



Blakesley



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# THE BLAKESLEY

## — BULLETIN —

**HEADTEACHER - Ms Phillips**

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**



I hope you have enjoyed our Blakesley Bulletins this year, they are designed to give a flavour of our school – our ethos and values as well as celebrating the things we do well. This edition is designed to celebrate our curriculum. Leaders work hard to research and plan the very best curriculum for the children. We don't teach from a book, while adhering to the National Curriculum, we take time to make sure our curriculum meets the needs of our children – providing learning that is enjoyable, relevant and has the right level of challenge. Enjoy the Summer! Our very best wishes to Year 6 pupils and the families that will be leaving us and to our staff moving on to new things: **Miss Mitha, Mr Protherough, Miss Bowker and Mrs Knowles.**

**SORRY YOU ARE LEAVING - WE WILL MISS YOU****MISS MITHA**

We would like to congratulate Miss Mitha who will be getting married this summer, she will also be relocating and starting a new job.

**MRS KNOWLES**

Best wishes to Mrs Knowles – she will be leaving the education sector and will be going back to the corporate world after 14 years in our school.

**MR PROTHEROUGH**

Sadly, Mr Protherough won't be returning to BHPS. He has been successful securing a new job in another Local Authority.

**MISS BOWKER**

All the best to Miss Bowker for her new job as an Early Years Lead Practitioner.

### Autumn Term 2022

Wednesday 7 September School opens for children

24 October – 28 October **Half Term**

Monday 31 October School opens for children

Friday 16 December **End of Term - School closes for Christmas**



**SCHOOL REOPENS FOR  
CHILDREN ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER**

*We have so much to celebrate as we look back on the past academic year.*

Thanks to the support that we received from our library crowdfunding appeal we were able to stock the library with lots of new books. It has been so lovely to see the children visiting the library again. The team of school librarians did us proud with organising the World Book Day celebrations and mini-fair, as part of the BHPS Book Festival.

Several year groups have had the opportunity to work with theatre companies. Both Year 3 and Year 5 have had long-term projects working alongside real-life actors. Some members of Y5 even represented the school in a performance at the Midland Arts Centre.

Poetry has been a focus across school and we have chosen poems to read in very year group, celebrating our diverse history and culture. Throughout the year we have had a focus on encouraging children to develop a love of writing through the introduction of writing for pleasure notebooks.



*Pupils from Y5 with props from their production 'Precious Emily'*

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION - Mr Allen

We have had a fantastic year of PSHE across the school! In the Spring term, Year 5 learned about democracy and the importance it has on British Values. They also ran an election for the role of Junior Member of Parliament! Last month they were fortunate to meet our local Member of Parliament (Jess Phillips) and had a great Q&A session on the big stage.

COMPUTING - Miss Harrison

This year children were introduced to a new Computing scheme. We have been very lucky to have received many new devices this year which have really enhanced the children's computing skills of coding, debugging and creativity this year and a real enjoyment of computing is clearly being expressed.



G E O G R A P H Y - M i s s C h o i

This year, our children have engaged in Geography with great enthusiasm. They have loved exploring the globes in our classrooms, reading atlases together and visiting different locations in the world through Google Earth. I think one of the greatest successes this year has been the link between home and school in extending the Geography knowledge of our children, through our half-termly DT projects and ClassDojo Geography Challenges. It has been great to hear about so many of you opening up Google Maps on your phones, spinning your globes and pulling out those dusty atlases from the bottom shelf of your bookcases (or even buying new copies on Amazon!) to support our children in enhancing their understanding of our world.

M A T H S - M r s S m i t h

This year we've seen some exciting changes in maths! We have moved to using the White Rose scheme and have focussed on fluency and fun. It's great to walk around school and see lots of creative and exciting maths lessons allowing children to fill the gaps left by covid; be challenged with new learning and build enjoyment and confidence. MATHS IS FOR EVERYONE - WE LOVE MATHS!

## SCIENCE - Miss Knight

Science is everywhere in our world and we have certainly been exploring, predicting, and researching the world around us. Reception have explored the changes of the seasons and discovering how to draw what they observe - just like grown-up scientists do! In Year 1 and 2, children have been exploring different materials and testing their properties. Year 3 students developed their investigation skills through 'The Nappy Challenge', where they planned and conducted their own fair tests. Year 5 students have learned about space and the solar system, which even inspired one student to create a song of their own, called We don't talk about Pluto! For their final topic at Blakesley, children are investigating light - and have great fun reflecting and refracting light rays during shadow investigations. Across the school, we named our Science

Mascot (see picture). Science Ambassadors surveyed all classes from Year 1 to 6, and the most popular name was... Coco! In the summer term, every child planted a seed to grow; eventually these seeds will be planted in our community garden, and we aim to grow an edible fruit, vegetable or herb for every child in September. Next year, we look forward to more experiments, celebrating Science Week and working more closely with our local community.



Mascot

Year 6 Light Investigation



## MUSIC - Mrs Roadley

There has been some great music lessons going on around school and the children have really enjoyed them, lots of noise in a music lesson is what I love to hear! Lots of different instruments being learnt too such as, guitars, trumpets, cello, glockenspiels, recorders and djembe drums.

We also have our very own rock band who have been practising every week with Rocksteady. They play the drums, electric keyboards, electric guitar and they have two vocalists. It's so good to see so many children learning a new skill. The Blakesley choir have been amazing, they started off very shy singing in front of everyone, but have now grown in confidence and love to sing their latest song in front of the whole school. We had a great day at Symphony

Hall with the "Singing Playground" team learning lots of fun songs to share with their friends at playtimes. Well done choir! Next term will be just as amazing and fun, lots more fabulous music lessons, singing, performing, a trip to the Resorts World Arena with the choir, staff choir and maybe even a parent choir, so watch this space.

Have a great summer holiday and "keep singing".



## RE - Mrs Masud

This year our children have done lots of fantastic learning in R.E. We've learnt through stories, Art and role play and celebrated key religious festivals throughout the year. We've listened to the children's ideas about how to make R.E even more exciting for our next academic year. Next year our new Birmingham Agreed Syllabus 2022 will be implemented in our teaching across the school with a focus on values and dispositions.

It is our role to ensure pupils are being inquisitive by asking questions about the world around them by allowing pupils to gain high quality experiences.



Christianity   Buddhism   Judaism   Hinduism   Islam

## ART - Mrs Roberts

In the curriculum, we have provided opportunities for every year group to experience drawing, painting, printing, modelling and sculpting. Reception have been busy in their creative area, whilst Year 2 have practiced their drawing and paint-mixing skills to recreate the Great Fire of London. In Year 6, the children have used Islamic Art as a stimulus for creating their own sculptures. Year 1 looked closely at faces and drew their own portraits and Year 4 used press print

techniques to reflect buildings in their local environment. Year 5 used recyclable materials in order to create sculptures based around an ocean theme. After School Art Club has also been busy learning about the artist Abbi Browne and using her art as an inspiration to produce their own work. The artist even messaged Miss Walker to say how amazed she was at the standard of the children's work. We look forward to creating even bigger and better opportunities next year!

## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - Mr Wareham

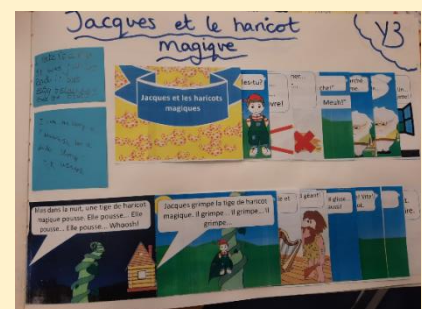
This year has been an amazing year for Design and Technology across school. Pupils and Teachers have risen to the challenge of new DT topics and have learnt lots of new skills and produced some incredible end results. Over the year children have had experiences and successes in Food technology, Computer aided design (CAD) and Textiles. The biggest success however is the way that children of all ages have developed their Woodwork skills, Particularly Reception, who for the first time have been independently using saw, drills and other tools in their provision.



## FRENCH - Miss Knight

Bonjour! What a fantastic year- or should I say- quelle annee fantastique! This year, all Key Stage 2 students have made huge improvements in their French knowledge. In Year 3, pupils started the year by learning basic introductions and counting to 20, but can now describe themselves and read a fairy tale in French. In Year 4, students began to use bi-lingual dictionaries to translate words and improve their vocabulary. Year 4 also performed 'Cendrillon' – the French version of Cinderella. Year 5 learned all about 'Les Coquelicots', a famous painting of poppies by Monet, and were able to describe the artwork as well as give their opinions on the piece. Year 6 students have advanced to conjugating the verbs 'avoir', meaning to have, and 'etre' meaning to be. This grammar knowledge was essential for creating longer, more detailed conversations.

Overall there has been a positive buzz around French.



**French Fairy Tale in Year 3**

## HISTORY - Mr Addis

This has been a busy year for History, with school trips starting again and special History Days like Year 6's Victorian Day and Year 5's Ancient Greek Immersion Day, in which Professor McGinty, the time travelling historian, gave the children opportunities to examine artefacts and even wear Ancient Greek clothes. Year 2 children demonstrated considerable knowledge about The Great Fire of London, Mary Seacole and Mary Anning. Year 1's topic about the Queen and Commonwealth meant they were experts by the time the whole

school celebrated The Queen's Jubilee. Meanwhile, in Year 3, the children learnt about Cultural Birmingham, a local History study unit that was later elaborated on by some Year 5 Young Researchers, who took part in a Commonwealth Games-inspired History research topic. Finally, in Year 4 the children travelled in time through the Stone Age, Ancient Egypt and the Anglo Saxons.

