BLAKENEY CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO: 12
June 2024

Welcome back after what was a very wet and blustery half term! We hope that you all got some time to relax together with your children.

Despite the appalling weather, this half term is still feeling very much like the usual busy Summer with staff planning plays, Sports Day, reading cafes and trips. We have already climbed Mariners Hill for Ascension Day and been litter picking on Friary Hills but we still hope to spend a lot of time out and about in Blakeney. We will of course put any update on Dojo. To help parents with future planning we have also included some dates for July in this newsletter. It is sure to be a busy half term and we have put Sports Day on the list so start your training!

Some of the members of Angel Voices choir travelled to London yesterday to attend a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra. A big thank you goes to Reverend Sarah for organising this and we hope that a choir day out will become an annual event. The choir will also be singing at an open garden event on Saturday 22nd June in Blakeney at Viewpoint House, Little Lane 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Please do come along if you can; all money raised will go towards the choir and may even help to fund next year's trip.

The Federation Art exhibition begins at Salthouse this month. It is always amazing to have the children's art work displayed in such a beautiful church and members of the public leave such lovely comments. Blakeney children will be visiting on Monday 10th but the public can also visit between Friday 7th and Tuesday 11th June.

Your child should have brought a letter home this evening so if you haven't seen it, please do remind them. It is information regarding a whole school trip to Amazona zoo next Thursday. Please do sign the permission slip and return it. Hedgehogs learning theme of living things and life cycles ties in nicely and it will reinforce some of the learning from Samphire Class' South American topic from last term. It should be a fun day.

Ms Furnell, our music teacher, has kindly agreed to help the children put on a mini-concert for you all on the 11th July. We are calling it our reading and music café! All parents are welcome to stay in school for tea and coffee after drop off and to read with your children in the hall. At 9.00am, the children will do a brief rehearsal and then perform their Samba band pieces for you. We should be finished by 9.30am.

This term sees the retirement of Mrs James. She will be hanging up her hat after decades of dedication to the children here and we are all going to miss her hugely. Such commitment is worthy of admiration and if anyone would like to contribute to her leaving gift or sign the card, please pop along to the office and ask Tracey, who will produce the card from a secret hiding place! The children will have their own card and we will present these to Mrs James at the end of term. Reverend Richard is also retiring in July and we have a thank you surprise planned for him too.

Collective Worship

This month our school collective worship will focus on our values of equality, humility and curiosity. We have quotes from Galatians, Jeremiah and Luke to study and will be looking at the stories of Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousafzi. Our Worship Council is currently busy compiling ideas for a sponsorship event to help raise money for the Glaven Caring project. They are 50 years old this year and would like the children to help out by completing an event around the "50" theme. Any ideas from our parent community are very welcome!

Team Blakeney

Hoglets & Hedgehogs

And just like that, we have seven weeks left until this academic year comes to an end. I don't know about you, but I feel as though it has absolutely flown by! This half term is always rather frantic, with end of year assessments, school events and trips and tying up any loose ends before the children venture into their new year group.



The children had a fantastic time on their trip to Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary, and they produced some great written recounts of the event. With thanks to those parents that donated, the staff were immensely grateful for the donations. We hope to make the visit to the sanctuary an annual thing, so look out for the letter next year!

English

This half term, we will be kickstarting our English lessons with a familiar traditional tale, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will be using a video version of the tale to enable it to really 'come to life'. The children will be thinking about the different characters within the story, the setting, and the magic that takes place! They will be predicting, describing and sequencing before retelling the tale. Our Year 1 pupils will undertake their Phonics Screening Checks the second week back, and we wish them the best of luck as they decipher those real and 'alien' words

Maths

As we move towards the end of the year, the children will begin to finish off the White Rose Maths units, before then focusing on consolidation of the year's learning.
To begin with, Reception will visualise, build and map through exploring numbers, shapes and patterns. They will begin to recognise these in an everyday sense, working with them in familiar situations.

Year 1 will be continuing to look at numbers between 50 and 100, before they move onto the concept of money, finishing with the unit of time – always a tricky unit for the children, so get those watches ready!

Year 2 enjoyed the unit of statistics before half term, and really got to grips with drawing different types of charts and graphs, being able to confidently interpret the data. They will move onto the unit of 'Position and Direction' now, before completing some final revision for their upcoming assessments, which are the KS1 SATs. Although the SATs are no longer compulsory and data is no longer collected by the government, schools are still completing these for in-school assessment and this is what they will be used for; to simply aid and support end of year teacher assessment and to identify any areas that need consolidating. The expectation is that children will still gain a scaled score of 100 to be expected in reading, mathematics and spelling and grammar.

Foundation Subjects

Our topic of 'Our Bodies, Growing Things & Life Cycles' continues this half term, and it is a topic that the children are very much enjoying! We have some great trips planned for this half term to support the children's learning and we hope to get even more planned in (if we have some days free that is!).

Hoglets & Hedgehogs (continued)

In RE this half term, we move onto the focus question of 'How do Christians belong to their faith family?'. We will start our learning off with a visit to the church, where we will recognise signs of Christian worship. We will then learn about First Communion, what it means to be Christened and how these services, along with prayer, allow us to belong to our chosen faith.

In Science this term, we are learning all about plants – all we need now is some sunshine! We will be planting seeds and bulbs, comparing the difference between the two, so that we can learn first-hand what plants need to grow, whilst also recognising their life cycle.

This half term, our Humanities focus will be on 'History' and we will delve into the history of significant individuals such as Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria, also developing an understanding of what the British Empire was. We will then learn about William Wilberforce and how he abolished the slave trade before finishing with Sir Walter Raleigh, the man who brought potatoes to Britain!

A few important notices to finish…

- We are changing the classroom in preparation for September and the cloak-room is now **out of use**. Your child's pegs can now be found by the outside door.
- Homework will continue this half term, but will stop a fortnight before we break up so that the children can have a restful and fun break!
- There are no parents' evenings this half term, but instead reports will go out. If you have any queries regarding your child's progress or their school report (when you receive it), please let me know so that we can find a suitable time to discuss this.

Samphire News

The popularity of our WW2 learning theme shows no sign of dimming yet and the children remain super focused.

Year 6, having completed their SAT's assessments, have lots of projects to work on. They welcome Langham school Year 6's this week to host D Day commemorations. We will be making wreaths and laying them on the Commonwealth War Graves at St Nicholas Church with the help of the local Royal British Legion. Tuesday will see them head over to Morston to help with the Morston Pond Restoration Project. For safety reasons, they will need to wear PE Kits with legs and arms covered please.

The Gresham's School STEAM event was a huge success. Pilgrim Federation teams competed with other schools from Norfolk in three challenges and the teams from Blakeney came 2nd and 3rd! Well done Year 6 you acquitted yourselves brilliantly.

In English, Years 5 and 6 continue with their narrative story of Letters from the Lighthouse before beginning our WW2 poetry module. All of this runs alongside play practice for some much needed drama, singing and dance. Years 2, 3 and 4 also join us for this. As soon as I have a performance scheduled I will update you.

In Maths, Year 3 and 4 begin to look at angles in shapes, recognising right angles and lines of symmetry. Year 5 begin converting between metric and imperial units as well as converting between units of time.

Samphire News (continued)

In PE, Maypole dancing is replaced on Wednesdays by Rounders. The children will love this as Rounders is always so popular. Our hurdling has improved to such an extent that we will alternate between Athletics and Cricket on Mondays.

Our Science topic moves on from Light to Sound. Something tells me that they are all experts in this area! By the end of this unit of work, children should be able to explain how sound travels to reach our ears and will investigate the best type of material for soundproofing.

I mentioned that we have already begun our play "Bomb and Blackberries." Please could you help your child learn their lines in any spare minutes? I know that the more confidence they have in knowing their words, the greater confidence they will have when performing. We are currently sorting out costumes but any flat caps, white aprons and knee high socks would be much appreciated.



June

Tues 4th	PM	Y6 Morston Pond Restoration Project
Weds 5th		Samphires trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum and St Nicholas Big Breakfast
Thurs 6th		D Day Anniversary and Y6 Langham School visit
Fri - Mon 7th - 10th		Salthouse Art Exhibition @ Salthouse Church
Thurs 13th		Whole school trip to Amazona Zoo, Cromer
Mon 17th	9.15am	Reception/Y6 Vision and Hearing Tests
Sat 22nd		Angel Voices Open Garden Event

July

1st/2nd/3rd		Year 6 Transition Days @ Fakenham Academy
3rd/4th/5th		Year 6 Transition Days @ APHS
Thurs 4th	AM	Y4/Y5 Dodgeball Tournament @ Beeston Hall
Sat 6th		PTFA Ibiza Party (further info to follow)
Mon 8th		Y6 Leavers Day out
Tues 9th		Y5/Y6 Primary STEM Competition @ APHS
Thurs 11th		Whole School Reading and Music Café
Mon 15th	PM	Sports Day
Thurs 18th	PM	PTFA Party in the Plantation
Fri 19th	2.00pm	Leavers Assembly
	3.15pm	Break up for the Summer holidays

September

Weds 4th	8.45am	Back to School