BLAKENEY CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO: 13
July 2024

We have made it to the final month of this academic year!

All assessments have been completed and Miss Collison and I are now writing school reports. (I think she finished hers a few days ago but I am not far behind - it's a good incentive for the children to still be on their best behaviour!) We have some learning intentions left to teach and are also busy with end of year performances and events.

The Angel Voices Choir sang at an open garden event in the village last weekend and sounded amazing. Their rendition of the Bruno Mars song "You can Count on Me" was a particular highlight. Thank you to all those who helped out, it was a real community effort. If your child would like to join the choir, we rehearse on Wednesdays after school. It is a wonderful opportunity for them and everyone is welcome.

Summer finally arrived and we timed our whole school beach trip perfectly! Despite the cloud cover, the weather was warm and the sea was apparently inviting! There is a selection of photographs on the back of the newsletter and as you can see, we all had a wonderful day. The happy faces make it all worthwhile. I would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for organising the fish and chip lunch and ice creams and to you all for helping out with transport - it made the trip possible. The children very much deserved a beach day after all of their hard work in school.

There is more excitement on the horizon as The Cowan family have very kindly offered us all a high ropes morning at Holkham. It would be lovely if all of the children could take part. There are a few logistical details to arrange but a letter will be going out to you in the next few days.

On Thursday 11th July, please do join us at drop off time for a reading café. Coffee and Tea will be available in the kitchen in Miss Collison's classroom and the Samba band, after a brief practice at 9am, will perform on the playground - weather permitting. I will film the performance for those who are unable to make it.

Sports Day is scheduled for the afternoon of Monday 15th July. All children will take part and there will be grown-up races for those who wish to join in. If it rains on the day, we can reschedule for later in the week. Please meet us over at Friary Fields. The owners have asked us to remind everyone that there is no parking on the field so please could everyone park at the school.

Our now annual PTFA Party will take place at 2pm on Thursday 18th July. There will be games, a BBQ and Pizzas. Parents and children are all welcome.

This is our last monthly newsletter of the year so I would like to say a very big thank you to Mrs James and Miss Collison who leave us this term. You will both be missed and are very welcome to come back to visit anytime. Once a Blakenian (I think I made that word up?) always a Blakenian. Please join us to say thank you and good bye to them and all of our leavers, at the End of Year service. This will be held on the last day of term at 2pm, in school.

Team Blakeney

Hoglets & Hedgehogs



As we near the end of the academic year, it is mixed feelings in Hoglets & Hedgehogs Class. I reflect on all that we have done as a class since I have worked at Blakeney (although it has been a short while!) and I think that each child has made incredible progress. They are a fantastic bunch and each and every one of them has worked diligently this year, ending in the class getting fantastic results overall. I am so proud of them and I will miss them all very much, including you, as their family. Please keep in touch!

Whilst some of you may have anxieties surrounding what September brings, please be reassured that your child is in great hands as we welcome Mrs Money and Mrs Sutton to Blakeney. Miss Owers will also be in full time and Miss Wright will be working Tuesday to Friday.

New faces will be joining us at the beginning of the academic year as we invite our new Reception children and also our new Hoglets. It is always so lovely to welcome new faces and families and we are lucky to have such a supportive and friendly community.

To kickstart the new academic year, the learning theme will focus on **'Transport, Machines & Inventions'.**

English

Over the last few weeks we have been focusing on the text 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children have engaged brilliantly with the text having the opportunity to recall key events, sequence and use speech bubbles.

Maths

Our Reception children have enjoyed finishing off their last White Rose Maths unit where they have used maps. They have been using positional language to locate objects on maps and using their imagination to create buildings of fictional places from story books. They have now completed all of the years learning, and so are focusing on consolidation. To begin with, they are revising number bonds to ten, considering the links that these make within the number system.

It has been a busy time with assessments for our KS1 children and they have all worked tirelessly. I am pleased to announce that the children worked exceptionally hard and in turn the results have been fantastic! The children all deserve congratulating for these, every child achieving an expected level or exceeding level of development.

Foundation Subjects

Our KS1 children have enjoyed our computing topic where we have been focusing on using algorithms to program. The children have been using the app ScratchJr, learning about blocks and how they can create a sequence to move their sprite. It is such a fun way for children to learn about programming and it enables the children to use technology in a different way. ScratchJr is a free app to download on iPads, so please take a look in the app store if your child has a tablet.

Hoglets & Hedgehogs (continued)

In RE we have enjoyed learning about what it means to belong to a Christian faith family. The children used the pretend babies to carry out their own Christening, recognising what a Christening is and how it welcomes a person into the family of Christ. To continue our learning, we focused on the importance of belonging and we reflected on the symbols that are used for light and water. We thought about who/what we belong to and created our own symbols for this. Some of the children drew very imaginative symbols such as coconuts (coconut island), pizza (dad's pizzas), boats (seal trips) and fish and chips!

Our PE sessions are focused around Sports Day and we have been practising every week so that we are confident on the day. The children are becoming more confident with each race and some are beginning to master the art of skipping!

We have been historians and delved into the past by thinking about Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. We learnt about their time on the throne and how significant changes in Britain were made. We've explored the British Empire, recognising why it fell.

Samphire News

We are still very much in learning mode, despite assessments being over. There have been some wonderful days and events over the last few weeks and although it feels very much like we are nearing the end of the term, we still have so much to do!

Year 6, are keeping their skills honed with various Maths and English tasks while also considering their leavers speeches. They are out and about completing community tasks and taking part in various competitions. Earlier this week, they travelled to Hindringham and Walsingham to practise for their Lego robotics challenge at Alderman Peel. They also spent this morning washing cars to raise money towards their leaver's day out. I know we are all excited to go tubing at Norwich Snow Sports Centre.

The Leavers Service on the last day is an opportunity for those moving on to High School to say thank you. The Year 6 children (and staff) are asked to wear smart home clothes which they can change into at lunchtime. After the Service, we will line the playground to "ring them out." It's a Blakeney tradition and a special moment for us all.

Year 5 are continuing with their timetable and we hope to finish our story Letters From the Lighthouse in the coming weeks. The writing inspired from this narrative tale has been exceptional and bodes well for next year. In Maths, we have almost finished our Shape and Space module and will then revise fractions and decimals, which we covered earlier in the year. This seems to have been be the most challenging topic and the revision will hopefully boost confidence for next year. It's nice to be ahead of the programme and have the time to consolidate previous learning.

Samphire News (continued)

Year 4 put so much effort into revising for their times table checks and deserve a very big pat on the back. I don't think they were overly worried and most of them enjoyed the challenge. Their Maths learning has focused on Shape and Space but will move onto interpreting graphs and charts, followed by plotting coordinates and completing translations in the first quadrant. We are on schedule but still have lots to complete. In English, there will be a push on identifying word classes such as adverbs and producing longer, extended pieces of writing.

Year 3 have also completed their module on 2D and 3D shapes and move onto interpreting bar charts and 2 way tables. I am hopeful that we will finish our maths programme of study and have time for revision of the 4 basic skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In English, we will revise all of the Grammar and Spelling rules from our lessons and will be focusing on using these in our writing.

The Samba band performance on Thursday 11th July is the culmination of this terms music tuition. The children are lucky enough to have Ms Furnell teach them for music and they have really made incredible progress. All of the children have had the opportunity to play each of the instruments and master the pieces. They could step in and play any of the parts on the day. I know it is going to amazing!

For those of you who enjoy forward planning - our learning theme for the Autumn term will be Africa and the Ancient Egyptians.



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
Weds 17th		Holkham High Ropes
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


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