky Rogers of Radmore Farm for sourcing the fruit for us.

We would now like to build on this success! The children are keen to continue the fresh fruit snack venture, so we would like to ask all parents **to only send in a piece of fresh fruit for your child's mid-morning snack**. Next week we will trial having fresh fruit on sale at a cost of 50p per item, should you choose for your child to buy their snack at school. Alternatively, please send in a piece of fresh fruit for your child to enjoy during their break-time (Classes 1 and 2 will continue to have their snack provided). Children bringing in snacks that are not fresh fruit, will be asked to save them to eat with their lunch.

### *Drinking Water*

Thank you for supporting our move towards being a water only school. Please ensure that your child brings their drinking bottle containing fresh water to school with them every day. Please do not send in juice or squash. Any concerns, please see Mrs Beaton.

### *Residential trips*

I'm sure that many of you will have heard the sad news that Grendon Outdoor Activities Centre is closing down. Unfortunately, this means that our planned visit for **Years 3, 4 and 5** to Grendon Outdoor Activities Centre in **July 2019** is unable to go ahead.

We really want our KS2 children to experience a residential visit - Mr Hill is seeking an alternative venue and we will update you with arrangements as soon as they are confirmed.

### *Parent Workshops*

**Year 1 parents** are invited to attend an information sharing meeting on the Phonics Screening Tests on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at approximately 9.30am (following our Celebration Assembly)

**Year 2 parents** are invited to attend an information sharing meeting on the forthcoming Key Stage One SATs tests on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 2.45pm.

### *Writing Competition Winner*

Huge congratulations to Thea B who crafted the winning composition in our Writing Competition. Thea wrote about the school's 350<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and was chosen the winner by the owners of the Focus Magazine. Thea's article will be published in the Focus magazine's next edition. Well done Thea!

### *Dolce server post available*

We have such demand for our hot lunches that Dolce (our lunch provider) is seeking to recruit a member of staff to support Mrs Bathe in serving hot lunches. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please let us know.

### *Easter Gardens*

Our Easter Garden design competition was such a wonderful success last year that we would like to offer our children the opportunity to design a garden again this year. Please see the flier attached for full details. We look forward to seeing their entries.

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## Attendance

As you can see below, research links attendance at school with pupil attainment. We believe that the majority of our parents realise that 'every lesson counts' and encourage regular attendance at school. We have high expectations of our children. You have high expectations of us. These expectations cannot be met if your child is absent.

**Attend and Achieve!**  
Days off school = Days of lost learning

Percentage attendance in one school year	Number of lessons missed	Number of days of learning missed
100%	0	0 days missed
95%	45	1 week & 4 days missed
90%	95	3 weeks & 4 days missed
85%	140	5 weeks and 3 days missed
80%	190	7 weeks & 3 days missed
75%	230	9 weeks & 1 day missed

**Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = 1 GCSE grade drop in achievement**

We will not authorise any applications for absence during term-time for holidays. Please see our website for further information regarding our responses to applications made for absences for holidays and the sanctions that can be imposed for this. A full list of absences that cannot be authorised are detailed:

<https://www.blakesleyprimary.org.uk/index.php/key-information/attendance-and-term-time-absence>

Thank you, as always for your support. If there are any aspects of the newsletter that you would like to discuss with me or if you have any issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,  
*Sally Beaton*  
Headteacher