



Blakesley



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SchoolPing

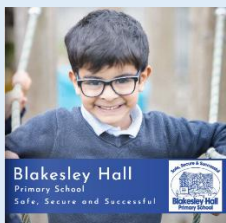


Edition 7 – Spring 2 2022

THE BLAKESLEY

— BULLETIN —

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



Last Day of Term:
Friday 8th April

School Reopens:
Tuesday 26th April



Apply online [NOW](https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/)

The Healthy Start scheme is changing, with a new online application process and prepaid card, to replace the paper vouchers. Paper vouchers will no longer be issued after **31st March 2022** so it is very important that you apply for a prepaid card as you will no longer receive vouchers after the 31st March 2022. **You will not automatically be transferred onto the new scheme.**

Please note that paper applications are no longer being accepted, if you do not have access to a computer or phone, ask your health visitor, midwife, Children Centre, or another organisation that you receive support from

To apply for the first time or get your new prepaid card, go to the Healthy Start website www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/ and follow the steps for applying.

Pregnant women and families with children under the age of 4 may be eligible for help to buy healthy food and milk if they are on certain benefits. Healthy Start vouchers are currently worth **£4.25** per week per child under the age of four – but if you have a child under one year, you could get two vouchers a week giving you **£8.50**

Sign up online today - www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Spring has sprung – the sun brings a brightness to our days bringing renewed positivity and hope.



This camellia shrub was given to me by way of congratulations when I became Headteacher here, it was a gift given to me by the staff team in place at the time 17 years ago. I carried it home proudly, then as a small pot plant. Every Spring this plant grows larger and when the flowers blossom in my garden, it is a special reminder of the privilege it is to still be serving this community.

In this edition, we celebrate a

number of staff who have 20 years in service at our school and we are thankful for their



continued commitment. Last week was Autism Acceptance Week and we integrated awareness activities within our curriculum provision. Jess Phillips MP and huge supporter of the school will be visiting us again, this time to celebrate the work of Jigsaws Class and the wider provision for our Autistic children. I am proud of all children in school who have shown such positive learning behaviours during assessment weeks – well done children and all staff. Ramadan Mubarak to our Blakesley families who fast and reflect at this important time and Happy Easter – we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday 26th April.

Ms Phillips

We held our latest governing body meeting in March, where we got to hear about how many of the governing board had been into school to meet with their key school contacts. We heard updates on the plan for how pupil premium funding was being spent, updates on the English and Maths Curriculum, what has been happening in Early Years, whilst

also hearing about how the school is working to raise attendance and plans for assessments this year. Further visits are planned for the final term of the year to follow the progress the school is making in these areas and more.



Joshua Cronin

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

HONESTY ♦ UNITY ♦ RESPECT ♦ CARING ♦ PERSISTENCE ♦ APPRECIATION

MEET THE STAFF

Hi, my name is Mrs Smith. I joined Blakesley Hall Primary school as a newly qualified teacher 15 years ago. I have been a Class Teacher, Phonics Leader, Year 6 Year Group Leader and nowadays, I am one of the Assistant Head Teachers, currently leading on Maths. I moved to Birmingham from Hereford to go to university and have been here ever since, I also have 2 sisters who are

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

teachers in Birmingham. During my time at Blakesley, I have been privileged to see and be a part of the journeys of so many children, supporting and watching them reach for their full potential. Outside of school, I love to read and I'm kept very busy by my 2-year-old twin girls.



Mrs Smith
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Wareham



Mrs Akhtar



Mrs Raquib



Mrs Kamran



LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS

Meet some of our 18 Lunchtime Supervisors. They are an important part of our team.

Mrs Key & Mrs Roberts have been with us at Blakesley Hall Primary School for over 20 years.

My name is Mrs Roberts. I have worked at Blakesley for 21 years. I started as a lunchtime supervisor then moved to working in the classrooms. I have worked in every year; Reception to year 6. My children attended Blakesley many years ago, they really enjoyed their time here and are now adults. I am part of the SEND team and I'm enthusiastic about helping the children to learn and achieve their best.

Mrs Roberts
Teaching Assistant



**CELEBRATING
20 YEARS**

My name is Mrs Key, I am an Assistant Headteacher and I have worked at Blakesley Hall Primary School for 20 years. I started working here in September 2001 as a Year 1 teacher. I was new to teaching and Blakesley was the first and only school. I have been the Special Educational Needs Coordinator since 2014.

I can't quite believe it is twenty years since I started teaching here, I still remember how nervous I was on my first day! But just like our motto, I was Safe, Secure and Successful at Blakesley Hall Primary.

Mrs Key
Assistant Headteacher &
SENCO Leader

So far we have supported:

- ❖ **Afghanistan appeal** – We sent a van full of food, clothing & toiletries to support refugees arriving in the midlands.
- ❖ **Children in Need** – Raised £304.05
- ❖ **Refugees from Ukraine** – We showed our support for Ukrainian refugees raising over £400.
- ❖ **Cancer Research** – Braiswick Photography have donated £48.50 from BHPS for your photograph purchases.

CHARITY AWARENESS & FUNDRAISING

- ❖ **Library Mini Fair** – Raised £80.50 for school council, £50.76 for Islamic Relief and £185 for the school library.
- ❖ **World Book Day** – Raised £240 for books across school.

Next term we will be fundraising for Autism Acceptance and more.

Thank You for your generous donations.

HONESTY ♦ UNITY ♦ RESPECT ♦ CARING ♦ PERSERVERANCE ♦ APPRECIATION

This has been a busy time for History. We are now approaching the half-way point of the school year with lots of new knowledge, skills and understanding across the breadth of history, from Year Four's learning about the Stone Age to Year Five's topics about World War Two. Year One have investigated the History of Toys, while Year Three looked at the Vikings v the Anglo-Saxons. Finally, to celebrate their learning about the Victorians, Year Six came to school in costumes for their fantastic Victorian Day. This half-term, Year One have been looking at explorers, particularly

Year 1 investigating materials toys are made off



A Year 3 Viking puppet.



Mr Addis
Year 5 Teacher &
History Leader

CURRICULUM - HISTORY

focusing on Ernest Shackleton, Year Two have been learning about The Great Fire of London and Year Four have been learning about Ancient Egypt.

Here are some useful websites about those topics:

- [Continent of Antarctica](#)
- [The Great Fire of London](#)
- [KS2 History: Ancient Egypt.](#)

Primary schools have a vital role to play in supporting children's mental health-teaching them the skills they need to recognise and deal with their emotions and helping those with difficulties to get the support that they need.

This year, I have completed training in this area and I am now Senior Mental Health Leader for our school. During the Spring Term, I have worked with various members of staff to compile a Mental Health Action Plan. This includes important actions to ensure that pupils, staff and parents feel supported with mental health and wellbeing.

Some of our actions include:

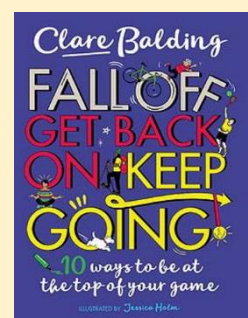
- Including a wellbeing and mental health focus for all pupils in assemblies.
- Developing a Wellbeing Council with the Learning Mentors.
- Posting wellbeing and mental health support guidance via class dojo - our Learning Mentors are signposting any guidance that parents may find useful.
- Year 5 - Using the book 'Fall Off, Get Back On and Keep Going' by Clare Balding, pupils take part in weekly

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

sessions focusing on using skills and strategies to be their best. This programme supports children to use a toolkit of strategies for resilience, patience and confidence to tackle any issues the children may have in line with the PHSE curriculum.

- Year 6 - Using the books 'You are Awesome' by Matthew Syed and 'Go Big' by Matthew Burton, Year 6 pupils are using this programme in preparation for moving to secondary school. This programme focuses on wellbeing, resilience and preparing for their next step in their new school. Pupils are given time in weekly sessions to discuss any worries that they might have and find positive strategies to help them to get ready for their new school.

Our Mental Health Action Plan will be updated regularly to ensure that we are assessing the needs of our children and putting support in to place for those who need it. Mental health and wellbeing is a key priority for our school.



Mrs Reid-Leonard
Assistant Headteacher &
Mental Health Leader