



Blakesley



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# THE BLAKESLEY

## — BULLETIN —

HEADTEACHER - Ms Phillips



The first half of the term is nearly finished, time seems to have flown by! Staff and children have been very busy settling in to new classes, new routines and to quote one child, "getting used to harder work!"

We have renewed our vision and values and made a strong link with our house icons. If you visited school during Parents' Evening, you may have noticed our striking vision boards on display in every classroom which serve as a daily reminder of who we are and what we stand for. I hope you can find your culture and identity strongly reflected in our surroundings. Please make sure you follow us on twitter, check class DOJO - our school story is updated daily - and contact your child's class teacher when you need to so that we are truly working in partnership with you as your child's first educators.

### Goodbyes and Hellos

You will soon be welcomed by new faces in the Main Office. Mrs Khatun and Mrs Thacker will be leaving us - we wish them well for the future!

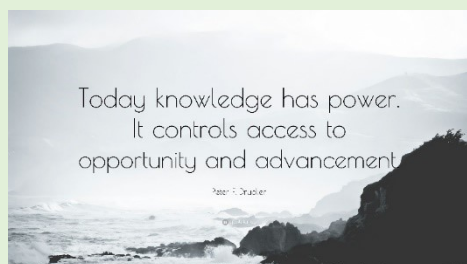
<p><b>Respectful Citizens</b> Preet Kaur Gill - Yellow House</p> <p>Preet Kaur Gill is the Labour and Cooperative MP for Edgware, having first been elected to Parliament in 2007. She is the first female Sikh MP (there are also two appointed to the Shadow Cabinet on Scotland Secretary of State for April 2020).</p> <p><b>School Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respectance</li> <li>• Respect</li> </ul>	<p><b>Healthy Advocates</b> Dr Clinton Butler - White House</p> <p>Dr Clinton Butler is a Birmingham born and Birmingham based Primary of Medicine and Professor at the University of Oxford in Romania.</p> <p><b>School Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care</li> <li>• Perseverance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Confident Communicators</b> James and Oliver Phelan - Orange House</p> <p>James and Oliver Phelan are twin brothers from Birmingham who earned the role of Fred and George Weasley in the Harry Potter film series.</p> <p><b>School Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unity</li> <li>• Appreciation</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Aspirational Learners</b> Casper Bailey - Red House</p> <p>Casper Bailey is a writer, performer and actor, born and raised in Heston, Birmingham, UK. He is a primary school teacher and has been Birmingham's Poet Laureate since 2020.</p> <p><b>School Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciation</li> <li>• Honesty</li> <li>• Care</li> </ul>	<p><b>Knowledgeable Scholars</b> Maddie Mansfield - Green House</p> <p>Maddie Mansfield is a Pakistan-born (Birmingham-adopted) activist and campaigner. She has campaigned for equality and access to education for girls.</p> <p><b>School Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perseverance</li> <li>• Honesty</li> <li>• Respect</li> </ul>
<p><b>Successful Achievers</b> Mark Adams - Blue House</p> <p>Mark Adams is a Coventry born Paralympian. She races children between 100-200m and won the BBC Young Sportsperson of the Year in 2008.</p> <p><b>School Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unity</li> <li>• Perseverance</li> </ul>	

*This edition of the Blakesley Bulletin is dedicated to the work of the Senior Leadership Team and the hard work and passion they show for the school and the areas they lead.*

MATHS - Mrs Smith

At Blakesley Hall Primary School, we will be working hard this year to help children develop their long term memory so they can store all the knowledge that is shared with them daily, ready for use in the future. Alongside this, we will be providing children with a number of unique opportunities to help them to further develop their understanding of a range of topics. This may be a visit out of school, a visitor into school or an experience day linked to key topics. Helping children to remember more will help to expand their options and opportunities, as they get older.

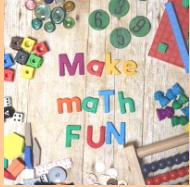


Helping teachers to understand the success of knowledge development in school is the job of our Learning Ambassadors, who provide valuable feedback about their learning. They are part of a bigger Junior Leadership Team (JLT) who are made up of the Head Pupils, School Prefects, School Councillors, Wellbeing Ambassadors and Ambassadors of the Arts. This strong pupil voice is an important part of school life and a valuable source of information, ideas and inspiration to us all.

**HONESTY ♦ UNITY ♦ RESPECT ♦ CARING ♦ PERSERVERANCE ♦ APPRECIATION**

## Maths is Fun at Blakesley

We know that children learn far better when lessons are fun, meaningful, and hands-on. Through the use of games, play, role play and real life, children have fun getting creative, talking with others and laughing while also improving their understanding of maths skills such as counting, shapes and numbers, reasoning and problem solving.



This year at Blakesley, we are putting the fun back into maths lessons. We want to play board games, online games, role play, use real life situations, get outside and have FUN with our maths learning!



Try this tricky problem together!

There are 20 people in a room.

If they shake each other's hands once and only once, how many handshakes are there all together?

It's easy to support us with this at home. It can be as simple as counting stairs; colours of car or going on a shape walk looking for triangles or squares. You can follow recipes together; weigh ingredients and use timers. At a supermarket, how about estimating how much the shopping will cost, working out discounts, change or even comparing weights and sizes. Even a simple board game that involves dice or money will help with maths.

Learning maths doesn't have to be boring...let's make it FUN!

## Resource Base

We are very excited to be working with the Birmingham City Council to create a formal resource base for our children with more complex needs. The consultation for this has now opened and we need as many parents as possible to share their views. We are delighted that we will be able to offer a more specialist provision with secure funding for children with communication and interaction needs within our community. It has been a real boost that Birmingham has acknowledged our hard working in educating children with complex needs. Having a formal resource base within the community will mean children with Education, Health and Care Plans will not have to travel across the city for appropriate provision.



## Attendance

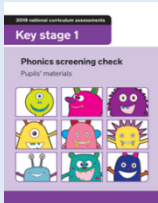


We are currently on a mission to raise whole school attendance at Blakesley Hall Primary to 96%. Blakesley children are excited to come to school to learn and see their friends and teachers. They are buzzing about attendance and look forward to seeing which children are in class each morning. We want ALL children to have a good education so they can go on to be successful in adult life. As the modern world progresses, our children will be learning skills and knowledge for jobs not yet in existence. One of the greatest and cheapest gifts we can give our children is education and knowledge.

## Phonics & Early Reading

Teaching phonics is an essential way of helping children how to read, write and spell. Children have daily phonics lessons which helps them to recognise sounds, blend and segment words to support with reading and writing skills.

At the end of year 1, children take a Phonics Screening Check. This consists of reading 40 words to ensure that children are at the expected level before moving in to Year 2. Last year, following the pandemic, the percentage of pupils reaching the expected score in the Phonics Screening Check at our school was much lower than we would have hoped. This means that our pupils in Year 2 will need extra support this year to reach the expected standard in reading.



So, this year the teaching of phonics and early reading skills is a huge priority in EYFS and KS1. We have started this year with a focused phonics plan to ensure that all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have quality phonics and reading teaching. This will ensure that they have the skills they need to reach the expected standard of reading for their year group.

Children are taught in small groups, with ability set groups across Year 1 and Year 2. Our Phonics leader, Mrs Green is carefully tracking pupil progress in phonics and reading. Lessons are fun with lots of phonics and reading games. It is important that pupils are in school on time every day as we teach phonics first lesson every morning.

We would like to invite parents to come in to the classrooms in the mornings to support with phonics skills. Year Group Leaders will let you know when this will start. Any parents who have some time to come into school to hear children read regularly, please let class teachers know, we would love your support.

Section 1	Section 2
sut	shop
yad	yell
dop	peel
uct	check

## WRITING FOR PLEASURE - Ms Hack

In 2021 the National Literacy Trust reported that only 1 in 3 children and young people enjoy writing. This was the lowest level of enjoyment recorded since 2010. There has been a lot of research in recent years into children's enjoyment of writing and their motivation to write. The evidence suggests that children who enjoy writing and are motivated to write, are eight times more likely to achieve well academically. Therefore, writing for pleasure is vital when teaching young writers.



So what is writing for pleasure? Writing for pleasure is writing that someone chooses to do 'of their own free will' and is completed for enjoyment and satisfaction. In school we are making sure the children have time for personal writing projects, where they choose what and how they write, and for whomever they choose to write for. Each child at BHPS has their own writer's notebook, which they decorate the cover of to make it their own. They use it to write for fun, to share information, and to explore what matters to them. They choose to work on some pieces of writing and to abandon others. Why not encourage your child to have a writing for pleasure notebook at home too - so they can continue to have fun with writing at home.