

Dates For Your Diary

Our Value Word this month is **Caring** — being kind and concerned for others

DATES	YEAR/CLASS	EVENT
21st Oct	All	Children break up for the half term holiday
24th Oct - 28th Oct	All	Half term holiday
31st Oct	All	Children back to school
2nd Nov	Year 6	Parents meeting for Redridge Residential
7th Nov - 11th Nov	Year 6	Residential to Redridge, North Wales
23rd Nov	Year 6	Height and Weight Measurements
28th Nov	Year 1, 2 & 3	Nasal Flu Vaccination

EID MELA

A huge thank you to everyone for their generosity and support at the Eid Mela. The children and staff had fun. We have raised over £1350 for **Human Appeal** that will go towards building Solar Powered Water Wells.



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



WANTED!!!!

Teddy bears and cuddly toys for the teddy tombola stall at the Christmas Fayre. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.



REMINDER



School meals cost £10.75 per week, per child. Please ensure you make your payment on a Monday morning. If you would like to change your choice of meals, please let the office know the week before to avoid any unnecessary charges.

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.

Half-term Reading Challenge

As the nights draw in and the weather gets worse, there is nothing better than snuggling up with a good book. During the half-term holiday we would like you to continue with your reading and tell us what you've read.

What can you read?

- ♦ Anything!
- ♦ Your reading book
- ♦ Library books
- ♦ A favourite book
- ♦ Comics and magazines
- ♦ Information from computers
- ♦ Recipes
- ♦ Menus
- ♦ Timetables



To share with us what you have been reading, you could:

- ♦ draw a picture of a character
- ♦ write a book review
- ♦ make a list of the books you've read
- ♦ write a letter from one of the characters



Half-term Challenge

Give your work to Ms Hack when you return and you may win a prize.

Parents in Partnership at Blakesley!

Your involvement with your child's learning is VITAL

Get involved this half term with –

- ♦ Parent Voice group – a chance to have your ideas heard
- ♦ Curriculum meetings or workshops run by year groups – understand how and what we teach
- ♦ Reading Workshops – support your child with reading at home
- ♦ Early bird reading in Year 1 every morning

Most importantly, Parent Teacher meetings will be held throughout November to discuss progress and learning targets. Be sure to book your appointment with your child's teacher.



One Week ONLY

31st Oct - 4th Nov 2016

ALL STOCK MUST GO!!!

PE T-Shirts
nearly half
price

£2.50

If your child doesn't have a Blakesley PE T-Shirt get one now before they all go!

YEAR 6 TRIP

Year 6 trip to the National Memorial Arboretum

On Monday, Year 6 visited the National Memorial Arboretum. They had a great day learning about different jobs in WW1, why we use the poppy for remembrance, hearing stories about heroes and looking at memorials in their honour. Our tour ended with Year 6 performing a remembrance service and laying a poppy wreath from our school to remember the heroes and families caught up in conflict.



P.E T-Shirts



We are representing Canada for the School Games in support of the Special Olympics next summer.

We have had a spectacular start to the year in sport!
September and October were full of sports competitions and new clubs.



The Daughter and Mother Effect Club

We have had such a fun time playing team games every Monday in this after-school club. The Year 3 and 4 mothers and daughters have developed great teamwork skills and a new appreciation for each other. Activities have included Blindfold Guiding, Basketball and human Noughts and Crosses, among many others. Watch this space for notice about the next Daughter and Mother Club.

It gave us time for the two of us to focus on each other and have fun together. It was good because everyone was included and got to share their ideas. Year 4 Mum

As an individual, it really surprised me how good I am in some games. Year 4 Mum

It helped us make friends with other mothers and their children. Year 4 Mum



**Ms O'Driscoll,
PE Leader**



Basketball Competition

On Tuesday 27th September, the Year 4 and 5 Girls' Basketball Team participated in the School Games Basketball Competition at Small Heath Upper School. Although we didn't win, we had an amazing time competing in our first competition as an all girls team. Many of the other coaches noticed that our team knew proper basketball techniques and rules, and mentioned how smart we all looked in our new Blakesley sports kits. Sarinah (5S) and Jemimma (5O) won School Games Values Badges for Self-Belief. Most importantly, we had so much fun!

Football Competition

On Tuesday 4th October, the Year 3 and 4 Football Team participated in the School Games Football Competition. We won two games and lost the other two, finishing third in our group by only one goal. So we just missed out on the Bronze Medal. Jaden (3Z) scored 4 goals! Rio (4R) was awarded a School Games Values Badge for Determination. Most importantly, we all had a great experience and lots of fun, and we are determined to win next time!



ENGLISH

Look out for our reading fundraiser next term.



Lots has happened for English this half term. The children and staff were very excited when we purchased new dictionaries and thesauruses to the value of £3000. We made this investment because it is important that the children have access to dictionaries and thesauruses in their lessons. This allows them to understand challenging vocabulary and develop their use of it in their own writing. It is great to see them being used in classes now.

Classrooms have also recently undergone a transformation, as staff have been developing class libraries. These are now inviting and engaging areas which contain a range of books -there is even a tepee in RV and a reading cave in 4R!

Each year has also chosen books that will be read with the children to encourage reading for pleasure. To add to this, next half term we will be adding new and exciting books and magazines to the class libraries.



Ms Hack, Assistant Headteacher



TERM DATES



Teacher training days may still be added to the term dates.

Autumn Term 2016		
Mon 5 September		INSET Day (no pupils) - staff training (1)
Tue 6 September		School opens for pupils
Tue 13 September		INSET Day (no pupils) - staff training (2)
24 to 28 October		Half Term
Fri 16 December		End of Term - School closes for Christmas
Spring Term 2017		
Tue 3 January		INSET Day (no pupils) - staff training (3)
Wed 4 January		School opens for pupils
20 to 24 February		Half Term
Fri 7 April		End of Term - School closes for Easter
Summer Term 2017		
Mon 24 April		INSET Day (no pupils) - staff training (4)
Tue 25 April		School opens for pupils
Mon 1 May		May Day Bank Holiday
29 May to 2 June		Half Term
Mon 5 June		School opens for pupils
Tue 25 July		End of Term - School closes for Summer