



# Blakesley Hall Primary School Newsletter



Welcome to the November newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening in school and things to look out for next month.

## Upcoming Dates



- 8th - 12th - Assessment Week Y6
- 10th December - Reception Assembly (Reception parents are invited to attend)
- 17th December - Class Christmas parties
- 19th December - End of term
- 5th January - Spring Term starts (Please note this is the Monday)
- 12th January - Teacher Training Day
- 16th - 20th February - Half Term
- 19th March—Teacher Training Day
- 27th March - School closes for the Easter holiday

## Attendance Update

We have made huge improvements with our attendance so far this year. Our first half term was fantastic with a 4% improvement on attendance compared to the same time last year. Unfortunately, this term we have had so many children who have been poorly with this horrible virus/ flu. During last week we had 103 pupils absent on one day due to illness. We hope our families are well recovered and the children are well enough to return to school.

This term we had an Attendance Review visit from BEP (Birmingham Education Partnership). The visit included talking about at how we work with our families to ensure that children are attending school regularly. We looked at how we track school absence and how we aim to improve whole school attendance. This was a really helpful day and we will be meeting with the local authority later this term to gain further support with raising attendance in our school.

### Success!!

The local authority now sends us reports on how we compare to similar schools. This half term we have been compared in a group of 21 schools. We ranked 17th out of 21 schools for our school attendance. Although this is still a huge concern, there is improvement - last year we were 21st - the lowest!

Please keep working with us to improve our school attendance. Thank you so much to all our families for bringing their children to school regularly.

## Colder Weather Clothing

Now that the cold weather has finally arrived, can you please make sure all hats, gloves and scarves etc. are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please also make sure that they have a school jumper to wear in school as it can get cold in the classrooms.

# School Values

## Our Value this half term is Unity

- We celebrate each other's achievement
- We support each other to make the right choices
- We build strong relationships with each other
- We celebrate each other's differences
- We work together to achieve our best
- We encourage each other to be our best
- We follow school and classroom routines



## Golden Book Awards have changed

Have you seen our new certificates? We are now awarding certificates to children who are spotted 'living our values'. Each value certificate is a different colour - can you collect them all and become 'Totally Trusted'?



## Safeguarding and Wellbeing:

Safeguarding & Child Protection is the most important issue for our children and young people.

At Blakesley Hall Primary, we feel it is crucial to work with our parents and the multi agencies that support schools and young people, so that we can offer a safe environment allowing children to be aware of the risks they may face and how to respond to them safely.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. At Blakesley Hall, we have the attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. The well-being and safety of our children is at the very centre of school life.

### The Safeguarding Team at Blakesley Hall Primary School

Blakesley Hall safeguarding team has 7 Designated Safeguarding Leads or DSLs. These members of staff have enhanced safeguarding training and have a vital role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. A DSL is always available during school hours for pupils, parents and staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

Our senior DSL is Mrs Smith and she oversees all our safeguarding within school. She is supported by our deputy DSL's Mrs Key, Ms Hack, Mrs Reid-Leonard, Mrs Ramsey, Tina and Nikki.

Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection - when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas in all aspects of school. At Blakesley Hall, we ensure that all of our staff are highly trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

# Fundraising



## Children in Need:

Reception was the second year group to organise a fundraising event this year. The children and staff worked with the support of the School Council to raise money for Children in Need. As part of the day the children wore spotty clothes and took part in a range of Children in Need activities. We raised over £250 - thank you for your continuing support with our fundraising in school.

## Xmas Fayre:

We are thrilled to share that this year's Christmas Fayre was an incredible success! The hall was buzzing with festive cheer. Stalls were packed with gifts, craft activities, delicious treats, and fun games - and lots of children were transformed into reindeer and snowmen at the face-painting stall. A huge thank you to our team of staff elves for making the Christmas Fayre such a fun experience for all the children. We raised over £1800 on the day and are selling the last few treats at 'pop-up' sales after school.



# Celebrating our Learning

## Divali Assembly

Thank you to parents for joining us for Year 4's assembly. The children's singing and acting was amazing!



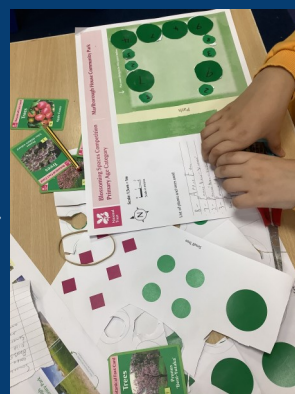
## National Trust Blooming Spaces Workshop:

Year 5 took part in the National Trust's 'Blooming Workshops', where pupils designed a new space at Marlborough House Community Park (the park opposite our school).

The purpose of the workshops were for children to enter a competition run by the National Trust. Winners of this competition get to see their design being grown at the park.

The children carefully selected trees, plants and shrubs, and planned how each element should be arranged.

All classes thoroughly enjoyed working with the National Trust representatives, and we wish them the best of luck in the competition!





### Parents' Evening:

Thank you for joining us for Parents' Evening. It is important that we have the chance to discuss your child's academic progress, behavior, and overall well-being at school. Please speak with your child's class teacher if you missed it and would like a follow up phone call.

### You said:

At parents evening we gathered parents view about our school attendance. Thank you to all parents who contributed to this. One of the challenges mentioned was needing more sleep.

### We did:

We have already started talking to the children about how much sleep each child needs for their age, and we have displayed a poster with the number of hours needed to be at your best every day. Please talk to your child about the importance of sleep and having a regular bed time to make sure you are well rested for the next day.

### Starting the Day Prepared

Please make sure your child brings their PE kits, book bags, water bottles and lunches with them in the morning. Bringing items in later can interrupt lessons.

Thank you so much for helping the school day run smoothly!



# Parents as Partners

### Family Learning

#### Talking Tuesday:

Everybody who has responded to the PING survey has been entered into a prize draw. The winner for October is Aiyla and her family.



Thank you for sharing your Talking Tuesday comments with us. It is lovely to read what you discuss with your children at home - please keep letting us know and to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

### Reception Applications:

Please apply online for a place in Reception in September 2026. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2026.

If you would like a tour of the school or to talk to staff about your child, please contact the school office.

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions/1786/apply\\_for\\_reception\\_primary\\_school](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school)

### Uniform:

We have noticed a number of children not wearing correct uniform e.g. black jumpers.

Please make sure that your child is wearing correct school uniform at all times.

If you are not sure, please look at the school website

<https://www.blakesley.bham.sch.uk/uniform.htm>

### November Parent Survey:

Thank you for your feedback last month. Please spend a few minutes completing this survey:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hK6Sjwgw\\_kWNfZnF5eaflexMfQrWUKxApl0BlqwkSd5UMFRZVkdXOVdJMfhZRko2RFZGNzBRVjRLSC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hK6Sjwgw_kWNfZnF5eaflexMfQrWUKxApl0BlqwkSd5UMFRZVkdXOVdJMfhZRko2RFZGNzBRVjRLSC4u)

