

Blakehill Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mr T Patterson

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22 September 2017

Newsletter 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed a couple of very busy and exciting weeks since our last newsletter, with all of our children (and staff) settling back well. Our new Reception children appear to be enjoying their time and experiences at Blakehill and staff are very proud of how well they have adjusted to the recent changes and new routines.

We also welcome children and families that are new to Blakehill in other year groups.

Year 5 Ingleborough Trip

On Monday 25 October, our year 5 pupils will be setting off on their 5 day residential to Ingleborough Hall. We are sure that they (and the staff) will have a wonderful week of hiking, caving, tree climbing and gorge scrambling. Staff will try to keep parents updated with photos of the children being posted on the school blog. We would like to wish them a very enjoyable, active and happy week away. The children will return to school on Friday 29 September during the afternoon ready for collection at 3.15 p.m. If you have any concerns or queries, please see a member of the Year 5 team or contact the school office.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

A reminder that school will be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 29 September from 9:00am**. We have had many donations for raffle prizes and numerous offers of help which have all been gratefully received. We are hoping that as many people as possible can 'drop in' or stay for the morning to have a drink and a piece of cake/bun. Organisers are currently approaching local businesses to ask for further donations for our raffle as we aim to exceed the £816 target achieved last year. If any parents are able to help with donations (we know many have already) or contribute a cake or buns for Friday, we would appreciate it.

A special thank you to Niki Williams and Janet Pedley for organising and coordinating the event. We are sure that with your support our coffee morning will be a huge success as always.

Sponsored Obstacle Course

On **Wednesday 4 October** we are having our annual sponsored obstacle event. Children should bring 'suitable clothing' for the event and hopefully the weather will remain fine for it to go ahead. The money raised for School Fund will help towards providing better learning resources across school. The money also pays for transport costs for residential visits in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Parents are also very welcome to watch, or even better join in and tackle our obstacle course with their child. The timetable for the taking part is:

9.15am: Reception classes, **9.45am:** Year 2 classes, **10.15am:** Year 4 classes, **10.45am:** Year 3 classes, **11.30am:** Year 5 classes, **1.30pm:** Year 6 classes, **2.30pm:** Year 1 classes.

Children in Reception classes can come in their PE kits and stay in them for the remainder of the day.

Parent Meetings

Year 6

The Year 6 Parent Meeting scheduled for **Thursday 5 October at 6:00pm** has been cancelled due to Open Evenings for Secondary Schools being held on the same evening. The meeting for Year 6 parents will now take place on **Thursday 2 November at 6:00pm**. The meeting will provide information about SATs, the Year 6 residential to Robinwood in June and Year 6 transition to Secondary School.



Year 4

There will be a meeting for parents of pupils in year 4 on **Monday 16 October at 6:00pm**. The meeting will provide information about the Year 4 residential to Nell Bank and will take place in the school hall.

Reception classes

An informal 'settling in' meeting for parents who have children in Reception classes will be held on **Wednesday 11 October at 6:00pm**

Diary Date

The school photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 10 October** to take individual pupil photos. Parents with children of pre-school age who would like to have a photo of them with their brother/sister should arrive before school from 8:00am.

Home Reading

Blakehill continues to strive for improvement and urges parents to support their child's learning wherever possible. Listening to your child read really does have an impact on their learning. This is why we encourage parents to listen to them read as often as possible. We consistently achieve great results at Blakehill, especially in reading. Additional frequent reading at home prevents the risk of children lagging behind others. Please take a little time each day to listen to your child read, as regular practice really does pay off. Teachers will be pleased to give any guidance should you need it. Information about our Reading Café will be available shortly.

Is your child's lunchbox healthy?

As a 'Healthy School' we strongly advise parents to take special care if you decide to send your child to our school with a packed lunch. We do not allow sweets or chocolate bars / buttons. We would appreciate your support with this. If your child brings a snack to school for morning break, this should be kept separately in the classroom so to avoid pupils disturbing lunchboxes at playtimes.

No Nuts, Please!

Some of our children have a very severe reaction to nuts. For this reason, please can I please request parents not to put nut based products in packed lunches or snacks. On advice from the School Nurse this should also include products with 'traces of nut' in the ingredients. Again I would appreciate your support.

Allergies

If your child suffers from any allergy (food/ pollen etc.) could you, please inform the school office. We endeavour to take the necessary precautions to limit allergic reactions. Ideally, this information should be updated annually.

Attendance

This year, we have introduced an additional incentive to improve attendance. The class who achieve the highest weekly attendance % will receive a £5 token. These tokens can be spent immediately or banked and saved to allow the class to buy a more substantial treat. Well done to RG and RD who have already received a voucher.

Improving pupil attendance is a school priority this year. During 2016 -17 it was noted that attendance was significantly affected by requests for Leave of Absence, the majority of which were for holiday requests. In the two weeks since the beginning of term, school has already received 22 requests for leave. All holidays are unauthorised. School is working in liaison with the School Attendance Officer to work with families to address poor attendance. Thank you to all parents who ensure that their child attends school as regularly as possible.

Learning Mentor

Mrs. Corbridge, our school Learning Mentor, would like to make an appeal for board games. These are especially useful during indoor playtime sessions when the weather is bad and are used in school to teach our children the importance of sharing and taking turns. If you have any board games (e.g. Ludo, snakes and ladders, Ker plunk etc.) that you and your family no longer use and would like to donate, could you please send them into school or speak to Mrs. Corbridge. Thank you.



Polite Reminder

In the interest of the safety and well-being of our children and their families, smoking and dogs are prohibited within the school grounds. Signs located around the school premises are a reminder of this. Thank you.

After School Clubs for Autumn Term 1

The following activities will be provided this half term.

Extreme Frisbee: Year 6

Tag Rugby: Years 2 and 3

Gymnastics: Years 1, 2, 3 and 4

Football: Years 5 & 6

Multi-sports: Year 1

Cross Country: Years 4,5 & 6

Parents will be notified later in the term of the clubs on offer for other year groups after the half term break.

Class Assemblies for Autumn Term

Parents and carers are welcome to attend our class assemblies held on Fridays at 2.45pm in the school hall. Access to school is made via the main entrance.

6 October: 5R

13 October: 5L

3 November: 2S

10 November: 2P

24 November: 4L

1 December: 4J

Special Mention in Achievement Assemblies

| Class | 11 and 28 September 2017 |
|-------|--|
| 6G | Eva Brown and Ella Sunderland |
| 6R | Aaron Armitage and Liam Rhodes |
| 5R | Maaya Khan and Harley Binns |
| 5L | Rees Bickerdyke and Shannon Williams |
| 4L | Oliver Butterfield and Lucy Lee |
| 4J | Kallum Waite and Harry Hodgson |
| 3R | Tyler Sargeant and Maisey Waterhouse |
| 3H | Martha Kettlewell and Callum Broadbent |
| 2S | Cora Crabtree and Rhys Everard |
| 2P | Patrick Williams and Dexter Owen |
| 1P | Teegan McKinnon and Jack Richmond |
| 1W | Florence Prentice and Liam Pearson |

Class Attendance trophy winners 11 September: RG and RD with 100%

Class Attendance trophy winners 18 September: RD with 100%

Yours sincerely

L. Keighley
Head of School

T. Patterson
Headteacher



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

