



Blakesley



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THE BLAKESLEY - BULLETIN -



It is a special time of year - a time to be with family, friends and loved ones. We know for some it can be a difficult time, so we spare a thought for those who may be alone or struggling in some way. This term has seen lots of change - new staff have settled in to our team, and we celebrated the birth of five babies to our staff members on maternity leave (two boys and three girls). It has been a good term - as always, your children have been a joy; they bring smiles to our faces and have enjoyed all that we have presented for them by way of learning and memorable experiences. Thank you for your positivity and support.

Chair of Governors' Message - As we approach the end of another term and calendar year, I, and the governing board would like to thank everyone involved with Blakesley Hall's school community for the excellent job they do in developing our children. The Christmas period will be a time for reflection for many but also an opportunity to look forward to the new calendar year ahead. Several exciting developments will happen for our school in the next few months and we look forward to working with you closely to see these through to fruition. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.



Christmas Celebrations



- Reception – The Whoops-a-Daisy Angel with nativity story – Thursday 21st – 2pm
- Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Assembly and progress awards – Tuesday 19th
- Resource Base parents – Christmas Crafting – Wednesday 20th – 2pm
- Year 4, 5 and 6 – Christmas assembly and progress awards – Friday 22nd



Each class will have their party one afternoon this week, find information for your class on class dojo.

School dates:

Fri 22 December	End of Term - School closes for Christmas
Spring Term 2024	
Mon 8 January	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)
Tue 9 January	Start of Term - School opens
12 to 16 February	Half Term
Thu 21 March	End of Term - School closes for Easter
Fri 22 March	(Teacher Day - School closed to pupils)

Mrs Delemere will be retiring on Friday after more than 25 years at BHPS, starting off as a lunchtime supervisor and moving on to become a TA in the year 2000. We wish her a long and joyful retirement.



Parent/Carer Drop Ins

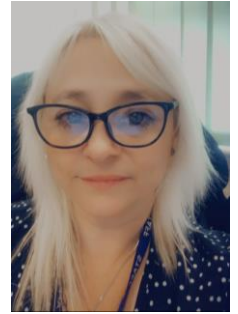
Look out for your golden ticket invitation to come and take part in lessons with your child week beginning 22nd January. Invitations will come out during the first week of term



OUR NEW LOOK OFFICE SERVICE TEAM

We have some new faces in our school office – a whole new look to the service team.

Mrs Hughes – School Business Manager. Mrs Hughes has been with us since October 2022. She has responsibility for the business aspects of the school - finance, health and safety, site issues and HR. It is unlikely that you will need to speak with her but she is Line Manager for the Office Team.



Ms Thearia – Senior Office Manager. Ms Thearia has been in post since October this year and has already made a significant impact to the systems and processes of the school office. She has many years of experience working in a variety of schools, I am sure you will soon see a difference to the effectiveness of communication under her leadership.

Ms Bibi – Receptionist and Finance Administrator. I have been in this post since September and I enjoy problem solving and taking on challenges, and I am always willing to help others. I am looking forward to my new adventure at Blakesley Hall Primary, and being part of the Blakesley team.



Mrs Sarwar – Receptionist (part time) I have many years of experience in working with children and families within school settings. I am looking forward to making a positive impact within the office team.

Mrs Kauser – Receptionist (part time) has years of admin experience in other sectors as well as in schools and looks forward to completing our team line-up in January 2024. Mrs Kauser says -“I am really excited to join the team at BHPS.”



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This year the Christmas Fayre raised a whopping £1800. We will be asking our Junior Leadership Team about what they think would be a good way to spend the money. We will make sure that every class has something, as well as sending a donation to Action Aid to support children affected by the Israel/Palestine conflict



act:onaid



*Falling - all the snow, snow, snow
It's time to visit Santa - ho, ho, ho!
Ho, ho, ho is Santa's motto...
It's time to see him in his grotto!*

Excerpt from a poem by Lucas – 6C



Phase 1 (Resource Base and Reception)

It's been a busy term for the Resource Base. We have welcomed lots of new children into the setting, who have settled well. The staff have been focusing on their transition into the school and learning new routines and expectations. As always, we continue to learn from our children and adapt our teaching and environment to suit them, especially as no two days are ever the same! The children are currently working hard on a small Christmas performance and will be baking some goodies for their parents to sample.



Welcome to Reception 2023-24



It only seems like yesterday, since we were welcoming Reception to Blakesley Hall Primary School! The children have settled into school life well and are enjoying learning about themselves and all the different celebrations we enjoy in our cultures. They have enjoyed learning about Bonfire Night, Black History Month, Diwali and Eid. To end the topic of Celebrations, the children and

staff are working very hard on their Nativity and dress rehearsal and nerves have begun. We have our fingers crossed that lots of parents and family members will come and watch them on the day.



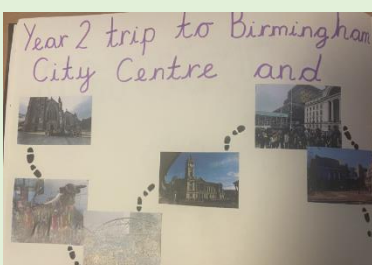
Mrs Key – Assistant Headteacher for Phase 1

Phase 2 (Years 1 and 2)

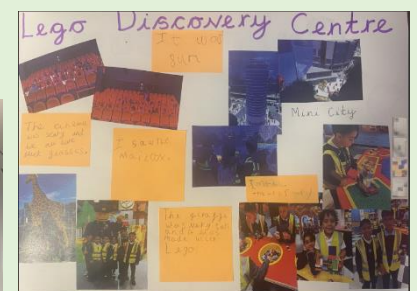
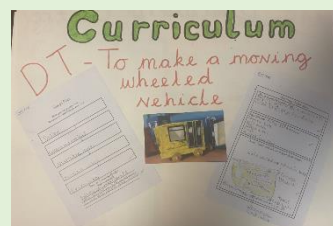
This half term, Year 1 have enjoyed their learning. In Geography, the children have enjoyed going out to our local area. They have been learning about human and physical features in our local environment. In RE, children have been learning about Judaism, they have visited a local Synagogue to find out more about Jewish life.



Year 2 - This half term, Year 2 have been learning about Birmingham. They enjoyed their visit to Birmingham City Centre and they were able to see Birmingham landmarks such as the Rotunda, the Bull and St Martin's Church. They also visited Lego Discovery Centre where they could explore 'Mini



Brum' with all of the landmarks made from Lego. In Design Technology, children have made a moving Birmingham sightseeing bus.



Mrs Reid-Leonard – Assistant Headteacher for Phase 2

PHASE 3 (Years 3 and 4)

Year 3 have been learning about France this term, with their writing based on 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' (set in Paris). They've been developing their artistic skills drawing silhouettes and experimenting with water painting. Each class visited St Edburgh's Church in Yardley to learn about the history of the church and to find out how some Christians use their religious buildings. They also made Christingles (a traditional symbol used during advent) in school and showcased them in assembly.



Year 4 have really enjoyed their 'states of matter' science experiments this term – especially the lessons that have involved melting chocolate! In their curriculum lessons they have been learning about the physical world, focussing on Mount Kilauea in Hawaii. Did you know, it is the world's most active volcanic mass? Year 4 have also had a visit from the Fire Service and learnt how to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire. They have also enjoyed using Scratch in their coding lessons and have made sea creatures out of plastic pollution.



Ms Hack – Assistant Headteacher for Phase 3

Celebrating Our Amazing Curriculum



I am Miss Shaheen and it is a pleasure to introduce myself as Curriculum Leader. Through our Wider Curriculum subjects and bespoke topics, we have been working hard to help children develop their long term memory so that they can store all the knowledge that is shared with them daily, ready for use in the future. Alongside this, we have been working hard to ensure pupils have unique opportunities to further develop their understanding of a range of topics through out-of-school visits, inviting visitors into school, in-school Curriculum experience days and many after-school clubs! We are also excited to continue to enhance our golden thread of Cultural Legacy, making sure that our pupils are engaged in culturally rich, engaging and purposeful learning experiences.

I hope you enjoy reading the curriculum highlights from each phase.

Everything in Winter

Winter is full of snow,
Where everybody has the chance
to glow,
Children play every day,
While some people travel far
away.

Snow balls fire all around,
While children
Aim at the massive crowd.
Families get together and chatter,
As children make the windows
clatter.

As the end of winter arrives,
The sun starts to come alive.
Winter says bye, bye
As Spring says - 'Hi!'

Poem by Aleks and Aleeza – 6G

PHASE 4 (Years 5 and 6)

Year 6 have been very busy; not only working hard to make strong progress with their learning for maths, reading, writing and grammar but also expanding their knowledge with exciting curriculum topics and experiences.

They began the term with a Victorian Day for their history topic- 'The Empress of England' - where the children got to experience what it was like to live in Victorian times. They attended a Victorian school and even tried gruel!

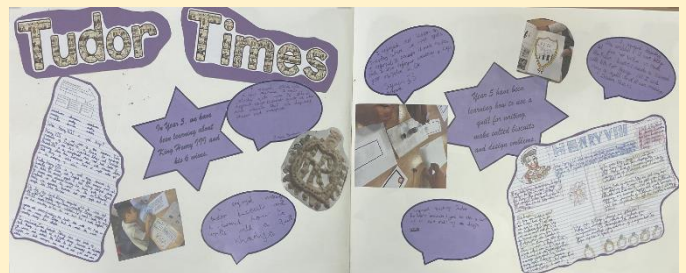


Linked to their Victorian topic, Year 6 also enjoyed experimenting with colour, line, proportion and composition in their art topic 'The last of England'.

Finally, Year 6 got outside for Maths Month to complete a scavenger hunt – looking at maths in nature. Well done for

your hard work Year 6, we can't wait to see what's in store next half term!

Year 5 have enjoyed so much this half term including completing exciting investigations during Science week and filling the corridor full of beautiful sounds in their music lessons. They began the half term with their History topic – Henry VIII - where the



children learned about what life was like during Tudor times. They made Tudor biscuits, tried using quills and debated whether Henry VII was a good king. They learnt about the work of Pablo Picasso in Art. They experimented with colour, line and composition to create their own piece of art using his style.

Mrs Smith – Assistant Headteacher for Phase 4

Winter, winter full of joy,
If you behave this year you'll get a toy!
The stockings are hung by the chimney with care,
With the hope that Santa Claus will be there.

The snow fell from the moonlit sky,
Santa was in a sleigh up so high!
We ran to the window as fast as we could,
Santa had arrived in the neighbourhood!

By my twinkling eye, it started to hail,
"Get inside before it hits the cat's tail".
What is that noise is it Santa?
Remember to leave the cookies and Fanta!

What to my eyes should quickly appear?
Santa is coming with eight reindeer.
Quickly, quickly we all need to hide!
If Santa finds us - we will all be fried!

Winter's Poem by Muhammad – 6C