

Blakesley CE Primary School
Blakesley
NN12 8RD
January 20th 2023

Newsletter 3 T3

Dear Parents and Carers,



Fischer Family Trust Attendance Award

The FFT collects daily national attendance figures from schools right across the country. Therefore, we are very pleased to announce that everyone's efforts to encourage and maintain regular attendance have been recognised with the awarding of a certificate acknowledging good attendance. Our school's attendance figures for the Autumn Term 2022 have placed us in the top 10% nationally. Thank you to everyone who takes their child's attendance at primary school so seriously.

At the start of the year a target of 96% minimum attendance for each pupil for the year was set. Whilst we know being poorly is unavoidable, the importance of being in school every day cannot be stressed enough. Missed time away from school cannot be replaced. As stated previously an average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.

Attendance records are scrutinised regularly. A termly meeting with Matt Souster, the local School Attendance Support Officer, takes place where every pupil's attendance figures are discussed. Directives from NCC state that pupils with attendance figures below 90% must be viewed as persistent offenders. In such cases, individual circumstances may be considered. Be aware, communications will be made with families. This could be a quick word, a telephone call or a more formal letter where required.

Where families ask for permission to take their children out of school for holidays remember these days off school cannot be authorised. The importance of your child being in school every day cannot be stressed enough.



Collective Worship

On Monday morning, Richard Meekings, a Diocesan Schools Consultant from the Diocese of Peterborough came to join us in Collective worship. A full report will be shared with our AGC in the near future, but his initial feedback was very positive indeed. The report stated that all pupils were attentive, reflective and totally engaged throughout the time of worship. Worship was led in a way that ensured the children remained engaged and focussed and there was a great sense of warmth and comfort throughout the hall. As well as being invitational and very inclusive, everyone was offered the opportunity to engage. It was very evident that Collective Worship of this nature is a natural and valued part of the school culture, as backed up by 'pupil voice' collected later that morning:

Compassion Courage Fellowship Thankfulness Wisdom



Safeguarding: Using TikTok

TikTok is a hugely popular free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app has gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos. It can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide. However, it is very easy to find unsuitable material, especially for younger viewers.

Attached to the newsletter is an interesting guide providing information about the app showing what parents and carers need to know about TikTok.



Praise

Well done to the following children who were nominated for Special Praise in assembly this morning. We are very proud of you all.

| Pupils who received Praise from their class teachers | |
|--|------------------|
| Class | Names |
| 1 | Blake |
| 2 | Phoebe and Finn |
| 3 | Grace and Tabby |
| 4 | Sonny and Stefan |

Information regarding Strike action

At present, one teaching union has declared strike action, which will take place on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Wednesday 1 March 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school.

If circumstances do change, we will keep you updated. However, based on the information we have at present, the school will remain open as usual on the dates listed above.

Forthcoming events

- 24/1/23 Y5/Y6 Magistrate's Visit
- 3/2/23 Y5 PDET Maths Enrichment Day
- 6/2/23 School Nurse Y6/Rec children Height/weight recording
- 27/2/23 Parents' Evenings (Week beginning)

If there are aspects of the newsletter that you would like to discuss or if you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Laurie Hill
Headteacher