

Blakesley Hall School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2013/14

Date: Wednesday 23rd October 2013

Tel: 0121 783 2148 Website: www.blakesley.bham.sch.uk



This month's value word is **Courage** - the ability to do something out of bravery.

DATES	YEAR/CLASS	EVENT
24th October	All	Eid Mela (see Mrs Shahnawaz Year 2 Teacher)
25th October	All	Pupils break up for Autumn half term
4th November	All	RETURN TO SCHOOL
11th November	All	Art week
11h November - 15th November	Year 6	Stansfeld Residential Trip
14th November	Year 6	Trip to Skills Show at the NEC
14th & 15th November	Phase 2	China Workshops
22nd November	All	School Photographer in
28th November	All	Charity Parent Quiz Night

Hi I am Mrs Thacker and I am one of the Receptionists at Blakesley Hall School. I have been here for some time so a lot of parents will already know me, I will now be here on a permanent basis. The office is at the heart of the school and can be a very busy place. I am the first point of call for all pupils, parents, visitors and deliveries. I am always happy to help in anyway I can when you are visiting the school.



Hi I am Mrs Khatun and I am the new Receptionist at Blakesley Hall School. I am looking forward to my time here. I will be one of the first points of contact for everyone coming in to the School and am available for help at all times.

MATHS QUIZ

A fun family maths quiz has been given out during parent's evenings this week.

Please complete and return to school by Tuesday 5th November.

The winner will be announced in assembly on Friday 8th November.

Have Fun!



EID MELA

Don't forget to come join us for a joyous celebration.

Thursday 24th October 2013

3pm - 4.30pm

All contributions will be distributed evenly between two charities; Islamic Relief & Save the Children.

All children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform on Thursday 24th October for this celebration. We will be asking for a donation of £1 per child or £3 per family please send all donation to your child's class teacher.

Poppies will be on sale after half term, Please show your support for our soldiers past and present by making a donation.



Lest We Forget.

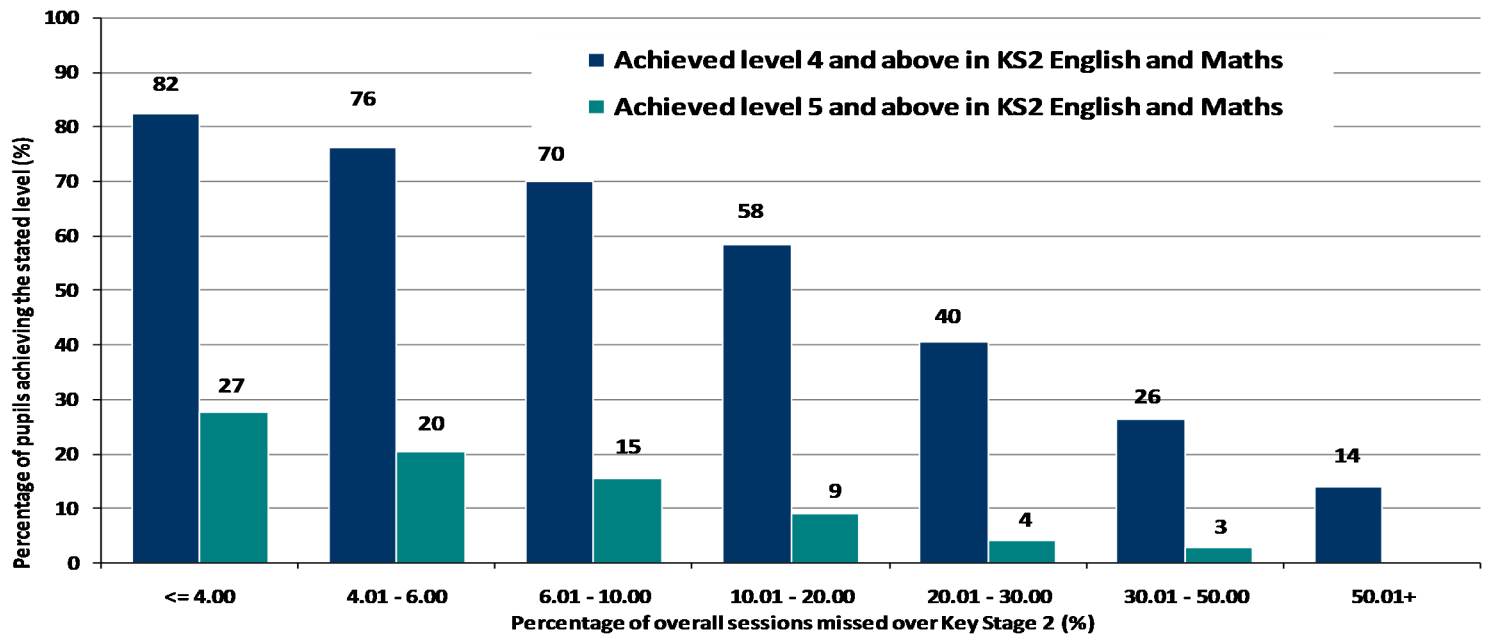
Attendance Update

First some good news. I wrote to you at the start of the year explaining that our

attendance is the lowest of almost all the schools in our area. I know many of you were shocked by this and I thank you for your support. Pleasingly, we have seen an improvement at the start of this new school year and whole school attendance for September was slightly above our target of 95%. This is a great start to the new school year.

A question that I am often asked is why are teachers always talking about attendance? Why is it so important?

Well the answer is simple. Good attendance leads to good learning and a more successful future. The table below (produced by the Government) shows this very clearly. Please take a moment to look at it closely.



What does it show?

- If your child misses no more than 4% of lessons they have an 82% likelihood of obtaining a level 4 (the expected level) at the end of Year 6,
- If their attendance drops to between 90% and 80% (18 to 37 days off in a year) then they have just a 58% chance of achieving the expected Level 4,
- If attendance drops to less than 80% then they have just a 40% chance of obtaining a Level 4 - that is less than half of that for children with good attendance! A huge difference.

It is therefore vital that all children have good attendance every year that they are at Blakesley Hall as this will affect their chances of achieving Level 4 and being properly ready for Secondary School.

The statistics also show that achieving Level 4 will have a big impact on how well children do in their GCSEs. Most shockingly of all Government statistics show that there is a clear link between low attendance at school and the chances of becoming involved in crime.

I hope that you find this both informative and interesting and now understand why teachers are always talking about attendance.

In the coming weeks I will send you all a copy of our updated attendance policy. If you are concerned about your child's attendance and would like to discuss it further, please contact myself or Ms Bailey, our new Attendance Officer, at school.