



Blakesley CE Primary School Newsletter

December 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.

Tuesday 3rd December pm

Friday 6th December, 9.30am

Monday 9th December, 2pm

Wednesday 11th December, 6pm

Thursday 13th December, 2pm

Tuesday 17th December

Friday 20th December, 2pm

Friday 20th December, 3pm

Friday 20th December

Friday 3rd January

Monday 6th January

Tuesday 4th February

Thursday 13th February

Friday 14th February

Friday 14th February

Monday 24th February

Tuesday 25th February

Towcester Carol Concert (Year 6 pupils only).

Christingle Service, St Mary's Church, all welcome

Key Stage One Christmas Play, Dress Rehearsal

(grandparents/community members/ pre-school community)

Key Stage One Christmas Play (2 tickets allocated)

Key Stage One Christmas Play (grandparents/extended family/friends)

A VERY Christmassy Day (see below)

Class 4 leading Carols and Readings Around the Tree at St Mary's Church

Tea, coffee and Mince Pies following our Carols Around the Tree (in the School Hall, all welcome)

School closes for Christmas

SPRING TERM 2020

Teacher training Day: School closed to pupils

School re-opens to pupils

Life Education Bus

Whole Class photographs

School closes to pupils for half term

FABS Children's Christmas Disco in the village hall (5-7pm)

Teacher Training Day

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,

As we now enter the festive season, I'd like to write to share the arrangements for the activities and events taking place in the run up to Christmas. This is always a very special time of year in a school; providing us all with an opportunity to celebrate together as a community. The excitement and joy of children at Christmas time is a pleasure to behold. I do hope that you and your families will join our Christmas celebrations to share in the children's magic over the coming weeks.

Kind regards

Sally Beaton

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Our Blakesley Values: Fellowship Courage Compassion Thankfulness Wisdom

A big thank you...

We would like to thank the Blakesley Fireworks Committee for their generous donation of £800 to our school following a very successful Fireworks Display this year. The funds will be used to purchase Soundwrite Phonics reading books to support our children's reading development throughout the school. We are extremely grateful to the Fireworks team for this and know that their donation will make a direct and significant impact on our pupils.

Thank you also to FABS who are providing the remaining funding to support our purchase of these valuable resources.

An Inclusive School

We firmly believe that our role as educators is to prepare our children for life in the modern world. Our PSHE programmes, assembly themes and the experiences that we offer aim to promote our school value of Fellowship and to educate our pupils about the diversity within our wider British society. We encourage the children to develop their understanding of different religions, races, and abilities of people so that they can function well with people of all kinds and contribute effectively to society.

My wonderful nephew Samuel, now aged 15, has quadriplegic cerebral palsy. A condition that means he is unable to walk, speak or feed himself. Believe me, this does not affect his ability to love life, to enjoy sport of all kinds and to understand every aspect of his world around him. He laughs often; his sense of humour is infectious.

Samuel attended a mainstream school one day each week; he was in my class. He taught all of the able-bodied children many valuable lessons about 'seeing beyond the chair', about looking at his abundant love of life and about giving time to know him as a person. He had a wonderful school life but, equally importantly, his presence enriched the lives of his class and school mates, he taught them many important lessons about how to care for and respect people with disabilities. I firmly believe that living alongside Samuel helped them to grow as young people.

Please could we all take some time to reflect on this. To talk to our children about this and to consider how we individually, and as a school can ensure that we are inclusive and willing to learn about and from difference. After all, wouldn't it be dull if we were all just the same!

Christingle Service, Friday 6th December at 9.30am

Please join us to open our Christmas celebrations at the start of Advent with our Christingle Service in St Mary's Church. The Service will be led by our Class 4 pupils.

To enable us to produce Christingles for all of our pupils, **please could each child bring to school a large orange (NOT satsuma or clementine) by Wednesday, 4th December.**

As the children will be holding candles during the service, please could parents ensure that long hair is securely tied back. We look forward to seeing you at the service, it's the perfect way to begin the festive season.



Key Stage One Christmas Productions

We are very excited about the preparations that are taking place for our Key Stage 1 Christmas Production which will take place in the school hall at Blakesley as follows:

Monday 9th December at 2pm: Dress Rehearsal Performance for grandparents and younger siblings.

Wednesday 11th December at 6pm: Adults only ticketed performance. 2 tickets per family.

Thursday 12th December at 2pm: Final performance – all welcome!

Our Blakesley Values: Fellowship Courage Compassion Thankfulness Wisdom

Our children are working so hard learning their lines, their actions and their songs, we are looking forward to a wonderful show!

We want everyone to enjoy the performance so would like to offer a gentle reminder ahead of the shows that if younger children attending either of the daytime performances become unsettled they are taken out until they settle again. This will allow everyone to hear the words that the children have worked so hard to learn. Thank you.

Photographs and Social Media

We know that you will always want to capture those special moments of your child performing in school shows and concerts and receiving awards at praise assemblies, but please do be mindful that some of our children cannot feature on social media. We ask that photos and videos are taken for your personal use and only posted on social media if they feature your child only. Thank you.

Towcester Foodbank Christmas Collection

I'm sure that you will have seen on the news recently that an increasing number of families are accessing foodbanks for support. Christmas can be a particularly hard time of year for many local families so we would like to offer some support to the Towcester Foodbank to share some Christmas care and joy at this special time of year.

We will be holding a **Christmas mufti day** (wear Christmassy clothes, maybe reds and greens or some tinsel or slip on a Santa hat or a full elf outfit?) on **Friday 13th December**. Mufti can be worn in exchange for a donation to our hamper of luxury Christmas goods which will be given to Towcester Foodbank. Items such as chocolates, biscuits, mince pies, Christmas puddings, stollen etc would be welcomed. Please ensure that the items donated are non-perishable and will not go out of date before Christmas day. Thank you for your support, care and generosity.



A VERY Christmassy day

On **Tuesday 17th December**, we will be having a VERY Christmassy day at Blakesley!

Children are invited to come in their **Christmas jumpers**, our **school Christmas dinner** will be served and FABS will be organising a **visit from a very special gentleman** with a gift for every child!

Please make sure that you book your child in for Christmas lunch in the usual way, those children wishing to have a packed lunch might choose to make their lunch boxes look Christmassy! Whether packed lunch or school Christmas lunch, we will all eat lunch together.

Clubs

Please remember to return your GLK Gymnastics slips by Monday 9th December to secure a place in the club starting in January.

External provider Clubs this term

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 this term:

Choir with Miss Crawford, Monday lunchtime

Art/Drawing Club with Mr Hill (Years 2-6) Monday 3.15 – 4.00pm

Our Blakesley Values: Fellowship Courage Compassion Thankfulness Wisdom

Knitting Club with Mrs Edwards, Tuesday lunchtime
Maths Club (Y5&6) with Mrs Conway Thursday lunchtime
Coding Club with Mrs Cox and Mrs Klegeris – Friday Lunchtime

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

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!

Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2021

All admission authorities are required to formally consult if they propose to make any changes to their admission arrangements for the following school year. We are currently consulting on our admission arrangements for September 2021 and you can find a copy of our proposed admission arrangements Draft Admissions Policy for Academic Year 2021 which is available on our website in the Key Information, Admissions section. This outlines the proposed changes to our oversubscription criteria as follows:

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan):

The LGB will admit children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) which names the School.

Oversubscription criteria:

Where there are more applications than there are places available, children will be admitted according to the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority:

- 1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. (see definition below);*
- 2. Children who live (see definition below) in the Linked Area (see definition below) who have a sibling (see definition below) continuing at the school at the time of admission of the child;*
- 3. Children who live (see definition below) in the Linked Area (see definition below);*
- 4. Children with a sibling (see definition below) continuing at the school at the time of admission of the child;*
- 5. Children of worshipping members of any Church within the Lambfold Benefice (see definition below);*
- 6. Other children.*

Tiebreaker:

If the admission number is exceeded within any of the oversubscription criteria, priority will be given to those children who live (see definition below) closest to the School (see definition below).

The consultation period runs from **11th November to 20th December 2019**.

Our Blakesley Values: Fellowship Courage Compassion Thankfulness Wisdom

Should you wish to make any comments about the proposed arrangements you can do so by email to the Chair of Governors c/o bursar@blakesley.northants-ecl.gov.uk or by post:

FAO The Chair of Governors
Blakesley Church of England Primary School
The Green
Blakesley
NORTHANTS
NN12 8RD

Safeguarding help

Thank you to all of our parents who have supported us by using the main entrance to enter the school building to access the office. We value your support in doing these things to ensure that we can meet our safeguarding duties effectively.

Parking Safely

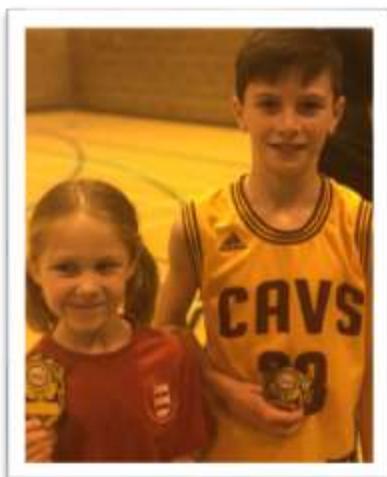
Thank you to all of our parents who park considerately and safely when dropping off and picking up from school.

Please be aware that some members of our community need, for very good reason, to park (by prior arrangement with the school) close to the main entrance for ease of access. Should you require additional support to access the school site, please contact the school office.

A few gentle reminders:

- Please do not park across driveways or access points
- Please do not turn around in the school gateway
- Please take time and care when driving into Hillcroft View, often cars are seen mounting the pavement and driving at speed, please take care.
- Please do not park on the yellow markings outside of the school unless by prior arrangement with the school for accessibility purposes.

Blakesley Hotshots Champions!



Our Hotshots team's success at this Saturday's tournament has filled us all with such pride. Not only did they win the tournament, they also showed great team spirit and fellowship in their play. In spite of being a relatively small squad (7 pupils against most schools' squads of 12) they were undaunted, showing courage in their approach to each game. Blakesley's team was made up of two year 6 pupils and five year 2 pupils; the older children showed great maturity and care for their younger team members, sharing the leadership of the team across the ages.

We are proud of their individual and collective efforts, their care, courage and fellowship – this makes them winners in every aspect of life to us. Well done Team Blakesley!

Blakesley Hotshots Team Captain and Vice-Captain

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

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