

THE BLAKESLEY

— B U L L E T I N —

**School term ends for pupils
 on Wednesday 21st July at
 12.45pm.
 Lunch arrangements on this day
 will be the same as a Friday.**

A Year Like No Other

The end of term is here at last,
 A year like no other; so strange,
 A difficult time to put in the past,
 When we all had to adapt and change.

Home schooling was such a challenging thing,
 For parents and children to do,
 All the messages sent out on School PING
 But between us we all muddled through.

Some children were actually taught in school,
 Zoom lessons at home for the rest,
 Everyone worked hard and followed the rules,
 I'm certain you all tried your best.

When finally we were allowed to return,
 It was such a pleasure to see,
 Children with friends, all ready to learn,
 Their faces smiling with glee.

With hand sanitiser and all the class bubbles,
 It's all been so terribly weird,
 We all battled through all of the troubles,
 It wasn't as bad as we feared.

Now Summer's here we'd like to send,
 A big thanks for support that you've given,
 All parents and carers we must commend,
 Your children you've helped to be driven.

Let's hope we can wave Covid goodbye,
 And pray that it never comes back,
 Get normal life back, or at least try,
 And Blakesley can get back on track.

Some members of staff are leaving the fold,
 And of course Year 6 moving on.
 You all will be missed, it has to be told,
 Good luck and good health everyone.

So from all at Blakesley to all of you,
 We hope your summer's the best.
 Whenever you go and whatever you do,
 See you in September refreshed.

Written by Mrs Scott

Welcome from the Executive Headteacher

As we come to the end of another disrupted year of learning for the children I am clear that as a school we have achieved our overall aims as defined by our motto - safe, secure and successful - this is the Blakesley way. To have managed the challenges of the pandemic in keeping families physically safe in many different ways. In having secure systems to make sure that every child is known even when we have not been able to be together; putting well-being and welfare at the top of the agenda and by continuing to provide high quality teaching and learning experiences to help all children succeed despite the odds. The hard part is we don't fully know what September will bring, but I do know that we will be here doors open wide on September 6th ready to start a new academic year with renewed vision, strength and above all optimism. We are as a team united



Ms Phillips

to do our very best for you, each and every child is special to us. My thanks to the staff for their commitment and joy in serving this community. I hope you enjoy reading the highlights from each year group in this edition.

**School Reopens on Monday 6th September for
 all pupils. School starts at 8:40am.**

Chair of Governors



I am sure I said the same at the end of the last academic year but I don't think we will experience a year like this

again. I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone involved in our school community for their hard work over the last 12 months. I know the pandemic has not been easy for you and your families either, and I want to thank you for doing what you could during the national lockdowns. Hopefully, you can all enjoy some rest and relaxation over the summer break and return to school next year refreshed with renewed energy for the year ahead.

Joshua Cronin

I am very pleased to say that Blakesley Hall Primary School has been awarded the Silver Award for children's rights! First and foremost, this was possible due to the incredible work that the children have been doing throughout the past two years. The interview with the children alongside the evidence of work we have done meant that we were successful. A big thank you to the Blakesley staff! A major part of the assessment was the wider community's knowledge of children's rights.

Thank you to all of you for your support by commenting on the weekly rights that are shared on Class Dojo and Twitter. We must continue to advocate for children's rights and share them on a global scale!

Ms Kaur
Year 4 Teacher



J i g s a w & L e g o

As like most children this academic year the children in Jigsaws and Legos have had a turbulent year. Children settled in well considering we were all having to adjust to the COVID restrictions. During the Autumn Term the main focus for learning was 'Ourselves and our Families', followed by exploring different 'Celebrations' such as Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas. We were also very fortunate to have an Occupational Therapist work with us. Then in January we all had to cope with another change with the returning to home learning.

Thank you to the parents for your support and patience during this time. When we returned to school we had a focus on emotions and different ways to regulate these. Throughout the year we have been using songs, music, art, sensory and movement activities to support an individual learning programme for each child. Well done to all the children and their families for a successful year despite all the challenges.



Miss Thorne
Teacher

Wow! What a half term Reception have had. We have been busy investigating different types of animals and where they live. We have been to the jungle, in the ocean and even visited some snowier countries. The children have been comparing how life in these countries and environments is different or similar to life in the country we live in. In Literacy the children have been focussing on descriptive writing, using the animals we have met in our adventures as inspiration. They have been working hard to sound all the words and have even started using capital letters and full stops! In maths we have revisited many of

the concepts we have learnt this year, ensuring we all understand and can apply each one in lots of different situations. The children had a fantastic Sports Day earlier this term, a big thank you to Mr Merriman and Mr Nazir for organising such a fantastic day. During the last week of term we will be writing to our new teachers and telling them all about ourselves. What an incredible first year of school our children have had! They should all be very proud of their achievements this year.

Miss Bowker
Early Years Lead.

R e c e p t i o n



Year 1 have made fantastic progress! It was hard in the beginning, learning school routines again, children missed their friends but we never gave up. The children have worked really hard to become super readers, excellent writers and math magicians! We have had lots of fun exploring new stories in English, we really enjoyed Fantastic Mr Fox! Recently we have loved learning about Pirates we have been reading "Molly Rogers, Pirate Girl", and

writing messages and using adjectives and verbs! In Maths we have focussed a lot on learning our number bonds to 10 and ensuring we are confident with addition and subtraction. We have enjoyed exploring and learning in Year 1! We are confident, bright and an enthusiastic year group who have bounced back despite all that has happened!

*Miss Virdee
Year 1 Lead.*



Year 2 have had a fantastic year and they have all made a huge amount of progress! There have been many highlights this year, here are some of them. Recently the children loved Sports Day, they had fun participating in lots of different activities. In our English lessons, we have really improved our writing by becoming more independent. Across the curriculum, we have enjoyed making

puppets in D&T, learning about Mary Anning and Mary Seacole in History. We have been taking part in lots of Science investigations to develop our investigative skills – we have just tested the amount a Curly Wurly can stretch! We are really proud of what the children achieved this year.

*Mrs Paddam
Year 2 Lead*

Despite COVID restrictions, in Year 3 we have worked hard to provide children with a range of memorable learning experiences. As a Year Group Leader, I sat down and spoke with our Learning Ambassadors so they could tell me what they have enjoyed the most. Sports Day, although very different this year, was a clear highlight. The children also enjoyed designing and making their own waterproof boats which they then were able to sail. Another highlight was Science Week. It is always great to have the opportunity to wear fancy dress to school and this year was no different. We've learnt lots about different cultures, as well as taking time learnt lots about different cultures, as well as taking time to celebrate each of our own.

We had a visit to a school in Washington DC, albeit a virtual one, to learn about life in an American school and also enjoyed finding out about inventors from different cultures that have had such a large impact on all our lives. Our topic about Birmingham's cultural diversity is always a favourite in Year 3 and, once again, the children enjoyed being able to see how Birmingham has developed and how we all have important historical links to the city. What are we most proud of as teachers? The resilience and patience of the children has been amazing. They have come to school and given their all.

*Mr Walmsley
Year 3 Lead*



Teaching and leading Year 4 this year has been an absolute pleasure! We have had great fun taking part in a range of activities and learning opportunities throughout the year. From immersing ourselves in books, such as *The Boy, the Mole, the fox and the horse*, *Journey to Jo'burg* and *Beowulf*, to turning back time and learning all about the Stone Age and the Anglo-Saxons. We have created some amazing and thought provoking blog posts, diary entries and pieces of artwork. We've even enjoyed plenty of drama activities (I know there are some future stars here at Blakesley!). There has been endless fun and learning experiences which the children have enjoyed, but it

is their sheer enthusiasm and love for learning which has made us all extremely proud. Both the staff and children, have shown amazing resilience, patience and care throughout what has been a difficult and unpredictable year for all. The children's enthusiasm in all that they do make coming to school



Dressing up for Anglo-Saxon day!

Year 4

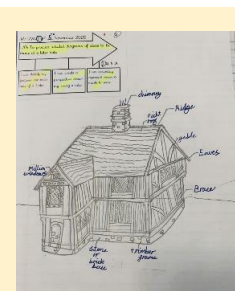
Investigating structures in Science.



exciting and rewarding. Every child should be extremely proud of all they

have achieved this academic year. I know that they will continue to shine!

Miss Johnson
Year 4 Lead.



The children have worked extremely hard both in school and at home, not only have they made fantastic progress in their learning, but their confidence has grown as well!

There have been many highlights during this academic year, here are some that we would like to share with you. The children have really enjoyed history lessons this year and one of their favourite topics has been Ancient Greece. The children have loved reading different Greek myths and learning about the gods and goddess. At the beginning of

Year 5

the summer term, we sculpted costal dioramas using the technique of papier mache, these looked fantastic and were displayed around school! In PE, the children have developed their dance skills and created their own routines, some have been very impressive. Other highlights include Science week and sports day!

The Year 5 team would like to say well done to all the children. You have made all the teachers extremely proud.

Miss Parsons
Year 5 Lead.

I would like to say thank you on behalf of the Year 6 team for your continued support throughout the school closures and for your efforts on the return of your child to school in March. It has been a pleasure to have the year group in school striving to succeed, and persevering at every challenging hurdle. One thing that your child has been able

to truly develop this year in and out of school is determination not to give up! The children have especially enjoyed participating in Art and DT and have created some very pleasing work. Sports Day was a great success and all three classes had fun demonstrating excellent skills.

Mrs. McPherson
Year 6 Lead.

Year 6

The Year 6 team would like to take this opportunity to wish the children every success at secondary school.



Happy Retirement



HAPPY
RETIREMENT

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Walsh who is retiring after 23 years here at Blakesley Hall Primary. We wish her happiness as she now takes time to enjoy her family and her hobbies.

Sorry you are leaving

The following staff are leaving us this year: **Mr Roberts** and **Mr Merriman** and **Ms Siddiq** who will be teaching abroad. **Miss Kaur** for her new job and to **Mrs McPherson** who will be taking up a promotion to Assistant Headteacher at another local school.

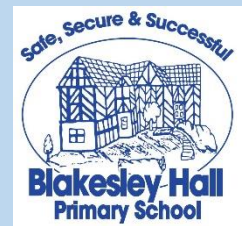
We will miss you



Congratulations to Ms Hack and Miss Paddam and their recent weddings - Miss Paddam will be called Mrs Lahoria from September.



We have enjoyed a strong partnership with Bordesley Green Primary School. While I was Executive Headteacher, Mr Protherough was afforded the opportunity to be Head of School here for two years. I thank him for his work during this time. From September Mr Protherough will resume his role as Deputy Headteacher alongside Miss Cameron.



Autumn Term 2021

Thursday 2 September	INSET Day (NO children) – staff training (1)
Friday 3 September	INSET Day (NO children) – staff training (2)
Monday 6 September	School opens for children
Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October	Half Term
Monday 1 November	School opens for children
Friday 17 December	End of Term - School closes for Christmas

Executive Headteacher – Ms Phillips, **Head of School** - Mr Protherough, **Deputy Headteacher** - Miss Cameron, **Assistant Headteachers** – Mrs Key, Ms Hack, Mrs Reid-Leonard, Mrs Smith