



Blakesley



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# THE BLAKESLEY

## — B U L L E T I N —

### HEADTEACHER - Ms Phillips



The summer term is nearly finished, with each class ready to move to their new class in September. The children continue to be a real credit to the school, with their focused academic efforts and the care they show for each other. This year they have continued to push forward in a quest for new knowledge, delivered to them by a team of dedicated staff who continue to work hard for your children.

It is also that time of year where we say goodbye to our Year 6 children, who will soon be off to pastures new. It seems only a short while ago that we welcomed them into Reception. We are very proud with everything they have achieved in their time at Blakesley Hall and wish them every success in the future. I hope that they can keep in touch with us in the future- it is always great to hear from former pupils.

This year we say goodbye to the following staff: **Miss Parsons, Mr Bailey, Mrs Boora, Mr Addis, Mrs Masud, Miss Virdee, Mrs Finnegan, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Palmer and Miss Cresswell.**

Whether they are off to new parts of the country, retiring, have new career opportunities or are looking to reduce their travelling time to and from work (some spend hours travelling each day!), we wish them all the very best. We thank each one of them for the great contribution they have made to the school. We will all miss each and every one of you.



## THANK YOU

### CHAIR OF GOVERNORS - Mr Cronin

Following another successful year here at Blakesley Hall Primary School, the governing board would like to thank all the staff for their continued dedication and hard work. We would also like to wish you all a safe and happy summer break and look forward to seeing you back here refreshed, in September.



### ASSESSMENT RESULTS



Our end of year test results are a really positive picture.

-In **Reception**, our end of year assessments are 25% better than last year, children are ready for their Year 1 curriculum.

-Progress in Phonics is strong, our **Year 1** pass rate is 12% better than last year.

-End of **KS1** results are improving, with a 7% increase on the number of pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.

-In **Year 4**, 40% of our pupils reached top marks in their Multiplication Tables Check, 80% of pupils reached a score of 20+.

-Our **KS2** results continue to improve, with a 16% increase on pupils reaching expected in Reading, Writing and Maths Combined.

## Learning about Democracy

***"Lovely visit. The kids and staff totally engaged as always here." Jess Phillips***

It was fantastic to welcome back Jess Phillips, Labour MP for Yardley, to school this term. Jess visits every summer to talk to the children about democracy, her life as an MP and to give inspirational advice to the children of Year 5. She always takes time to answer children's questions too. A big thank you to Jess for her visit.



## SAFEGUARDING AT BLAKESLEY HALL

### Home or Out Alone Campaign

Managing work and childcare in the six-week summer holiday can present challenges for parents, so the NSPCC has offered advice on what can and should be done. There is no legal age a child can be left home alone as every child matures differently, but it is against the law to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk. The NSPCC state that children under the age of 12 are rarely mature enough to cope in an emergency and should not be left at home alone for a long period of time. Also, that children under the age of 16 should not be left alone overnight.



This summer, the NSPCC and SPAR store operator Blakemore Retail, based in the Midlands, have teamed up to help families keep their children safe, as part of the new campaign. The NSPCC have launched a new 'Home or Out Alone' campaign to help parents and carers decide if their child is ready to stay home, or go out alone unsupervised, by giving them access to information, guidance and a new quiz which can be found here: [nspcc.org.uk/homealone](https://nspcc.org.uk/homealone)

### Independent Safeguarding Review

Earlier this term, the school was visited for an independent safeguarding audit. The visiting team wrote:

***'It was a pleasure to visit your school, where it was evident from the moment of arrival that Blakesley Hall values positive culture and strong safeguarding practices. The Leadership and wider DSL teams demonstrated extensive knowledge and a clear eagerness to showcase best practices in safeguarding. The safeguarding focus witnessed even at the moment of arrival demonstrated a solid understanding of physical safety on site. Children were happy and confident about their school. They could vocally express their sentiments regarding the school's environment that cultivates feelings of physical safety and could also indicate their willingness to reach out to a "trusted adult" in case they feel unsafe'.***

### Limiting Screen-time During the Holiday

Maintaining our mental health is just as important as our physical health. The Digital NHS Survey revealed that 1 in 6 children aged 5-16 are likely to have a mental health problem. One of the biggest things identified in recent years as causing stress is too much screen-time / accessing social media. During the holiday try to limit the amount of time your child spends online. Here are some ideas on how you could do this <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parenting-in-a-digital-age-managing-screen-time>

## A U T U M N T E R M D A T E S 2 0 2 3 / 2 4

Mon-Wed 18th-20th September	Phonics Workshops for Parents
w/b Mon 2nd October	Teacher and Parent Meetings
October	Black History Month
November	Maths Month
w/b Mon 13th November	Anti-Bullying Week
w/b Mon 20th November	Science Week
Tues 5th December	Christmas Fayre
w/b Mon 18th December	Pupil Progress/Values Award Assemblies
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Reception Nativity

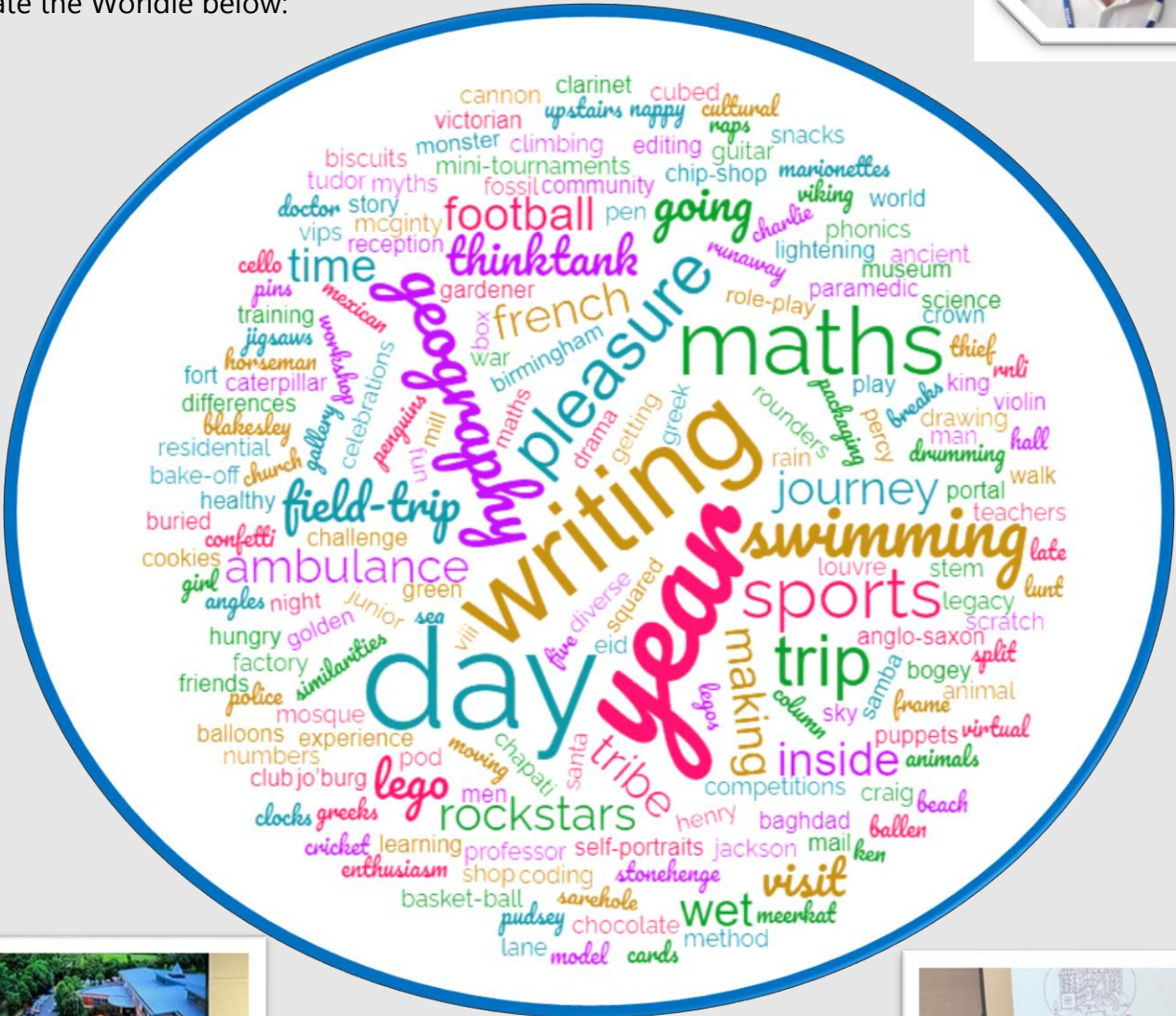
## S C H O O L T E R M D A T E S 2 0 2 3 / 2 4

<b>Autumn Term 2023</b>	
Mon 4th September	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)
Tue 5th September	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)
Wed 6th September	Start of Term - School opens
Mon 11th September	Reception classes start
30th October to 3rd November	Half Term
Fri 22nd December	End of Term - School closes for Christmas
<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	
Mon 8th January	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)
Tue 9th January	Start of Term - School opens
12th to 16th February	Half Term
Thu 21st March	End of Term - School closes for Easter
Fri 22nd March	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	
Mon 8th April	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)
Tue 9th April	Start of Term - School opens
Mon 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday
27th to 31st May	Half Term
Fri 19th July	End of Term - School closes for Summer





The children have received a very broad and balanced curriculum this year, supported by lots of different experiences that have happened outside of the classroom. Gaining new knowledge is at the heart of what we do in school and the children have risen to the challenge of learning with enthusiasm and determination. We asked each Year Group to give us their highlights of the year and then we put all of their comments together to create the Wordle below:



We wish you all a happy and safe summer  
- see you in September.