NEWSLETTER

Blakeney CE VA Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD

What a fantastic start back to school life it has been this week! The summer term is always my favourite as we can do as much fun outdoor learning as possible when the weather is warm and sunny. This week, this has included all of the 26 Year 5 children in the Federation enjoying a wonderful residential stay at How Hill on the Broads.

There is so much more for us all to look forward to this term and I look forward to us all continuing to work together to provide wonderful experiences and a brilliant education for your children.

We have been updating our phone and computer system used in the Federation over the past 12 months. We introduced a new digital phone system last Spring which is much more flexible for us. Miss Brooks is able to answer the phone from Hindringham on days she is not in Blakeney. All afternoon calls will go to the office at Kelling who will ensure any messages are passed on to the relevant staff/school. We are also in the process of changing our email addresses. This will be completed in the next two weeks – all addresses will end in pilgrimfed.org.uk. We have also changed our main computer system which will also provide lots of opportunities to modernise. We will be exploring the ability to go cashless over the coming months and will tell you more later this term.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

20th April - Y6 Lego Spike at Alderman Peel High School

24th April – Federation Founding Day at Binham Priory

4th May – May Day Bank Holiday – No School

11th – 14th May - SATS Week for Year 6

15th May – KS1 Art Morning at Hindringham School

14th May - Ascension Day - children to climb the church tower

25th – 29th May – Half Term

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to school and the Summer term! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break? I know that the children deserved some rest time after a busy Spring term.

Already this week, we have welcomed Year 6 children from across the Federation to Blakeney to practise using the Lego Spike robots. We would like to say a big thank you to Alderman Peel High School for sending staff over to instruct the children. This annual event provides the children with invaluable coding and robotics practice as well as an opportunity to see their friends.

The Year 5 children have also had an exciting week and have been on their residential trip to How Hill on the Broads. Please keep an eye on Class Dojo for photographs and updates but from what has been posted so far, the children have had a wonderful time.

You may have noticed some changes in Hedgehogs Class since the holidays. Builders and staff were busy over the break, knocking through a wall and putting in new partitions to allow greater for a separation between Nursery/EYFS areas and the Keys Stage 1 learning space. We have also revamped the outdoor area for the Summer months. These enhancements are only possible when staff give up their holiday time to paint, sort and tidy so thank you Team Blakeney!

On Friday 24th April, the whole school will travel to Binham Priory for Federation Founding Day. All children will require a packed lunch as we will be picnic-ing at the Binham Village Hall after the service.

The PTFA are also super busy at the moment and have several events coming up at Stody Lodge. On the 6th & 7th May, they will be hosting the tea room at the Open Gardens event and on Saturday 3rd May, they will be running at stall at the Family Fun Day. Please do pop along to either of these events if you are able.

The Open the book team will come into school for Collective Worship on alternate weeks as will Reverend Dowman. All other daily worships will be led by the staff team and will focus on our school

to

CLASS NEWS - SAMPHIRE

Our learning theme this term is Robots and Machines. In English, we all begin by studying Sir James Dyson and will write a biography followed by an explanation text on the Dyson Air multiplier. There is lots of technological language involved in this and we are lucky enough to have on loan one of the multiplier fans from the Dyson foundation. If we do get a sudden heatwave our class will be very well prepared!

In Maths, Years 5 and 6 will begin looking at Ratio and Algebra while Years 3 and 4 move on to Time and Decimals. Miss Frier will continue to teach Science on a Tuesday afternoon. In French, we will be looking at the verbs avoir (to have) and etre (to be).

In History, we will be answering the question "How has technology changed our lives?"' We will think about how people communicated in the past and create timelines, including dates, to show the progression of new inventions. For our Geography learning begins with revising lines of longitude and latitude before moving on to "Farms and Factories" and where our food comes from. This ties in nicely with our Food technology lessons next half term when hopefully the children will be bringing home lots of seasonal food for you to taste.

PE this term remains on Mondays and Wednesdays with a focus on Athletics. Of course, we will try and get out onto the coastal path as much as possible for our runs to Morston. There is an extra incentive this term as we complete our cross-country events with the "Ice cream run." I have faith that all of us will make it!

Of course, alongside the main curriculum, it is exam season and the Year 6's will busy preparing for their SAT's exams and Year 4's for the multiplication check. I am happy to send home extra learning should anyone request it but I am confident that the children will be prepared and ready to try their best. SAT's club will take place after school on Tuesdays (until 4pm) and is voluntary for any child in Year 6-yes, there will be snacks! Year 4 will complete an extra practice session during Maths lessons and will have extra homework until June. SAT's week begins on May 11th and we will be running breakfast club for the Year 6 children at 8.30 each morning that there are exams.

CLASS NEWS – HEDGEHOGS/HOGLETS

In Hedgehogs class we have had a busy start to the half-term. Our learning theme for this half-term is 'Where We Live'. In Understand the World, Hoglets have started looking at where they live, specifically focussing on the country and county. Next week they will be exploring physical and human features that can and cannot be found in our local area. In Maths, we are now looking at numbers 10-20 and all the children have been very eager to practice writing those big numbers and are making fantastic progress!

Hedgehogs are now finishing their learning unit in Maths that focussed on statistics and will be moving onto money. They have also almost finished writing their own fantasy stories based around our book 'Ocean Meets Sky' and will be moving onto the book 'Flotsam' which is an exciting mystery story about a group of children who go scavenger hunting on a beach and find a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share. At the end of this unit the children will be writing their own sequel.

Before the Easter holidays, Hedgehogs and Hoglets made a 3D model of Blakeney village which we are in the process of finishing and will be on display at the Art Exhibition in Salthouse. They worked really hard on these and look amazing!

Research has shown that there is a strong link between academic success with reading and completing short homework tasks at home. We would strongly recommend that where possible you spend a short amount of time (no more than 10 minutes) reading with your child. Please don't hesitate to speak with me if you have any concerns, questions or need further support with this.

Thank you for your continued support.