

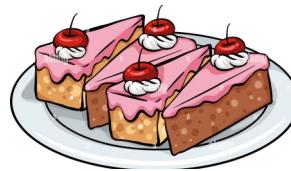
Blakesley Hall Primary School Newsletter



January 2026

Attendance:

Attendance continues to a priority at BHPS, so thank you to all of our families who are coming to school on time every day. During the autumn term we had 177 pupils who had attendance of 96% or above. Miss Key celebrated with these children with a 'thank you tea party'.



We currently have over 100 pupils in our school with persistent absence. This means that they have had at least 8 school days off so far this year. We are working hard to support these families to ensure pupils are coming to school every day.

This year we are working closely with Birmingham Local Authority to improve attendance. One of the things that we needed to discuss with them is the number of families who are taking term time leave. This is significantly higher than other schools in our community. When considering any term time leave due to holiday or family circumstances please come and speak to the attendance team. All children need to be in school every day and any leave has a negative impact on their education.

In the Autumn Term, we had some success with the number of pupils arriving late to school. This has now started to rise again. Last week we had over 150 late arrivals to school in one week. We have important lessons at the start of every day and we do not want them to miss out on their learning.

Thank you so much to all of our families who are working with us to improve our school attendance, we really do appreciate your support.



Upcoming Dates:

Friday 6th Feb - Number Fun Day

Friday 6th Feb - Y6 dance workshop

Monday 9th Feb - Y6 Internet Safety Lesson at 2.30pm (parents invited)

Tuesday 10th Feb - Y1& Y2 Internet Safety Lesson at 2.20pm (parents invited)

Wednesday 11th Feb - Parent Social Media Workshop (please book a place through PING)

Wednesday 11th Feb - Y1 Chinese New Year Assembly at 2pm (parents welcome)



Wednesday 11th Feb - Y3 & Y4 Internet Safety Lesson at 2.30pm (parents invited)

Thursday 12th Feb - Y5 Internet Safety Lesson at 2.30pm (parents invited)

Thursday 12th Feb - Y6 dance workshop

Friday 13th Feb - Break up for half-term

Monday 23rd Feb - Back to School

National Year of Reading:

This year, it is The National Year of Reading. As a school, we value reading and encourage 'Reading for Pleasure'.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a major UK wide initiative designed to boost literacy, well-being and the joy of reading.

We will be organising lots of events and fun things for the children to take part in over the year.



Our value this month is:

This half term our value is CARE

Be Caring - We care about each other, ourselves and our environment

- We use our manners
- We talk kindly to others
- We ask about each other's days
- We understand other people's feelings
- We help each other
- We look after our environment by keeping it tidy
- We say sorry when we know we have not made the right choice
- We check on each other to look after one another
- We offer each other help



Internet Safety Parent & Pupil Workshops:



During the week beginning 9th February, we will be marking Safer Internet Day across the school.

As part of this, we are pleased to invite parents and carers to join their child in school for a short online safety lesson, focusing on helping children make safe and sensible choices online.

In addition, Compass for Parents will be delivering a (parent only) workshop on Wednesday 11th February, 9:00am - 9:45am. This

session will support parents in understanding the risks around social media use and how to keep children safe online.

We hope many of you will be able to join us for these important sessions.



Handwriting and Penmanship Progress Awards:

At BHPS, we recognise that strong handwriting skills are an essential part of children's learning - supporting clear communication, boosting confidence, and helping pupils take pride in their written work.

To raise standards across the school, we are excited to introduce our new Penmanship Progress Awards. These will celebrate pupils who show dedication, improvement, and excellence in their handwriting.

We look forward to seeing our children strive for their personal best and take pride in presenting their work.



Duplos



'One of our favourite topics this half term in Duplo was Dinosaurs! The children had such a great time using our gross motor skills to jump over dinosaur footprints, use our small world dinosaur figures to imagine how they would interact and even look at dinosaur eggs.

Our favourite part however, was the Dinosaur dig you can see in the picture above. All the children loved being able to dig through the sand to find the bones beneath. The binoculars were a popular tool to take a closer look at everything we found.

The children were so engaged and really improved their listening and turn taking skills as well as making some excellent dinosaur noises along the way!'

Year 5 Competition Success:

Year 5 recently took part in a National Trust 'Blooming Spaces' Workshop, where pupils were challenged to design a new space for Marlborough House Community Park (the park opposite our school). The children showed fantastic creativity, teamwork and thoughtful design ideas throughout the project.

Thank you to all the pupils who took part, and a huge congratulations to Arie, who received a highly commended certificate for his entry. We are incredibly proud of Arie and of all the Year 5 children for their hard work and achievements in this competition.



Year 4 Drama Workshops:



Year 4 were lucky to have some Year 10 students from BOA (Birmingham Ormiston Academy) Creative Media Academy in for drama workshops recently. Their drama was based on their ancient Egypt topic and the book they had read, Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx.

All children took part in a variety of drama-based activities and showcased these to their class. Everyone had lots of fun and Year 4 children are now able to move like a camel!

SEND Cricket Festival:

On Monday 19th January, six children proudly represented BHPS at a SEND table cricket festival hosted by Ark St Albans Academy. They faced seven other schools in a sport that continues to grow thanks to its inclusive nature. For our pupils, it was a completely new experience, and understandably there were some nerves beforehand.



Despite that, their determination to embrace something unfamiliar was outstanding. They gave everything, showed real resilience, and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship from start to finish. Their character shone throughout, and we couldn't have been more proud of the way they conducted themselves.

Please see where Warwickshire cricket foundation offer free inclusive cricket session at selected venues.



ACCESSIBILITY HUBS -
ALL DISABILITIES
WELCOME
AGES 10 - 25
FREE INCLUSIVE
CRICKET SESSIONS
GET ACTIVE AND
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!



Warwickshire
Cricket Foundation

Snowman Making Competition:

During the school closure early this month (due to the snowy weather), our pupils brought the winter magic to life by taking part in a whole-school snowman competition!

From tiny snow characters to towering frosty friends, families worked together to create some wonderfully imaginative designs.

Thank you to everyone who got involved and shared their brilliant photos - your creativity and enthusiasm helped keep our school community connected, even while learning from home.

Here are some of the amazing creations. Everyone who entered will be receiving a small prize. The winning entry was from Mikaa and Ibrahim. Well done!

EDGBASTON HUB
EVERY OTHER
SATURDAY
9-10AM
NEXT SESSION 10TH
JANUARY
EDGBASTON INDOOR
CRICKET CENTRE
EDGBASTON ROAD
B5 7QU

SOLIHULL HUB
MONDAYS
5PM - 6PM
STARTING 5TH
JANUARY
TUDOR GRANGE
ACADEMY GYMNASIUM
DINGLE LANE
SOLIHULL
B91 3PD

LEAMINGTON &
STRATFORD HUB
THURSDAYS
5PM - 6PM
STARTING 15TH
JANUARY
CAMPION SCHOOL
SPORTS HALL
SYDENHAM DRIVE
LEAMINGTON
CV31 1QH

HALL GREEN HUB
THURSDAYS 3:45 -
4:45PM
STARTING 8TH
JANUARY
YARDLEY SCHOOL
REDDINGS LANE
TYSELEY
B11 3BY

CLIFTON HUB
WEDNESDAYS
5-6PM
STARTING 7TH
JANUARY
CLIFTON PRIMARY
SCHOOL
BRUNSWICK ROAD
SPARKBROOK
B12 8NX



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 LORD'S TAVERNS
Empowering young people through cricket

www.lordstaverners.org/super1s
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What's on in the community?



Local Foodbanks you should know about

Financial difficulties can affect many families at some point and local foodbanks play a vital role in ensuring everyone has access to nutritious meals. Whether you're looking for support or hoping to help others, these organisations are here to help. Below is list of foodbanks within the Local area

Sparkhill Food banks Tyseley

Call to complete self - referral questions and they will signpost you the nearest available food bank
<https://www.narthex.org.uk>

Oasis Hobmoor pantry <https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk>



Resources for Autism:

Our training features topics related to autism and support to help you deepen your knowledge, learn practical strategies, and nurture wellbeing through empathy and insight.

Each month includes: an in depth morning session, focused evening training and a bite size "Lunch and Learn" hour. Each session is an interactive space including quizzes, opportunities to share experiences, ask questions, and hear testimonials from the community.

Please visit [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) for more information.