NEWSLETTER

Blakeney CE VA Primary School

January 2025

School News

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back to school!

The children have been full of news from the Christmas holidays and it is lovely to see them back relaxed and raring to go. We have new learning themes in each class and details of these will be in the individual class news sections.

There are a number of whole school messages and dates for the diary in the section for dates at the end of this newsletter. These dates will also be on Class Dojo.

We try and send a reminder out about uniform at the beginning of each academic year and I feel that the message is worth reiterating, particularly with regard to PE kits. We ask that all children wear purple federation tops and plain black tracksuits or shorts on PE days. Last term there were lots of variations being worn and as a group, the children were not looking as smart as they should.

School gates will continue to open at 8.30am for a prompt 8.45am start. Arrival before 8.45am enables staff to support children in a range of activities, for example, time to have 'check ins' with teacher or TA for emotional health and well-being support, individual reading with an adult, opportunity to practise spellings, or pre -learning for lessons. All of these activities maximise the opportunity for a settled start to ensure children are ready for collective worship straight after the register is taken.

Our whole school collective worships for the coming weeks will focus on our school values of Thankfulness and Generosity. This week we have obviously been thinking about Epiphany and you will notice the chalkings around the entrance to the school. We had fun writing these and you might ask the children the meaning of them. Hopefully, they will be able to tell you what they mean. In the coming weeks, we will spend time thinking about what our school values mean to us and how we can demonstrate them in our school and our lives. Weekly celebration worships will begin again this afternoon at 2.45pm. Please do join us if you are able to.

You may be aware that Ms Frier was not in school for the last few weeks of last term due to a scheduled knee surgery. The operation went well and she is continuing to recover with plans to return to work soon. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her a speedy recovery and we hope to see her soon.

Our "open door" policy remains and staff will be on the gate mornings and afternoons should you wish to catch us informally. Alternatively, we are more than happy to meet with you when convenient - just send a message via Dojo or the office.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2026.

HOGLETS & HEDGEHOGS

We have had a great first week back and have started exploring our new learning theme for this half-term which is The Great Fire of London.

Hoglets have been listening to the book All Aboard the London Bus which is full of fun poems about London. They have started to focus on rhyming words and played many different rhyming games, to help them become familiar with recognising these independently.

Hedgehogs have started reading their new non-fiction text which is an illustrated History of the Great Fire of 1666 all about the Great Fire of London.

They have also started their new Maths unit which is addition and subtraction.

Hoglets on the other hand have been looking at the number 6, 7 and 8, focussing on how these can be presented in different ways.

In RE we are all learning about how different celebrations bring a community together, comparing them by looking at their similarities and differences.

Finally we had a lot of fun in Art this week, Hoglets re-created London city cutting out different coloured paper/card and putting these together. Hedgehogs drew the London skyline using oil pastels. These turned out brilliantly!

Samphire Class

Our new learning theme is Lights, Camera, Action. It will be fun to have a topic which is not as focussed on History or Geography but one which lends itself so well to creative activities. I am hoping that we will be able to perform and watch others perform this term, while using technology to film. For those children who love using technology, writing and performing (that covers all of them in some respects!), this term will be lots of fun!

In English, we began this week looking at play scripts of familiar stories. We then move on to Roald Dahl's Matilda before beginning separate texts for Years 3 and 4 together and 5 and 6.

In Maths, Y3 and 4 will quickly recap multiplication methods this week before we move onto short division. Division is so much easier for children once their times tables are secure so we will always work on improving our recall of multiplication facts. A quick reminder for parents of children in Year 4 that this year they will take a national check. Any extra practice you are able to help them with is worthwhile. Once division learning intentions are complete, we move onto units of measurement (mm, cm, m and km). Years 5 and 6 also begin with a recap of multiplication and division before moving onto multiplying and dividing fractions. We then progress to finding fractions of amounts. All Maths homework is aimed at improving skills in these areas and children should be able to complete this individually.

In Art lessons, children will create a mask of a character from their imagination using Modroc and layering techniques. These should be completed by half term when we hope to hold an art show exhibition to show you their hard work.

In Religious Education we will be discussing what the word sacrifice means in Christianity, Islam and Humanism.

PE remains on Monday and Wednesday. Mondays will be circuit training while the Wednesday lesson is Netball. Years 3 and 4 will be swimming this half term.

ICT fits so well with our learning theme and we will be looking at stop frame animation. Learners will be using chrome books and applying skills to create a story-based animation. The unit ties in nicely with our literacy topics and will conclude with children adding other types of media to their animation, such as music and text. We can't wait to share them with you.

I haven't mentioned trips yet but hope to share confirmed plans with you shortly - watch this space!

UPCOMING KEY DATES

10 February	Safer Internet Day
5 March	World Book Day Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character or complete a shoe box diorama of their favourite book.
20 March	Red Nose Day Children - please wear something red along with your school uniform