

Blakehill Primary School

Highfield Road, Idle, Bradford. BD10 8QN

Telephone: 01274 414355 Fax: 01274 414356

Email: office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs L Keighley



School remains open with staff on site daily. There is always a member of staff in the school office to respond to telephone/email queries.

The most effective way to find out information about school is to contact school directly. This way your query is forwarded to the member of the school team that is best placed to respond.

Tel:01274 414355

Email:office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk

Dear parents and friends,

I am hoping that this letter finds you all well. I appreciate that this still remains a difficult time for us all as we try to maintain some sense of normality. My thoughts are with you all.

Phased Reintegration

In my last letter, I informed you of our decision to remain open to the children of keyworkers and vulnerable pupils from June 1st. I also informed you that I would review this decision after two weeks. The purpose of this was to allow us to monitor the number of keyworker children attending school and enable us to implement safety measures that would help us to minimise any potential risk of infection spread when school opened to more children.

I am pleased to inform you that we are now in a position to implement the first phase of the reintegration process from Monday 15th June. Pupils in year 1 will be the first year group invited back to school under the new measures.

Parents of the 20 children in Year 1 that indicated that they would like their child to return to school from 1st June will receive notification and further information of this shortly. Provision is in place for this number of additional pupils.

If this first phase is successful, and we are able to maintain the measures that are in place to safeguard our pupils, their parents and staff, children in Reception and finally year 6 classes will be invited to return before the end of term. Again, I will notify parents by letter directly.

Home Learning Reminder

Teachers continue to provide resources that parents and children can use to support learning at home should they choose to do so. Access to these resources is on the class pages of our school website, together with links to other resources and information about your child's curriculum. Some families have limited access to computers at home and therefore we continue to offer to print out pupil learning packs. These are available from the school main reception area for parents to collect.

It is understandable that many of you will worry about your child falling behind in their learning or that your child seems reluctant to work from home. Please remember that it is our job as educators to make sure that we put the right provision in place to support your child and close any gaps in their learning once they are back in school, hopefully in September.

Thank you for sending us photographs of some of the things that you have been up to during the last few months. It is reassuring to see that you are safe and well.....and enjoying your time with your families!

Keep the pictures coming - we have a big school hall to fill!

School Uniform

The school admin team have sent you information on where and how to buy school uniform items. I understand that is by appointment only at some outlets. Details are on our school website in the key information section. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any difficulty.



Communication

It is important to us that we make sure we maintain strong communication links between home and school. Staff are using the *Marvellous Me* app, the school learning platform, emails and telephone calls to engage with parents and children. In attempt to engage children, some staff have posted learning videos on the school website and many of you have contacted school to let me know that you really appreciate this.

Class teachers will maintain contact with their class weekly.

We are constantly reviewing the way we communicate with our parents - we are conscious of striking a balance between too much/ too little. This new way of distance working with families is still very new to us all. You can contact a teacher directly by telephoning or emailing school or by using the E-Schools log-in details that you have.

New classes 2020/21

You will shortly be receiving information about who your child's class teacher will be in the Autumn Term. We appreciate that for most children, some transition work may be required to help make this as smooth as possible. We are planning work around this and pupil well-being will be a key focus for activities once the children return to school.

Teachers are aware of children who may need additional support with transition and will address this in the coming weeks.

Teachers will be in contact with children in their new classes on **Friday 19th June.**

The End of an Era

As you know, Mr Patterson is retiring from his post as Executive Headteacher after 15 years at Blakehill. We would like to thank him for his passion and dedication to the school and his continued efforts to ensure that the school provides the best possible education for its pupils by continually driving change. Mr Patterson is held in high regard by everyone in our school community - he will be a hard act to follow!

On his request, any donations made by staff and the wider community will be given to the charity Candlelighters in memory of one of our pupils, Isabelle Ellis.

On behalf of us all, I would like to wish Mr Patterson much love and happiness in his retirement. We look forward to celebrating his achievements in the Autumn Term.

Staff News

It has also been a very busy few months behind the scenes at school with other staff news...

Miss Philip (Year 4) leaves us at the end of July. She has secured a teaching job in Oman and she is very excited about her new post. We would like to thank her for her hard work at school and wish her all the very Blakehill best as she begins this new chapter in her life!

Congratulations to Mrs Rashid who, just before lockdown announced that she was expecting her first child in July. We wish her and her family much love and our very warmest wishes. We are all very much looking forward to meeting the new addition!

After 29 years as a nursery Nurse and superstar charity fundraiser, Mrs Pedley is hanging up her school uniform for the very last time in July as she retires from her post at Blakehill. She has grand travel plans and is excited about the prospect of lots of well-deserved lie-ins. Good luck Mrs Pedley and thank you for all that you have done at Blakehill.

We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Bottomley (year 4 TA) is our new school Learning Mentor after Mrs Armitage secured a new job in April. Mrs Bottomley has worked at Blakehill for the last 19 years and is a well-loved and respected member of our team...and the children adore her! I know that she will be fabulous. Good luck to both Mrs Bottomley and Mrs Armitage!

And lastly, after 13 years at Blakehill, our school administrator Mrs Hancock leaves us in the summer. Retiring early, she plans on spending more time with her lovely family and gorgeous dog. Love and best wishes Mrs Hancock!



Thank you!

I would like to thank our keyworker parents who have been accessing school provision. We have been required to implement numerous social distancing and hygiene measures together with changes to the arrival and collection times of children at school. Parents (and their children) have handled these changes exceptionally well and this has helped us to maintain a calm and orderly environment for everyone on site.

Finally, the health and wellbeing of our families is important to us and I want you to know that we are here for you if you need any support. If we cannot help, we can certainly signpost you to the right agencies. Please look after yourselves.
 Warmest wishes,
 Mrs Keighley

