



Blackhall Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the first term back, I would like to say how proud I am of how hard the children have worked and how well they have settled into their new routines. It is a pleasure to see the children having more flexibility around school, even though we did have to revert back to bubbles for a short time.

Over the past week, we have had our first face to face Parents' Evening as well as lots of classes going on their first trip since March 2020. I am sure you will agree these have been a long time coming and really make a difference to our children. I hope you found parents' evening an excellent opportunity for you to find out how your child has settled into their new class but also show your child how much you care about how they are doing.

As you know, just before we broke up for the Summer break we were faced with the tragic news of Matthew Sherrington, a former pupil of ours, who tragically lost his life whilst playing in the sea with some friends. Our support continues to be with his family who have been campaigning for more awareness of the dangers of playing in or near the sea.

As a school, we have adapted our PHSE curriculum to include water safety lessons every half term. Your child will take part in an age appropriate lesson this week. In addition, all parents will be emailed some information on water safety. I am sure you will agree it is our duty to educate our children who live close to the sea about its potential dangers. Such an education could have helped save Matthew's life and prevent any further tragedies in the future.

Below you will find some useful information regarding next half term (including some dates for your diary). In addition to this, your child's class teacher may send out further information regarding events specific to your child.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, my door is always open. Please do not hesitate to catch me on the school yard or contact the school office to make an appointment.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Leonard (Acting Head Teacher)

Pupil Leadership Team

I am delighted to announce that our Pupil Leadership Team for 2021-22 has now been decided. A huge well done goes to all Year 6 pupils who put themselves forward by writing a letter of application and preparing a Powerpoint presentation which then fed into a vote by pupils and staff. The children demonstrated such maturity and confidence throughout the whole process. Congratulations goes to the following pupils who have been appointed in these roles:

Head Boy - Jack Sweet

Head Girl - India Armstrong

Deputy Head Boy - Jaydn Robson

Deputy Head Girl - Leah Barnett

Prefects - Isla Sarginson, Teagan-Jo Beattie, PJ Moore, Lacey Walker, Benjamin Hosseini, Jesse Richardson, Matthew Nixon, Jayden Dixon

Homework

As a school, we made the decision to allow children the time to settle into their new classes and new routines this half term. Therefore, from after half term, our focus for homework will be on the essential, age appropriate skills of reading, phonics, times tables and spelling (more details to follow). Activities for children in Nursery will be put onto your child's Tapestry account.

Over the holidays we are holding 2 competitions:

Pumpkin Carving Competition

Children are invited to create their own pumpkin extravaganza, take a picture of it and send it via your child's class email or upload them onto Tapestry. There will be a winner in each class to receive a prize.

Reading Competition

Children should read as much as they possibly can over the holidays, both individually (age dependent) and with an adult. Find somewhere extravagant to read and take a picture. This could be after making a den, outside or we have even had children reading in a swimming pool before. Again, send the pictures into your child's class email or upload them onto Tapestry. The most extravagant picture in each class will receive a prize.

Good luck!

Parking in the Staff Car Park and on the Zig Zag Lines

Please can I ask that no parents use the staff car park or the zig zag lines outside of the school gates when dropping off or collecting their child. This is to ensure that these areas are clear to prevent a child from running out behind a car. I am sure you agree that we are all here to ensure the safety of our children and we therefore need your help to ensure we are doing everything we can. I do recognise that it is often difficult to find a space to park. However, parking a little further away and walking is a better sacrifice to make than the safety of a child.

Christmas Activities

We are very much looking forward to the run up to Christmas. As various children keep pointing out, it is only 69 days until Christmas (at the time of writing this letter). This year, the children in Reception Class and Year 4 will be performing a nativity and the whole school from Year 1 to Year 6 will perform in our annual Carol Service. We are also planning our Christmas Fayre, parties, trip to the pantomime and Christmas Jumper Day. Please look for more information to follow regarding these events.

Pupil Absences

Please make sure that you contact the school office if your child is not going to be in school with the reason for absence. This needs to be done before 9.00am.

Eligible for Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, the school will receive extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school. Whilst pupils in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 already get free school meals, it is still important to apply for pupil premium if you fit the criteria. Please can we urge parents to contact the school office if you feel your child may be eligible for this funding and you have not already completed the form.

Blackhall Bright Stars

I am delighted to announce that Blackhall Bright Stars is back! If you have a pre-school child, please bring them along to the session every Tuesday morning from 9:15am.

Important Dates for 2021 - 2022

- Year 2 Phonics Screening Check - November 2021
- KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2022
- KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 9th May 2022
- Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Check - Week Beginning Monday 6th June 2022
- Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Monday 6th & 13th June 2022

Date	Class	Event
Tuesday 2 nd November	Reception to Year 6	Flu Programme
Thursday 4 th November	Classes 2S and 3L	Bowes Museum
Monday 8 th November Tuesday 9 th November Wednesday 10 th November Thursday 11 th November	Year 6	Bikeability
Friday 12 th November	Whole School	Children in Need
Monday 15 th November Tuesday 16 th November Wednesday 17 th November Thursday 18 th November	Year 5	Bikeability
Friday 3 rd December	Whole School	Christmas Fayre
Monday 6 th December	Reception	Nativity
Tuesday 7 th December	Reception	Nativity
Thursday 9 th December	Year 4	Nativity
Friday 10 th December	Year 4	Nativity
Friday 10 th December	Year 1 - Year 6	Pantomime
Friday 10 th December	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 14 th December	Year 1 - 6	Carol Service @ St Andrews Church