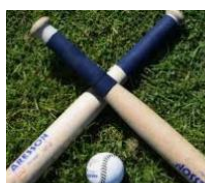


Blakesley CE Primary School
Blakesley
NN12 8RD
April 21st 2023

Newsletter 1 T5

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that all our families managed to enjoy the holiday period. It is wonderful seeing how a little bit of sunshine seems to lift everyone. There have been plenty of smiles on our children's faces during break and lunchtimes as our playground equipment has been re-stocked, thanks to FABs. New hoops, ropes, balls and more have kept the children active, occupied and provided further opportunities to learn to share and play together.



Rounders Competition

'Well done' to Archie, Sonny, Alf, Max, Monty, Libby, Polly, Tilly, Olivia and Bessie for representing our school yesterday in the local Rounders competition, held at Sponne. Out of 6 teams who entered, we came 5th. Hearing the stories about big hits, lots of rounders scored, amazing catches and quick fielding sounded like the team had thoroughly enjoyed the event. To be told about our pupils demonstrating outstanding sporting behaviour, giving encouragement to all and playing so fairly makes us even prouder.

Thank you too to Mrs Rose for organising this opportunity and to the parents who helped with transport.



Local Sporting opportunities

On Monday, Mr Churchward gave a presentation to the school promoting the wide range of sporting activities available to all ages, at Towcestrians, Towcester. As well as playing rugby, children could also pursue an interest in cricket, hockey, tennis or archery. It is wonderful to have such a hub of activity so close. For further information and contact details, please collect a leaflet from the foyer/school office.

If interested in joining Towcester Town football club, please contact me. L.Hill@blakesley.pdet.org.uk

Beth Gibb will start delivering tennis coaching to Class 3, Year3 and Year 4, as part of the PE Curriculum at the tennis courts on Blakesley Playing Field on Tuesday afternoons. Weather permitting, these lessons will begin next week on 25th April. Please note PE days for Class 3 are now Monday and Tuesday.



Clubs and activities

Well done to the chess enthusiasts in Class 3 who have been keen to get a club up and running. Yesterday's first meeting was a success. The club starts at 12.40pm in Class 3 every Thursday open to Y1 to Y6. Hot/cold lunches can be eaten in the classroom or early lunch sittings can be arranged. If there are any unused chess boards at home that could be donated to help this club they will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Gardening club starts on Monday 24th April, open to all year groups. This club is open all over the lunchtime period so that children can join in before and after they have had their lunch.

If there is any interest in joining in with chess or gardening, please contact the school office.

office@blakesley.pdet.org.uk



Length of school day

Thank you for the feedback received in response to my letter, dated March 1st 2023, regarding proposed changes to the length of the school day, here at Blakesley CE Primary School. The key issue raised by parents was the need for the same start/ finish times across the school.

In September 2023, there is a requirement from the DfE that all schools are open to all pupils for a minimum of 32.5 hours per week. The school day is measured from the time school officially starts to the time when children are released to go home. Therefore, changes to the school day will be implemented in September 2023 when the school day will commence from 8.45am to 3.15pm, for **all** pupils at Blakesley CE.

Further details will follow later in the Summer term.



Attendance

At the start of the year a target of 98% 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. An average attendance of 90% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole year from school.

As stated previously attendance records are scrutinised regularly. Pupils with attendance figures below 90% are now viewed as persistent offenders. Regular meetings are taking place each term with the NCC attendance officer. Those children causing a concern are discussed in detail. Individual communications will be made with families. This may 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.



Punctuality

School doors are open from 8.40am and the registration period is officially between 8.50am and 9.00am. Any pupil arriving after 9am is marked as a late arrival. Being late for school reduces learning time. Being ready for school and being punctual certainly helps children settle more quickly for the day ahead. If your child is 5 minutes late every day, they will miss approximately three days of learning each year.



Celebrating the Coronation

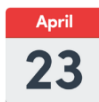
On Friday 5th May, at 2.30pm, there will be an open event for the whole school community and beyond. The school will be hosting an afternoon tea party. There will be cream teas available, a cake competition, plus artwork and writing on display for all to see.



Information for Parents

Information explaining how KS1 SATS are to be administered will be shared at a meeting being organised for Y2 parents. Further details are to be outlined in a separate letter being sent very soon.

Also, a reminder that the information sharing presentation is taking place next Friday after school for all parents of Y6 pupils attending the residential trip to Whitemoor in May.



Safeguarding: Emergency alert

The government is testing an emergency alert service on April 23rd at 3pm. This emergency alert will be sent to all mobile phones and tablets.

The message will say:

This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there's a life-threatening emergency nearby.

In an actual emergency, follow the instructions in the alert to keep yourself and others safe.

Visit gov.uk/alerts for more information.

This is a test. You do not need to take any action.

People at risk of domestic abuse have been advised to turn off any mobile device they want to keep hidden. It is understood that most devices should receive the signal instantly, but some may need to be switched off for a minute or so to ensure the alert does not sound. If further help is needed in these situations, call the national [domestic abuse helpline](https://www.nhs.uk/111) on 0808 2000 247, or visit [Women's Aid](https://www.womensaid.org.uk).

Home to School Transport Consultation

West Northamptonshire would like to know your views on changes that they are proposing to the Home to School Transport service. These changes are required to meet increased demand and operating costs, whilst also exploring opportunities to give greater flexibility for parents and help to promote sustainable travel.

The changes that are being proposed in this current consultation will not come into effect until September 2024. The proposition focuses on a set of proposals, as well as providing opportunity to feedback on transport arrangements and a Draft Home to School Education Transport Policy (September 2024 to July 2025).

This consultation closes midnight Tuesday 30 May 2023.

Please visit <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/home-to-school-transport-2023/> for further information including how to have your say.



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
2	Philippa + Evie
3	Rory + Isabella
4	Polly + Harrison

Forthcoming events

- Rev Sue Stanley leading Collective Worship 24th April
- Dolce Food Tasting Event 3.30pm to 4pm 25th April (all parents welcome in hall)
- Information Session Y6 Trip for Parents 3.30pm-4pm 28th April
- Coronation School Event 2.30pm Fri 5th May
- KS2 Sats week 9th May (Tues-Fri)
- Life Education Visit 16th May
- Y6 Residential 17th-19th May
- Bikeability Y5 22nd -25th May
- End of Term 5 Fri 26th May

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

Compassion Courage Fellowship Thankfulness Wisdom