



Newsletter December 2020

Tel: 0121 783 2148

Website: www.blakesley.bham.sch.uk

WEBSITE NEWS—You can follow us on twitter @BHPS_1

Blakesley Hall Primary School

**Children return to school on
Tuesday 5th January 2021**

It has been a very interesting term for all of us. The biggest success has been the way your children have continued with their learning despite the ups and downs. When bubbles have closed the majority of children have continued with their learning at home and while we still have to make up for the learning time lost in the Summer Term, the children's positive attitudes are making that easier. I am thankful to all school staff who have gone the extra mile making sure that lessons are enjoyable and relevant when we are restricted in many ways and knowing the children well enough to be able to enable them to make progress.



I hope you enjoy reading this month's news and I wish every one of you a well-earned rest and an enjoyable time with family over the coming break from school and look forward to more positive and exciting time in 2021.

With my very best wishes

Ms H M Phillips - Executive Headteacher

Online Safety Top Tip



CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.

The end of the school day will be returning to the normal time from January. Monday to Thursday collection will be from 3:20pm until 3:35pm at the latest. On Fridays, collection is from 12:30pm until 12:45pm. The school gates will continue to open at 8:40am, but will be closed at 8:55am, so arrival timings should be prompt. Remember that lessons start at 8:55am, so any children arriving after that time will be missing valuable learning.

The changes have been made to maximise the learning time for our children. The reduced timetable has worked to maintain our arrival and departure safety measures from the Covid-19 risk assessment plan. Safety continues to be the focus with the updated timings. Another factor which has supported this decision is that the temperature is much colder at this time of year and we need to minimise the amount of time children are spending outside waiting for collection.

We will continue to apply the one-way system and require all parents and carers who are collecting children to wear a face covering, unless they have proof of exemption; please remember this is for the safety of our children, parents and staff. Many of you have continued to follow the requirement of only one adult entering the school site to collect your child or children, this is to minimise the number of additional adults mixing in larger groups. Please continue to keep a social distance when queuing and walking around the school site, a two metre distance is ideal, one metre is the minimum distance you should be from other adults.

Finally, it has been lovely to see a large number of Year 5 and Year 6 children being dropped off at the gates and walking round to their classes independently. However, if your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 or Year 3 they must be escorted to their class entrance by an adult and should not be arriving at the gates alone.

Your continued support in following the safety measures is greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again for your perseverance in these challenging times, **Mr Protherough**
Head of school

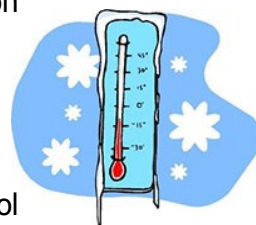


Now that the weather has changed, there is always a chance that snow may come upon us. We provide as many different ways as possible to get messages to you:

The school website which is updated daily - Blakesley Website

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.



Hi everyone, my name is Nazrana Haque and I was elected as a parent governor in October 2020. I'm excited to be a part of the school governing body where two of my children are currently attending.

As a parent governor my aim is to help the school make the progress we need, whilst retaining things that make our school special.

Through the role I hope to help the school continue to provide excellence in Education and help to build relationships between the parents and the School.

I hope everyone has a restful holiday ahead.



MEET OUR NEW PARENT GOVERNORS

Hello, here's a little about me and my family.....

My Wife and I have a 13 year old autistic son who attends special school and my youngest aged 10 started at BHPS in 2014 and is now in year 6. My wife is a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Walsall Manor NHS Trust. My wife and I have got along with most of the teachers my daughter has had over the years and have always considered BHPS to be a good well rounded primary school that engages with parents to achieve the best outcomes for the children.

My working life experience has been extremely varied covering many diverse areas from IT and Construction to Senior Management of Government Contracts. When I retired in 2015, to spend more time with my autistic son, I was the Electrical & Mechanical Contracts Manager for Mears Group and member of the Mears Birmingham senior management team. I am a problem solver with experience of partnership working with local authorities and other stakeholders. People who know me well say I have a unique perspective and alternative approach to problems.

My hobbies and interests include Autism, Chess, Tai Chi, Science, World Politics, Building Technology, Computer Technology, Information Technology, Electronics, DIY, Practical Chemistry, Cars, Motorcycles, Target Shooting, Nature, Gardening and Fish Keeping.



Well done to all the children that entered our winter competition in. It was so hard to choose. Here are our winners.

1st place - Azan & Alisha
2nd place - Tyrian & Tayyiba
3rd place - Ameerah & Malaika

More prizes to come!! All the children involved have had a lolly and the winner got an art set. 2nd and third place had a chocolate bear. 🐻

Thank you again to all the effort that has gone into these lovely pieces of work. We hope you will join in again with our next art competition coming in the New Year.

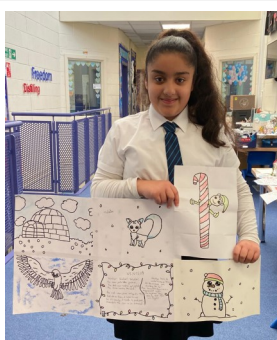
Have a great holiday!

Miss Walker and Mrs Roberts.
Art Team



ART COMPETITION

Look out for our exciting new competition to design a new 50p coin to celebrate the diversity of the UK.



Well done to the children in Reception who have the best attendance since September across the school. The virus is having some impact on our attendance this year but because of your commitment to learning and being here regularly our attendance is in line with attendance in all primary schools across the country, which is very positive - keep it up!

A huge congratulations to the 130 pupils who have excellent attendance, they have been here every single day since September!

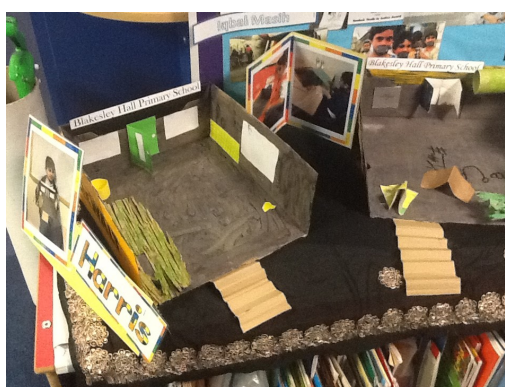
Did you know, 32% of children have attendance of less than 90%. Unfortunately, persistent absence (attendance of 90% or less) is still having a huge impact on our whole school attendance. We have started the process of fining families when pupils are persistently absent. Please be aware that should you choose to allow your child's attendance to fall below 90% each parent could receive a fine.

Reception	94.1%
Year 1	88.8%
Year 2	88.8%
Year 3	89.8%
Year 4	90.1%
Year 5	90.5%
Year 6	91.0%
Overall Attendance	90.4%
Data correct as of 14.12.20	

97%-100%	Excellent
94%-96.99%	Good
90%-93.99%	Cause for Concern
Below 90%	Serious Concern

We would like to introduce you to the newest member of our attendance team. Kelly joined Blakesley at the start of this month, she will be working alongside the other Learning Mentors to support families with improving attendance. She has lots of experience in this area and will be an asset to the Blakesley team, please make her welcome.

ATTENDANCE



JIGSAWS & LEGOS

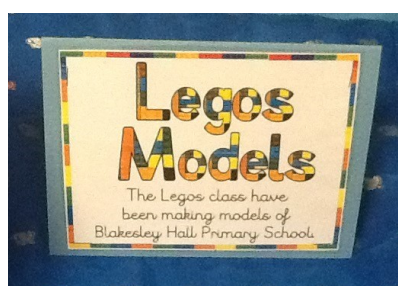


We have had an exciting term in Jigsaws with the setting up of our new class; Legos. This has enabled us to support more children who are finding it difficult to work in a mainstream classroom.

One of the highlights in Jigsaws was celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week which promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education with a particular focus on how nursery rhymes boost early language and literacy skills.

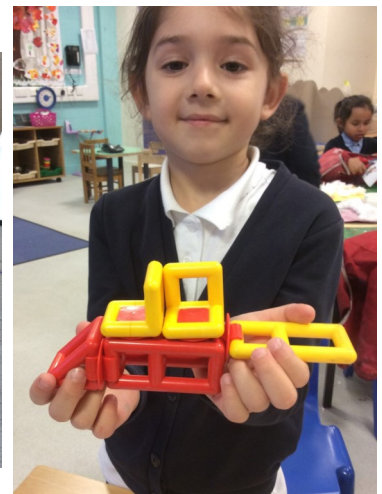
We completed the 'Rhyme a Day' challenge by having activities on a different Nursery Rhymes each day. We carried this on into the following week as they had enjoyed it so much.

The children in Legos have settled into their new environment well and have made some fantastic models of our school using different materials. The children are very proud of these and excited to take them home to show their families.



We have had a very busy half term in Reception. The children have been looking at the topic of Journeys. We have been to space with Baby bear, 'On a bear hunt' and we finished our term with the 'Nativity story'. All the children have also been working very hard to learn songs and actions for our Nativity performance. Next half term our topic is Traditional Tales. The children have had a fantastic first term at Blakesley Hall and continue to wow us with their skills and knowledge. Thank you to our parents and carers for your support and commitment. Wishing all our families a restful break.

RECEPTION



Year 1 have had a great second Autumn Term, we have worked hard on our writing skills, our phonics and developing our knowledge of Addition and Subtraction. We have really enjoyed learning about Seasons in Science and going outdoors to explore Autumn. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas break! See you in 2021!



YEAR 1

Year 2 have been AMAZING this term, well done! We have learnt lots of new skills, read new words and behaved really well. The staff have really enjoyed teaching you so far. We wish you a relaxing holiday, refreshed ready for the new term. We have lots of exciting topics for you to get engaged in.



YEAR 2



Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the academic year. They have worked very hard throughout the term and should be very proud of the focus and determination they have shown.

We have done some great learning and have really enjoyed the topics we have studied. Next half term, we look forward to learning about the different countries and landmarks of Europe. If you would like to do some research over the holidays, that would be fantastic! You may even get extra Dojo points.



REMEMBER-why not have a go at the coin competition (see details on this newsletter). The prize is a great one!

The Year 3 team would like to thank parents for all their support this half term and we wish you all **a happy, restful holiday and a great New Year.**

YEAR 3

This half term, we have particularly enjoyed reading the story 'Jemmy Button' and creating our very own stories! To help us with our writing, we took on the role of some characters and did some drama activities which was really fun! We have also been carrying out some experiments in Science and exploring states of matter. Not to mention, practising all of our times tables!



Year 4 have worked extremely hard this term and we are proud of all the children and their achievements. We wish you all a happy and safe break!

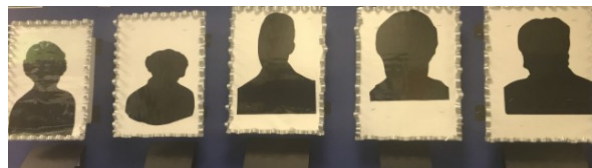
In Year 4, we have had great fun learning our Christmas song 'Run, Run Rudolph'.

YEAR 4

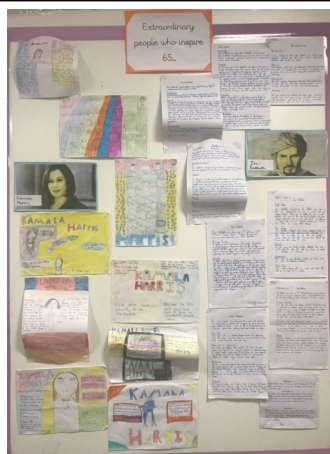
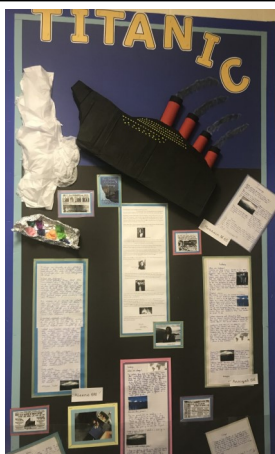


Year 6 have worked extremely hard this term demonstrating hard work and perseverance. All staff would like to congratulate the children as they have all displayed the correct attitude and work ethic. They have experienced their first set of Year 6 assessment tests and are aware of their own individual targets.

The children have also worked independently in writing for pleasure sessions and have produced some delightful work for displays on 'The Titanic' and 'Hidden Figures'.



YEAR 6



CURRICULUM Competition

In school, we are continuing to tell our stories and celebrate the rich diversity we have within our school. It is something we are very proud of. To celebrate, we are holding a **competition** in conjunction with The Royal Mint. Your child will be sent home with a blank 50p picture so that they can design their own coin to celebrate Britain's diversity.



There will be a winner for each Key Stage. The winner will each receive a 50p coin in its own presentation pack as seen on the left.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR DESIGNS.

All entries will need to be received by
Friday January 8th.

The children have worked incredibly hard this term and it is great to see so many children making progress. Please continue to encourage your child to complete their weekly Maths homework that is set by their teachers and learn their times tables too. As a school, we have bought into TT Rockstars as well as Mathletics which are free for your child to use.

Here are a few other links to free websites that you may wish to use to support your child with their maths learning too:

- [5 - 7 Year Olds](#)
- [Maths Games](#)
- [KS1 Maths](#)

MATHS

Great Ormond Street Fundraiser organised by School Council.

Please don't forget our Festive Friday on the 18th December. Children can come to school wearing Christmas jumpers, headbands, hats, tinsel. Anything with a festive vibe!!! We will be asking for a £1 donation that will be split between School Fund and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Thank you for your continued support

School Council and Tina



Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity

Miss Watson and the Blogging team would like to thank everyone for their support with helping us produce our school blog 'Blakesley Times'. We would also like to thank everyone for reading each issue and for all of your kind messages. We will continue to produce an issue every fortnight with fantastic reading and writing from the children as well as our book recommendations.

Miss Watson and the Blogging Team



During Lockdown we asked parents to complete a short survey about their child's reading habits. Eighty-Seven parents, with children from Reception to Year 6, responded. This revealed that 38% of children felt they had read more than usual during the

Lockdown period (with a further 9% reading much more). Importantly, 49% reported that they had enjoyed reading more in recent months. What fantastic news!

Please keep your children reading over the Christmas break. Remember you have log-in details for BugClub and Collins Connect (KS1) and the links below will take you to the BookTrust website, who give advice on reading with your child and a list of suggested books for each age group. We are very excited to be able to send every child in reception home with a free book donated from the BookTrust - happy holiday reading everyone!

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/great-books-guide/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>



Free Books for Reception and a Reminder to Keep Reading

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.



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.

