



Blakesley CE Primary School

Newsletter 17th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children In Need



Thank you for all of your donations towards Children In Need. We have raised a fantastic £125 to support this event.

We will hold a **Mufti Day on Friday 7th December**, children can wear their own clothes to school in return for a donation of 'Luxury Christmas Goods' (non-perishable items please) for Towcester Foodbank's Christmas hampers.

Remembrance Service, Friday 10th November

Thank you to everyone who attended our Remembrance Service amongst the poppies last Friday. I'm sure that you will agree that the children spoke, sang and conducted themselves impeccably.



Thank you also to our neighbour, Mr Russell, who planted the poppies out again on Sunday morning for Remembrance Sunday. We had emails from community members and people who had passed through the village commenting on what a beautiful and moving sight they were, including this lovely email from a lady from Plumpton:

'What a wonderful sight the poppies were on the village green this weekend. A beautiful tribute to the fallen by the pupils and staff. Thank you.'

Scarlet Fever

We have had a case of Scarlet Fever reported by a member of our school community. Please see the attached letter for information on symptoms, treatment and required absence periods. Please notify us if your child develops the symptoms. We will be talking to the

children about the hygiene routines that will help to prevent the illness spreading, please reiterate the importance of these to your child at home

History Off The Page Ancient Egyptians Days.

We are really looking forward to welcoming 'History Off The Page' to Blakesley; they will transport the school hall back to Ancient Egyptians times on **Wednesday 6th December (KS1)** and **Tuesday 12th December (KS2)**. Please see below for some of the possibilities!

Life in Ancient Egypt

Welcome to the 14th century BC, the 8th year of Akhenaten's reign. Construction of a new utopian city to honour the god Aten nears completion. To celebrate, the Pharaoh plans to name a new high priest, the Mery-Ra, to oversee religious worship. (Pharaoh banned worship of all other Egyptian gods.) No one knows who the Mery-Ra might be.

The children serve as workers and slaves finishing the construction of the city. They complete important tasks in ancient Egyptian culture, including embalming, tomb painting and amulet making, among others.

The afternoon features an Egyptian "banquet" — what will the pronouncement of the Pharaoh be?

Published Admission Number Consultation

As our school has grown in numbers significantly over the last two years, Governors have decided that we should reduce our Published Admission Number (number of children admitted in each Reception intake) from 17 to 15 from September 2019.

This will ensure that:

- We maintain our 'small village school' character;
- We ensure that our shared spaces can accommodate our whole school population;
- We limit our Key Stage 2 class sizes to 30 in future years (as opposed to 34 with an intake of 17).

The Local Authority offer a period of consultation on this proposal; parents are invited to offer their views by following the link below:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/Pages/admission-arrangements-consultation.aspx>

Before and After School

In this week's assembly, we will be reminding the children to stay off of the grass and wooden trail before school and to not play with the tyres or balls that are on the playground before the bell goes. We will explain that this is to keep them and the smaller children (and

adults!) on the playground safe. We would greatly appreciate it if you could reinforce this message to your children.

PE Kits

Now that the weather is changing, please ensure that your child's PE kit contains warm clothing (sweatshirt/jogging bottoms/leggings) and footwear suitable for all-weather PE. Many thanks.

Teaching Assistant Support

Miss Eve Williams has now joined our Key Stage 1 team, increasing her 0.5 role to become a full-time member of staff. Miss Williams brings considerable experience of Key Stage 1 from her previous roles.

Foxley Trust Donation

We would like to thank the Foxley Trustees for their generous donation to the school. Their contribution will enable us to purchase resources to support the implementation of our 'Kinetic Letters Handwriting' programme to Key Stage One (details and parent workshop to follow!), to fund training in the Soundwrite phonics programme and to purchase Maths resources to enhance our teaching of Maths. Thank you Foxley Trust!

Dates for your diary

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

Wednesday 22nd November: Water Safety Assembly

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

Monday 27th November: Year 6 Science focussed visit to Sponne

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

Thursday 30th November: Cross Country Tournament, Sponne School.

Friday 1st December at 9.30am: Christingle Service at St Mary's Church

Tuesday 5th December at 5.30: Year 6 pupils will be singing in the annual **Towcester District Choir in St Lawrence Church, Towcester.**

Wednesday 6th December: History Off the Page Egyptian Day for KS1

Friday 7th December: Mufti Day please donate luxury Christmas goods for Towcester Foodbank's Christmas Hampers.

Saturday 9th December: Messy Church

Tuesday 12th December: History Off the Page Egyptian Day for KS2

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!**

Tuesday 19th December, 2.30pm: Christmas Carols and Readings around the Christmas Tree led by Class 4. Please join us; FABS will be selling mulled wine and mince pies

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.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Kind regards,

Sally Beaton
Headteacher

Public health management of scarlet fever outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings

Dear parent / guardian,

We have been informed that a member of our school community has been diagnosed with suspected scarlet fever. Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

Complications

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling).

If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately. If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

You can find more information follow the link below to see Frequently Asked Questions.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/338368/Scarlet_fever_Q_and_A_factsheet.pdf

Yours sincerely,

Sally Beaton
Headteacher