BLAKENEY CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO: 1
September 2024

Welcome back - and if you are new to our school- Hello, it's so good to see you all. All of the staff agree that this is one of our favourite weeks of the whole school year. The children are all looking smart in their uniforms and full of tales from Summer (which we inevitably ask them to write about!) The best thing of all is that feeling of excitement - the promise of a new year is palpable. Mrs Money and Mrs Sutton have joined us in Hedgehogs Class and are busy settling in with the new nursery and reception children. I have already spotted a new kitchen role play area so I am sure they are having lots of fun.

We have been busy tidying the school over Summer and there has been a deep clean. I think it is looking great. The walls are a little bare but I have no doubt that they will soon be filled with evidence of the children's learning.

We will hold our first reading café of this academic year on Friday 27th September at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome so if you are unable to attend please do invite another known adult to come along. Tea and Coffee will be available in Hedgehogs classroom and cakes and biscuits will be on sale. The money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support as part of their World's Largest Coffee morning initiative. Cake donations are very welcome to join those made by the children. This will then be followed by celebration worship in the Hall. We have several other events already planned for the coming weeks so please do check the Dates for the Diary section at the end of the newsletter.

I also have some on-going projects designed to improve our outdoor area which are as yet unfinished. The Eddie Ray of Sunshine garden in the top playground is almost completed but it would be wonderful if we could have one last push to get this done and planted ready for spring. If anyone is handy with a paintbrush or a drill and has a couple of hours free - please get in touch. We have a wall which needs painting and some bug hotels to put up before we can hold an official opening ceremony. We still have time to plant and grow radishes for this season and plant the bulbs for Spring.

Collective Worship

Last term, we said farewell to our Reverend Richard as he began his well-deserved retirement. I would like to reassure everyone that during this period of interregnum our school is not without ministry from the Church. We are very grateful that Reverend Sarah de Batts and our Open the book team will continue to worship and support us.

As we start a new year, we reflect on our aims to treat each other and those around us according to our Christian Values. We begin naturally, thinking about New Beginnings and Love. In our Acts of Worship, along with our behaviour in and out of the classroom, we think about loving each other and the world around us.

John 13:34:" A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Children have this week been invited to apply to join our Worship Council I will announce members of this leading lights group in collective worship.

Please could I remind everyone that we are a healthy eating and **nut-free school**. Lunchboxes should be free of any products containing nuts or any sweets. Eating well is important: children need to eat well as it will give them energy and nutrients to grow and develop and to be healthy and active. A healthy, enjoyable lunch gives children the energy they need to learn at school. Thank you for your help in supporting this. Please read the class sections of the newsletter for information on what your child will be learning about in the coming weeks.

As always, staff can always be contacted via Class Dojo but if you have anything you wish to discuss we have an open-door policy and are happy to arrange to see you. Mrs Hirst, in the school office, is also able to facilitate this should you wish to call.

Team Blakeney

Hoglets & Hedgehogs

Hello everyone, we are really excited to join the Blakeney team and can't wait to get going and get to know your children.

Hedgehogs and Hoglets learning theme this term is Transport, Machines and Inventions, which means there are lots of opportunities for trips. We are hoping to organise a boat trip to see the seals, catch the Coast Hopper and perhaps even catch the train.

In English our class text will be 'Naughty Bus' which includes the opportunity for children to perfect their photography skills as well as their writing. It will be a great way to begin our English learning journey.

We will also have a 'Book of the week' which will promote a love of reading and encourage the children to discuss and enjoy a story. This will be available for the children to explore in their 'Get Busy Time' all week.

In Maths we will be exploring numbers and patterns and place value creating a solid foundation for your child's mathematical understanding.

In History children will be looking at changes to transport over time. We will be making a time-line so children can make connections and have a clear understanding of how much things have changed.

P.E will be on Wednesdays and Fridays so please send children to school in their P.E kit on those days.

We love to learn and play outdoors so we will be spending lots of time learning in the plantation. It would be great if your children have suitable clothing including a waterproof coat and a change of shoes.

We will be sending a reading book home next week as well as a list of spellings. Please could you read with your child at least 4 times a week and also make sure you help them practice their spellings.

It has been a really fun few days and your children have been a pleasure to teach.

Thank you

The Hedgehog and Hoglet's Class Team

Samphire News

We have had a bit of a classroom overhaul and I think the class has more space and will be even more productive this year! We have an area for target teaching and the children will be sitting in pairs. We also have an extra bookshelf for those authors who write series or are particularly popular. It is hoped that this will help the children select books they will enjoy and encourage discussions. Our reading scores in SAT's were amazing and we would really like to build on this.

This term, we are moving on to another great time period in History - one which many of the children look forward to exploring: The Ancient Egyptians and Africa. In English, the whole class will begin by studying the genre of Myths and Legends, using the story of Isis and Osiris. Years 3 and 4 will then move onto an explanation text based around Tutankhamun. Years 5 and 6 will be reading the "Secrets of the Sun King" by Emma Carroll. Throughout this term we are going to explore how the Egyptians made such huge technological and social progress whilst Britain was still living (un)comfortably in the Stone Age.

Our Maths lessons begin, as they do every year, with lessons on the children's understanding of place value and the reading and writing of numbers. Children will be required to represent numbers in written form, on number lines and partition increasingly greater numbers.

Samphire News (continued)

In History, our aim is to develop an understanding of the Egyptian time period to enable us to answer the following questions: ***When were the Ancient Egyptians alive? What did the Egyptians believe in? What did the Egyptians achieve? Why was the Nile so important to the success of the Ancient Egyptians? Why did Egyptians develop faster than other civilisations? Who were the most famous individuals in Ancient Egypt?*** **In Geography, we begin by revising our knowledge of the world using maps and then studying the different countries which make up the continent of Africa and their physical and human features.**

PE Lessons this term will be on Monday and Wednesday. Monday lessons will be spent playing hockey and Wednesday is cross country running. A big Thank You goes to Mrs Spriggs for joining us for this. Swimming also begins again this term. **Until half term, Years 3 and 4 will be swimming on Monday morning from 9.30 - 10.30**. After half term, Years 5 and 6 will take the same slot. Children will need a bag containing swimming trunks/costume, goggles and a towel. As swimming falls on a PE day, school PE kit should be worn.

Our first RE big question of this term is "What difference does being a Muslim make to everyday life? Children will become more aware of the diverse nature of Islam globally and demonstrate an increasing awareness of the 5 pillars of Islam.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Scott Greenaway to Samphire class. Mr Greenaway will be completing his teaching practice with us this year.

Home learning will be given on a Friday and is due in on the following Thursday. Children have books for this purpose. I will be notifying parents on Friday if books are not handed in. Please remind your child/ren to complete their homework and return it to school. Spelling and times tables tests are also held on Friday. If you wish to know your child's weekly scores we will write them in the homework book alongside the practice sheets.

Again, should you wish to see me or have any questions, please do get in touch.



September

Mon 9th	9.30am	Y3/Y4 Swimming at Greshams
Fri 27th	PM	Reading Café (Macmillan Coffee Afternoon)

October

Fri 4th	9.15 - 1.15pm	Careers Morning (KS2) @ Walsingham
Tues 8th		Norwich Castle (Egyptian Topic) (Samphire Class)
Tues/Weds/Thurs	3.15pm	Parents Evenings
Fri 18th	2.00pm	Harvest Festival @ St Nicholas Church
Tues 22nd	9.30pm	Y6 Crucial Crew @ Greshams
Thurs 24th	3.15pm	Break up for half term

November

Mon 4th	8.45am	Back to School
Mon 4th	9.30am	Y5/Y6 Swimming at Greshams