Blakedown CE Primary School Newsletter Autmn 1

www.blakedowncofeprimary.co.uk



Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday between **1st -6th September 2026** to:
Nancy who is 7;
Wilfred, Henry & Frank who are 9;
Amelia who is 10; & Brooke who is 11.



Annual Attendance
W.B.: 01.09.26

Reception	98%
Class 1:	92%
Class 2:	88% 1 Late
Class 3:	100%
Class 4:	99% 1 Late
Class 5:	94%
Class 6:	100%

Class 3&6

WELCOME BACK TO AUTUMN TERM

A very warm welcome back to school, it has been lovely to see you all back this week and I hope that you have had opportunities to enjoy the good weather and have a restful summer. We have welcomed 26 new Reception children and three other children across school this week. The school now holds 193 children; with most available spaces in Year 2.

Our new Reception children have made a great start to their school journey this week, they have had two part days and they have managed coming into school very well so far. We look forward to having them in school full time every day from next week. We also welcome all our new teaching staff – Miss Welsh, Miss Smith and Miss Brooks as well as some new support staff in Reception – Mrs Spragg and Mrs Carter. Mrs Parry is still in school in a supportive role but is due to start her maternity leave at any time!
The website calendar has been updated with forthcoming known events in the 'Diary Dates' page and this will continue to be refreshed when new dates and events are confirmed.
We are all looking forward to another successful year, working in partnership on behalf of the children.

Free School Meals

Last year we informed you of some changes to Free School Meals. The 'Expanded FSM' provides term time meals only and you may qualify if you receive Universal Credit with a household income over £7,400 a year or over £616 a month for the last 3 months. Many parents who are not eligible for the 'Targeted FSM' have found they qualify for the 'Expanded FSM'. Please take a look and apply if you think this you may be eligible, but note that applications should be made per child.

Date Reminders:

September:

11.09.26: Recognition Assembly with Y5 parents
18.09.26: Recognition Assembly with Y4 parents
25.09.26: Y5 Bikeability
25.09.26: Recognition Assembly with Y3 parents

For all future dates, please refer to the school website calendar.

Blakedown Vision and Values

'I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'

JOY

SERVE

ACHIEVE

School Christian Values

Peace Forgiveness Trust Perseverance Respect

Recognition Assemblies

Parents are invited to attend Friday recognition assemblies on a rota basis as below. Please also see the website calendar. These are usually around 15-20 minutes long and start at 2.55 p.m. Start times may vary when classes lead worship, as the recognition part follows afterwards and so during these weeks assembly will last a little longer.

There will also be a church worship led by each class across the year and parents of the class leading worship are invited to attend.

Please note that during worship & assemblies, all phones should be turned off or turned to silent and should not be used whilst in school and kept out of sight.

11.09.26: Year 5 parents
18.09.26: Year 4 parents
25.09.26: Year 3 parents
02.10.26: Y5 Harvest worship in church a.m. Y5 parents
02.10.26: Year 2 parents
09.10.26: Y1 parents
16.10.26: Year 6 parents
22.10.26: Reception parents (Thursday)

Mobile Phones

As a reminder – children are **not** allowed mobile phones in school, or smart technology watches that are enabled with messaging/photography/recording capability.

The only exception to this is for children in Year 6 **who walk/travel directly home** on their own who may need to bring their phones for safety during their journey home. If this is the case, these children should turn off their phones at the school gates and hand them in on entrance to school. Phones are then returned at the end of the day and can be turned on when children leave the school grounds.

Please also see our new mobile phone policy on the school website on the policies page.

Green Eco Award

We have had some exciting news… the school has achieved the **Eco-Schools Green Flag at Distinction** for a second year! This is down to the hard work of Mrs Edmunds and the Eco Team who have continually worked towards and shared the good practice of eco work across the year. They have worked incredibly hard and with school and family support are making a difference together. Well done!

Further news about this year's work and Eco team opportunities will be shared soon.

Gold Level Award!

Last year, the school achieved the School Games Mark at Silver Level, but I am proud to inform you that this year we have achieved the School Games Mark at Gold Level.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include: accessing and attending a range of sporting events externally organised by Wyre Forest School Sports Partnership including cricket, athletics, golf, dance, cross country and football; holding a range of events internally; and planning our own events with other primary schools that ensure all pupils have access to them. We have also supported some pupils who need additional activities to support them physically, socially and emotionally.

Many thanks to Mr Newbold for organising many of these events across the year.

We look forward to applying in 2027!



REMINDERS

Snacks and Water:
At break time, children are allowed fresh fruit/vegetables only. From Year 3-6, fruit/veg snacks need to be provided from home. We have a few children with allergies, although these do not all link to nuts we have decided to be a nut-free school, therefore ***nuts*** *are* ***not allowed*** *to be brought into school in any form e.g. whole nuts, within bars for lunch, in chocolate spread.*
All children should come with a water bottle (named) filled with fresh water each day so that they can have continuous access to a drink without the need to leave the classroom. Please ensure your child has one with them each day. Please see our updated allergies policy on the school website.

Medication:
If your child has started a new medication such as an inhaler over the summer break, please do not forget to bring this into school – you will be requested to complete a form so that we know correct dosages. Additionally if you had medication returned at the end of the year please ensure up to date replacements are now in school. All medication needs to be brought to the school office not sent via the children in their book bags. If your child requires an Epipen/Jext for severe allergies, we need you to provide 2 of these that can stay in school.

Uniform & PE Kits:
Please note the school uniform policy and expected clothing on the website. Additionally, no branded PE hoodies/sweatshirts should be worn, PE tracksuits and t-shirts should be plain navy blue. The children have also been reminded about not wearing jewellery and having their hair up and out of their eyes, especially if this is shoulder length or longer.

Personal Details & Consents:
If you have changed your address, telephone number or email addresses over the summer, please make sure you let us know your up to date details. This is also required if any changes occur during the year. If you wish to change any of your consents, please let us know.

Bikes & Scooters:
If children ride their bikes or scooter to school, please note that they should dismount on school property as pathways are busy at entrances and exits and this will ensure everyone stays safe on site.

Dogs:
School is a dog free zone. That means that dogs are not allowed anywhere on site, whether they are being held, on leads or tied up on the school property. This is for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your understanding and support with this matter.

Parking:
We kindly ask that you do not park at the front of school during drop off/collections and do not block the driveway at ***any*** *time. If you need to collect your child during the day and outside of the usual collection times for any reason, please park in designated parking spaces away from school and walk to the pedestrian gate. Please note parking at Blue Hoots is not available unless you have a child in nursery and are dropping them off, and parking on the sports driveway is also not allowed due to safety and maintenance of the edges of the drive.*

Worcestershire's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)

This fund provides practical assistance to households experiencing financial hardship and can help families access support during times of crisis as well as improve their longer-term financial resilience.

Support available for families

Depending on individual circumstances, the Crisis and Resilience Fund may help with a range of essential needs, including: • Food and essential household costs • Energy bills and heating emergencies • Essential household items • Housing-related financial difficulties • Advice and support to improve long-term financial resilience and money management.

Further details can be found on Worcestershire County Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund webpage: Crisis and Resilience Fund | Worcestershire County Council

The attached leaflet explains the support available and how residents can access assistance.

Attendance

As you may be aware, last year new regulations came into force and became statutory for schools: Working together to support school attendance guidance which made changes to register coding, penalty notices and mandating schools to share their attendance data. The school's policy reflects these changes, please also take note that parents/carers can be fined for taking children out of school for 10 consecutive sessions (5 consecutive days, whether this crosses a weekend or not). Attendance is high on the governments agenda as part of their improving education policies.

Parents are expected to ensure that unless their children are ill, their child attends school punctually every day. To help with this please see the expectations below.

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30 a.m. each day of your child's absence and at the latest by 9.20 a.m.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters, however it is preferable where possible that these are not in school time.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival. (unless they have a diagnosed illness, high temperature and have had vomiting/diarrhoea in which case they *must* stay off 48 hours after the last bout).
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance and/or punctuality with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Please visit our attendance page on the website for more information.