



November Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

After being back at school for 2 weeks following the half term break, I would like to start by saying how well the children have adapted to being back at school. They are a delight to have in school and their positivity keeps everybody going in these difficult times.

It feels very strange to be in our second national lockdown. I am sure that, in time, we will look back on this year and wonder how we got through it. I think the strong community spirit in Blackhall will help us remain positive and find the strength to keep going. I hope that you and your families are well. We are sending our very best wishes to those who are unwell or are having a difficult time.

We are all determined to give the children the best half-term in the lead up to Christmas, despite the current circumstances. Obviously, this means we have to do things in slightly different ways but we have lots of exciting things planned for the children over the next few weeks.

Within school, we have been very fortunate that only one bubble has been forced to isolate since September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for your continued support with the new measures that have been put into place. With your help, we have been able to ensure that your children receive the education they very much deserve.

On that note, I would also like to thank the hard-working and dedicated staff we have at Blackhall Primary School. I truly believe that your children are in the best hands in County Durham, providing them with a good education in a nurturing environment that promotes confidence to achieve. Inspire, Enjoy, Achieve!

As always, if we can provide any support to your family, please let us know and we will endeavour to help.

Mrs Leonard
Deputy Head Teacher

Remembrance Sunday

The children in school celebrated Remembrance Day within their own classes/bubbles this year. This involved a minute silence at 11am as well as many different age-appropriate activities and crafts. Many thanks to everyone who supported the Royal British Legion charity by either buying one of the memorabilia we had on sale or providing a donation. We are awaiting an update from the British Legion which will tell us how much we raised.

A special thank you to Barnaby Clark who wrote his own comic for others to read in order to raise money for the charity. He managed to raise a fantastic £33.00. Well done Barnaby!

Children in Need

It was fantastic to see all of the children enjoy 'Children in Need' day. Lots of fun took place in every classroom across the school, including cake decorating, arts and crafts, baking and many more. The children looked fantastic in their Pudsey clothes or non-uniform. I was very jealous of the many Pudsey onesies I saw - they looked far too comfortable! Again, thank you so much for your support in donating to support the vital charities and projects which change the lives of children and young people all over the UK. As a school we raised £245. Well done everyone!

Christmas

As you are aware Christmas is fast approaching us with only 4 school weeks before we break up on Friday 18th December.

Obviously in light of the current world in which we find ourselves, we are unable to invite parents in to school for any events during this special time of year. Because of this, and in light of the guidance around social distancing, singing and sharing hall spaces, we are unable to perform our usual Christmas nativities. However, we have a surprise in store where children in each class will perform something festive which will be recorded. This will then be posted on Facebook during a selected day in Advent. All parents will be able to view all classes so look out for these starting on Tuesday 1st December.

Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 16th December. As always, if your child usually has a packed lunch you can request a Christmas lunch for them on this day by completing the reply slip on the letter sent out today.

Christmas parties will take place within classes this year. We have timetabled these carefully so that games can take place in the halls. Children can come into school dressed in their party clothes and will be provided with some party food and a drink.

Please see below for dates of Christmas parties:

Christmas Continued

Christmas Parties

| Class | Date |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Butterflies | Wednesday 16 th December Thursday 17 th December Children will be invited to attend one of these sessions if they are not already in school. |
| Bluebells | Wednesday 16 th December Children will be invited to attend this session if they are not already in school. |
| Fireflies and Dragonflies | Monday 14 th December |
| Class 1K and Class 1S | Tuesday 15 th December |
| Class 2 | Thursday 17 th December |
| Class 3, Class 4S and Class 4L | Monday 14 th December |
| Class 5I and Class 5G | Tuesday 15 th December |
| Class 6 | Thursday 17 th December |

This year's Christmas jumper day is on Friday 11th December. Children are welcome to come to school in their Christmas jumpers or festive clothing on this day.

Unfortunately, this year we cannot allow children to bring Christmas cards or presents for either children or staff into school. This is to avoid any unnecessary transmission of germs into school. We realise that our children will be disappointed by this but we have to do everything we can to keep everybody safe in these uncertain times.

Due to the ongoing absence of the Head Teacher, it has been necessary to make some small changes in school. These are:

Mrs Downing will take over Mrs Leonard's class (Class 4L) full time until after Christmas.

Mrs Newton (Head Teacher from Sedgfield Hardwick Primary) will be in school 2.5 days per week to provide additional leadership capacity within school.