



Newsletter November 2020

Blakesley Hall Primary School

WEBSITE NEWS—You can follow us on twitter @BHPS_1

Tel: 0121 783 2148

Website: www.blakesley.bham.sch.uk

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021

The Autumn Term continues with its challenges due to Covid-19, many families are struggling and the impact is great. My sincere hope is that you are getting the support that you need at this time. Our Learning Mentor team are here to support and are able to signpost you to services that may be of help, do not hesitate to contact Tina, Leanne or Nikki if you are in need of help.

There are a great many positive things happening in school and much to celebrate as we come towards the end of the term. Please take time to enjoy reading this month's news which includes a message from Joshua Cronin, Chair of the Governing Body.



Best wishes
- Ms H Phillips,
Executive Headteacher

We would like to welcome our new Parent Governors who have joined the Blakesley family.

**Mrs Nazrana Haq &
Mr Stuart Roberts**

PARENT GOVERNOR



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Unfortunately on some occasions it has proved very difficult to contact parents due to telephone numbers not being updated. It is very important that you contact the school when you have changes in your telephone numbers or any other contacts listed for your child.

"As we find ourselves halfway through "lockdown 2" I still don't feel there has been the recognition on a national level for the role that schools are playing during this very challenging time.

I wanted to write to you to say THANK YOU to all staff on behalf of all the governors, for the role you all continue to play keeping our children safe, engaged and educated. Your hard work and dedication doesn't go unrecognised!

There is a famous Indian proverb "Life is a cycle, always in motion, if good times have moved on, so will times of trouble" so whilst times feel incredibly difficult at this moment know that they will not last forever. Support each other through these tough times and we will grow together through to the other side. "

**Joshua Cronin,
Chair of Governors**

It is now getting colder and the children need to bring/wear a coat to School. Please make sure your children leave home fully equipped with everything they need for the day e.g. Packed Lunch, Water Bottles, PE Kits etc.

We are having to disturb children's learning throughout the day to pass on forgotten items.

Now that the weather has changed, there is always a chance that snow may come upon us. We provide as many different ways as possible to get messages to you:

The school website which is updated daily - [Blakesley Website](http://www.blakesley.bham.sch.uk)

Listen to local radio stations Heart FM 100.7fm, Free Radio 96.4fm or log onto their websites for a full list of school closures

Call the school telephone number 0121 783 2148 where a message will tell you if school is open. This is updated daily by Office staff. Please note that this number may be busy for a while with parents ringing.



Unfortunately, we have been unable to compete in any competitions so far this year due to Government guidelines.

In school, we have a new dance teacher. She has been working with year one this half term and has been delighted with how they have been getting on!



PE UPDATE

Year six have also started their cycling sessions and had an excellent first session.

A number of classes have also started learning about their sports icons. These people have excelled in their sport and have also helped people with their work outside of sport.

These icons are excellent role models to the pupils and come from a range of backgrounds and cultures.

In Year 3, we are really enjoying our reading. As well as independent reading, each week we have a reading for pleasure session where we can explore books and take part in different reading activities.

We are always talking about how important reading is and encouraging children to read regularly.

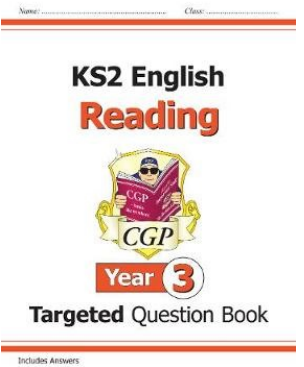
Last week, each child received a CGP reading comprehension book for them to use at home. We will contact you through Class Dojo each week with advice on which pages to focus on.

You can also read the latest Blakesley Times following the link on Class Dojo.

This week's issue has a feature all about Year 3 reading.

Thank you. Keep on reading!

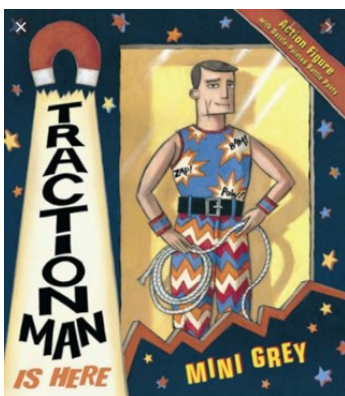
YEAR 3



The reception team are all so proud of how well the Reception children have settled into school life, taking any changes in their stride! Reception have had a busy start to this half term. In class we have started our new topic of Journeys by reading The Journey Home from Grandpa's and We are Going on a Bear Hunt. We have also been learning about key events such as Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance Day and Children in Need day. Next week we will start learning our Nativity songs, how exciting! More information about this to follow.



RECEPTION



This term has been busy, we have been learning lots and working really hard! In English we have started reading Traction Man – we love it so far! In Maths, we are working hard to learn our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We recommend that you use the website 'Hit the Button' to help practice these at home! Our main focus this half term is phonics and Year 2 have been amazing learning their new sounds. Ask your child what a split digraph is!

YEAR 2

Online Safety Top Tip



Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.

In school, we are working hard to help children develop their long term memory. In each classroom, we have a knowledge board where we record the things we learn in class. This helps us to remember all the important bits of information we need to.

There are some great games that can help develop memory. Why not have a go at the activity below? Not only does it help develop memory but it is also good, family fun.

The Tray Game

Find a selection of interesting, small objects and arrange them on a tray, which you should keep covered with a tea-towel. Give each child a pencil and paper and ask them to write their name at the top.

Play:

Uncover the tray and place it where all children can see it. Give the children a certain amount of time to memorise the contents of the tray, then cover it up again.

Ask them to write down all the objects they can remember. When they have finished, uncover the objects again and check how many they could remember.



CURRICULUM

Year 6, have expressed how much they enjoyed curriculum week. Throughout the week they enjoyed learning about algorithms in computing. In both History and Geography, they wrote their own non - chronological reports about the British Empire and Queen Victoria the India Empress. In art the children produced some fantastic work when creating paintings in the style of Ford Madox Brown and L.S. Lowry.



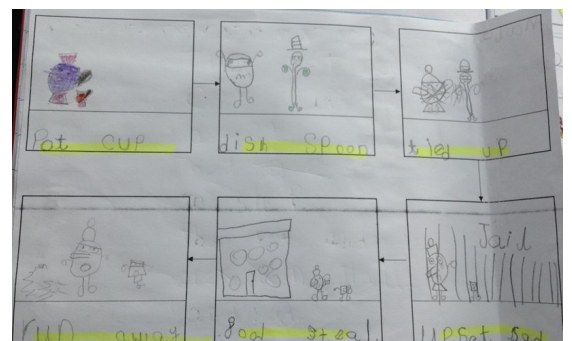
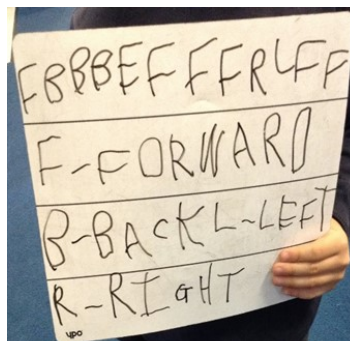
YEAR 6

In Year 1 this half term we have been learning all about Seasons in Science! We made weather wheels and been discussing what we need to wear in Autumn as it is getting cold! In computing we have had lots of fun learning about Algorithms and programming bee bots!

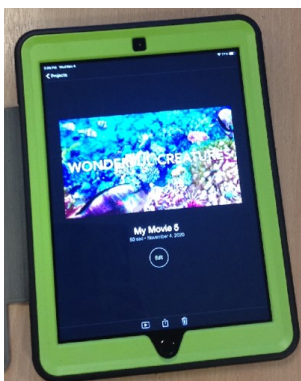
We have also loved celebrating Diwali and created a display in 1V.

We are working hard on our Phonics and Math too! In English we wrote our own story maps to re-tell the story of The Dish and The Spoon.

YEAR 1



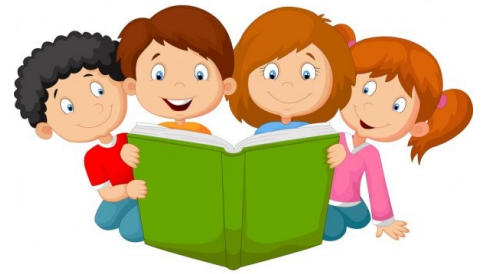
In Year 4, we have been creating adverts using iMovie. We had lots of fun creating them and we even added soundtracks!



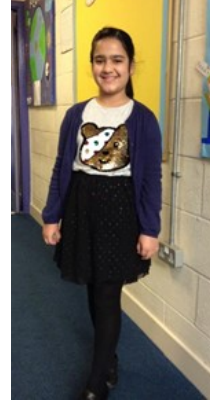
YEAR 4

Reading Scheme Books & Library Books

We are aware that many reading scheme and library books were not able to be returned to school last spring, when we had to close suddenly for the Lockdown. Can you please have a look at home to see if you have any books and send them back into school. These will be quarantined before being returned to shelves for the children to use.



On Friday 13th November, School Council organised a non-uniform day to raise money for **Children in Need**. Our school raised an amazing £338.15. Thank You for all your generous donations.



**CHILDREN
IN NEED**



*Winter
Competition*

Enter to win!

You can either:

- Write a poem
- Make a winter scene in a shoe box
- Make a video of a winter tale
- Make a winter collage or picture

Light up our world!

Hand in your creations to Mrs Roberts (Yr5) or Miss Walker (Yr2).
Entries must be in by 11/12/2020.

This half term, Year 5 have been learning about The Tudors! We designed and created our own Tudor biscuits from salt dough. We have been learning about Henry VIII and his famous six wives. We wrote a balanced argument surrounding whether or not Henry was a good king. To continue with the Tudor theme, we are enjoying our class novel The Executioner's Daughter by Jane Hardstaff.



YEAR 5

From September we began using Letters and Sounds to teach the children phonics. The children and staff have both embraced the change and are enjoying our new style of delivering phonics. To support your child at home I have got 5 top tips!

1. Ensure you are using the letter sound (not name) and you are pronouncing each one using the pure sound. Check out '[Phonics: How to pronounce pure sounds. Oxford Owl!](#)' on You Tube for a fantastic video demonstrating this.
2. To support your child with their blending skills you can sound talk some words. E.g "Please get your c-oa-t." "Look at that d-o-g"
3. Play I spy! This is a brilliant way for children to hear initial sounds in words.
4. When writing a shopping list ask your child to help you. Ask them to sound out each item and then write down the sounds they can hear. Writing for a purpose is a meaningful way for children to apply the skills they have learnt.
5. Have fun! Phonics doesn't need to be boring. Include different aspects into your everyday life.

For some fun phonics games your child can play at home visit <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

For more information about the structure of Letters and Sounds please see the English tab on our website.

Letters and Sounds

ATTENDANCE

School Matters!



Reception	90.4
Year 1	86.8
Year 2	86.8
Year 3	87.8
Year 4	89.3
Year 5	88.8
Year 6	89.2
Overall Attendance	88.4%
Data correct as of 16.11.20	

Well done to 6M,6W, 5K, 4K, 3AW 1H and RB who have attendance above 90%, Keep it up! A huge congratulation to the 124 pupils who have excellent attendance, they have been here every single day since September: this is really impressive!

Did you know, only 49% children have attendance of 95% or more. Unfortunately, persistent absence (attendance of 90% or less) is still having a huge impact on our whole school attendance. This term school will be in contact with parents where attendance is a concern for their children. Please be aware that should you choose to allow your child's attendance to fall below 90% each parent could receive a fine.

What is
GOOD
attendance?



Congratulations again to **Ayman & Raima** who won the Smyths toy shop vouchers last term because of their brilliant attendance. Next term will see the introduction of lots of fantastic incentives to promote good attendance, don't forget to look out for them.



Autumn Term 2 2020

Monday 2 November	School opens for children
Friday 18 December	End of Term - School closes for Christmas

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January	INSET Day (NO children) – staff training (3)
Tuesday 5 January	School opens for children

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

