



## Blakesley CE Primary School Newsletter

October 2019

### Dates to add to your Diary

Our Calendar is filling up with events this term. Newly added events will be added in *green* for your reference. Please also refer to our website for information.

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Hots Hots Club starts 3.15-4pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception and KS1 visit to the Pinnacle Centre
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Scholastic Book Fair - Open after school
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Lockdown Practice
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 9.00- 10.30am	Open morning for Prospective Reception Parents – <i>Please note revised times</i>
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 9.00-10.30am	Open morning for Prospective Reception Parents <i>Please note revised times</i>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes to pupils
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	YEAR 6 PUPILS: Closing date for secondary school place applications
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Teacher training day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	School re-opens to pupils
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November, 2.30pm	Remembrance Day service (on the grass bank in front of the school) led by Year 6
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 3.30-5.30pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 5.00 – 7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Sponne Cluster Cross Country Event hosted by Blakesley
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	FABS Hotdogs and Movie Night, 3.15pm – 5pm ( <i>details to follow</i> )
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	School photographs (Tempest) Individual/ with siblings in school
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am	Christingle Service, St Mary's Church, all welcome
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December, 2pm	Key Stage One Christmas Play, Dress Rehearsal (grandparents/community members/ pre-school community)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December, 6pm	Key Stage One Christmas Play (2 tickets allocated)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 2pm	Key Stage One Christmas Play (grandparents/extended family/friends)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2pm	Class 4 Leading Carols and Readings Around the Tree at St Mary's Church
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 3pm	Mulled Wine and Mince Pies following our Carols Around the Tree (in the School Hall, all welcome)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for Christmas
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Teacher training Day: School closed to pupils
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens to pupils
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Life Education Bus
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole Class photographs
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes to pupils for half term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens to pupils

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

## *Dear Parents and Carers,*

*It's been an action packed September! Our children have made us proud in so many ways, both within school and whilst representing Blakesley in our out of school activities.*

*We are really seeing our pupils beginning to 'live' the school values:*

- their tangible acts of kindness are ever present in our children's words, deeds and thoughts*
- genuine acts of thankfulness and generosity have been celebrated through our Harvest services and in our collections for the Towcester Foodbank;*
- courage and great resilience were demonstrated by many of our children when trying new activities at our recent watersports day for KS2;*
- and the sense of fellowship within our school community, particularly in the way our older children care for our new Reception pupils, makes Blakesley feel a very special place to be.*

*At Blakesley we believe in developing our pupils' characters as well as their academic achievement. Over recent weeks, we have been delighted to see that the individual and collective character of our school goes from strength to strength. Thank you for your support in making this possible.*

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## *Clubs*

### **Freestyle Soccer:**

Wednesday lunchtimes

### **KidzTrickz Circus Skills Club:**

Wednesday 3.10 – 4.15pm

### **Kidslingo French Club:**

Friday lunchtimes

### **Hotshots Basketball Club:**

Friday 3.10 – 4pm

## *Teacher-led Clubs:*

**Multisports Club** with Mr Hill (Years 2-6) Monday 3.15 – 4.15pm

**Coding Club** with Mrs Cox and Mrs Klegeris – Friday Lunchtime

**Maths Club (Y5&6)** with Mrs Conway Thursday lunchtime

Class 5 children who live in the village may walk home from school after clubs if written permission is sent in advance.

## *Knitting Club*

Mrs Edwards will run a lunchtime knitting club for Key Stage 2 pupils starting after half-term.

If you have any wool or needles, suitable for knitting that could be used by pupils, please could you send them in to Mrs Edwards or pop and have a word with her after school.

Children interested in learning to knit should register their interest with Mrs Edwards.

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## IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARENTS – MORNING DROP ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

To enable safe arrangements for lifts to the Pinnacle Centre for our Reception and KS1 pupils, we are changing morning drop-off arrangements for **ALL PUPILS** on the morning of **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October**.

Cars providing lifts for our pupils will drive onto the playground from 8.15am on the morning of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. The cars will be leaving our site at 8.45am to get the children to the centre for a 9.30am start.

To enable this and keep all of our pupils safe, we are implementing the following arrangements:

**Reception and KS1** parents drop off at the **school's main entrance at 8.30 am**, taking car seats to be fitted in the appropriate cars ready for an **8.45 departure**. **Please do ensure that you are punctual.**

**KS2 pupils** should access the school via the **school's main entrance** (NOT the school gate and playground) from **8.40am** as usual.

Please note that our parents providing transport for pupils need to have clear access to and from the school site on Monday morning.

Please could we request that all parents park considerately with this in mind. We are aware of how busy Hillcroft View gets, so if parking here could be minimised, we would be very grateful. Where possible, please **drop off promptly and consider parking further from the school and walking your child across to the school**. Staff will be outside of the school to support with walking the children to school if necessary.

Thank you; your support will ensure that we keep all of our children safe.

### Saying Goodbye to ...

We are sad to say that Mrs Bloomfield will be leaving us on October 15<sup>th</sup>. After a wonderful 19 years at Blakesley, Mrs Bloomfield has decided that she would like to spend more time with her family, especially her grandchildren. We cannot possibly thank Mrs Bloomfield enough for all of her work at Blakesley over the years, we will miss her greatly and wish her lots of happiness for the future. Thank you Mrs Bloomfield, from all at Blakesley.

### Harvest Celebrations



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our harvest service, brilliantly led by our Class 4 children. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed an assembly led by Barbara Parfitt, a co-ordinator and volunteer at the Towcester Foodbank. As ever, the Food Bank volunteers were extremely grateful for your generous donations to their incredibly worthwhile cause (which totalled an incredible 75.8kg).

Our Harvest Supper was also a huge success in spite of the torrential downpour (or perhaps because of it!) our Hall was packed with families enjoying soup and bread, baked by the children.

We made a profit of £76 which will be donated to a charity decided by our school council. Thank you all for your generosity.

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### Calling all Aldi Shoppers!

We have signed up to the Aldi – Kit for Schools scheme where vouchers attained through shopping at Aldi are collected by schools and can be exchanged for Sports kit. Participation in the scheme also enables us to access a £20,000 lottery. Please send any vouchers collected in with your child. For more information, please see: <https://www.aldi.co.uk/kitforschools>

### Open Morning for Prospective Parents (children starting school in 2020)



*Please note the slight change of time for these sessions*

We will be holding Open mornings for Prospective Parents (2020 Intake) on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 9.00 – 10.30am** and **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 9.00 – 10.30am**. Please join us if you are interested in a place for your child and share this information with relevant friends and community member, all are welcome.

### Treasure Island Lands in Blakesley!



On Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, the children were lucky to be treated to a special performance of 'Treasure Island' by the touring theatre group m&m theatre productions. The children were entertained (sometimes at the

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expense of our lovely teachers!) and thoroughly enjoyed the show. The company were highly impressed by the thoughtful questions posed by our Key stage 2 children in a Q&A session following the show.

The production was made possible by a generous donation to the school by the family of Alfie in Year 4. Our thanks go to Alfie's family for making such a special and memorable event possible.

### A new piano ...

Thank also go to those parents that responded to our plea to the community to help us to source a new piano for the school. We have, with thanks to the Dickson Lewis family, managed to acquire a new piano which they collected and transported to the school for us. Thank you so much.

### KS2 Watersports Day



Our Key Stage 2 children recently enjoyed a visit to the Nene Whitewater Centre in Northampton where they tried their hands at canoeing and kayaking.

We were incredibly proud of all of our children at this event, but a special mention goes to those who showed great courage in overcoming their fears to try a new activity. Thank you to all of the parents who supported the trip by providing transport for the children. All of our pupils (and adults) agreed that the experience was great fun ... I think that the smiles say it all!



### Visit to Peterborough Cathedral



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On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, three of our Year 6 children joined children from other local church schools to attend a special service dedicated to the schools within the Peterborough Diocese at Peterborough Cathedral. The children shared Towcester Primary School's mini bus with our other local PDET partner schools, making new friendships as well as representing our school perfectly at the cathedral. Thanks go to Mr Hill for taking the children.

### Tag Rugby at Sponne

Our KS2 children represented us brilliantly in the local tag rugby competition at Sponne this week. They wore their Blakesley badge with pride and showed great sportsmanship and team spirit in all of their games. Well done Team Blakesley!



### Mindfulness with Lemonkind

As part of our PSHE work, we are encouraging our children to be aware of strategies to ensure good mental health and wellbeing. Sarah from Lemonkind is working with our Class 5 children to deliver a programme of mindfulness techniques over this half term. The children have all really enjoyed their sessions, Sarah will be training all of our teachers, teaching us mindfulness strategies to use with all of our classes.



## Secondary School Places for Year 7 pupils (2020)

Please see below the key dates and deadlines for parents of current Year 6 pupils applying for Secondary School places for September 2020.

Applications close at 5pm on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**. Failure to submit your application by the deadline may result in your application being treated as a late applicant and only allocated a place once all first round applicants' places have been filled. Please do not leave your application to the last minute.

## Secondary school admissions - key dates and deadlines

Stage in process	Date	Action
Prepare and apply	10 September 2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the information on this website carefully</li><li>• Visit schools on open evenings and read school prospectuses</li><li>• Attend the school admissions applications events</li><li>• Read schools' oversubscription admission criteria</li></ul>
Deadline for applying	Thursday 31 October 2019 at 5pm - <b>closing date for applications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit your preference form by the closing date</li><li>• Send any <a href="#">supplementary information forms (SIFs)</a> if applicable to the preferred school(s) in support of your application(s)</li></ul>
Offers made	Monday 2 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offer emails sent or view your offer online (online applications only);</li><li>• Offer letters posted to people who sent in an on time paper application.</li></ul>

Applications should be made to Northamptonshire County Council Admissions Department, following the link below.

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-school-places/Pages/how-to-apply-for-a-secondary-school-place.aspx>

**Sponne Secondary School are holding their Open Evening** for prospective parents on the evening of **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 6-8pm**. Please see their website for further details and information on Admissions Criteria. <https://www.sponne.org.uk/index.php/key-information/admissions>

### *Tuck shop is back (with a healthy option too!)*

FABS are running a weekly tuckshop after school each Friday this term. Snacks are available for 50p per bag, all proceeds support the opportunities and resources that we can provide for our pupils. Thank you for your support.

### Volunteers to support with Reading

Our school is really focussing on developing our pupils' reading this year. We cannot place enough value on giving children the opportunity to read aloud to an adult and as such, we are always looking for volunteers to support us with hearing our pupils read in school. If you, or someone you know, are able to volunteer some time to support us with this we would be very grateful. Additional adult support in school is always appreciated so please come and register your interest in the school office. Your help makes a difference!

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### Scholastic Book Fair is coming

Please join us at our Scholastic Book Fair next week. Starting on Thursday after school, pupils will be able to select and buy books to enjoy. Please pop in and have a look, there are books for all ages of children - perfect for Christmas! Our school receives a commission in Scholastic books for all books sold – a double win!

### Term Dates and Term Time Holidays

We're aware that it's a busy time of year for making holiday arrangements. Please could we request that holidays are booked during designated school holiday times rather than during term time wherever possible. **We cannot authorise absence for holidays that are taken during term time and as such unauthorised absence from school may result in a referral to the Local authority for a fixed penalty fine.** Thank you for your support.

Please see below the term and holiday dates for this year to support you in your arrangements:

**Blakesley CE Primary School**  
**Term dates 2019/20**

Term 1	Training day	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019
	Training day	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
	School re-opens	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
	School closes	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
Term 2	Training day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
	School re-opens	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
	School closes	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Term 3	Training day	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020
	School re-opens	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
	School closes	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
Term 4	Training day	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
	School re-opens	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
	School closes	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April
Term 5	School re-opens	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April
	School closed – bank holiday	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May
	School closes	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Term 6	School re-opens	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
	School closes	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July

### Booking Wrap Around Care

#### **After School Care – Larks and Stay and Play**

Now we are into our first term and everything is running again it's a good time to remind everyone of the process for our before and after school care.

Please use the booking forms on our school website prior to the date you require the booking for.

We can take children at late notice if you have an emergency but, due to popularity, we really need to receive your booking in advance to make sure numbers comply with health and safety. Therefore, the cut off for making bookings will be 1pm on the day you require.

If you email the school, please always send it to the office and appropriate after school club leader for the day so that all staff can ensure your child is in the right place at the right time. Also please be mindful that a lot of calls just before the end of the day makes it difficult to get the message quickly to the right person.

We do not issue invoices as we ask for the money before or on the day you use the club. We do not send invoices out but will send a reminder if your outstanding balance increases. If you wish to pay with childcare vouchers, please see Mrs Thompson to set it up. We use several providers. We want to continue to offer a good service, but it would be really help us if we use the system detailed above. Thank you for your support.

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

Kind regards,  
*Sally Beaton*  
Headteacher