

Blackford C of E Primary School Newsletter

June 2024

Dear Families,

It has been a busy time at Blackford CofE Primary School and we have lots planned for the rest of the academic year. We hope you enjoy reading what we have been up to. Please do keep checking Tapestry and Facebook as we share lots of photos and information on these platforms.

Our next Parents' Coffee and Chat session is **Friday 21st June at 9.00am**. Everyone is very welcome to come along and hear what has been happening in school. It is also an opportunity for parents to let me know what is working well and what we can do together to make Blackford CofE Primary School even better!

As ever, please do contact me through the school office if there is anything you would like to discuss with me, or catch me in the school yard.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lindsey Slater
Headteacher

New Governors

We are delighted to welcome some new governors to our board! Suzy Brown, Pam Jones and William Wharton have been appointed as Foundation Governors. Suzy and William are both parents to children in school and Pam was previously the Governing Board's clerk. We also welcome Kellie Fricker who is our new clerk. We are thrilled to have new members to join our wonderful Governing Body.

There is a Parent Governor vacancy and details have already gone out about this. Please do return your nomination form by **Tuesday 25th June**.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority in our school and all staff receive annual safeguarding training. As you enter our school, you may have noticed our Safeguarding Board. On the board are listed the members of staff trained up to Level 3 safeguarding.

Mrs Slater is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (**DSL**).

Miss Cruickshank, Mrs Noble, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Combe are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (**DDSL**).

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do speak to any member of staff.

Over the next few weeks, school will be reminding children about 'Speak Out, Stay Safe'. This is a NSPCC safeguarding programme designed for children to help them understand:

- Abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of abuse
- That abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe
- Where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including the Childline service

We shall be sending out a letter with further details about this programme. In the meantime, if you would like to know more, please have a look at the NSPCC website:

[Speak out Stay safe programme | NSPCC Learning](#)

Attendance Matters!

Our school attendance has remained very stable across the year but the data can fluctuate due to our small pupil numbers. We are very much in line with the national data and I wanted to thank parents as I know you have worked hard to support school in raising attendance. Our school target for attendance is **96%**.

School councillors share with the children the class attendance each week and this is then displayed on our Attendance board. It has been stressed with the children however, that if they are poorly, they should remain at home until they feel better.

We shall be including your child's attendance for the academic year on your child's end of year school report. Thank you again for your continued support with attendance.

Term	Whole School Attendance	National Attendance
Autumn 2023	94%	95%
Spring 2024	92%	94%
Summer 2024 (to date)	93%	94%

Blackford Community Summer Fair – 13th July 2024

We are delighted to announce a Blackford Community Summer Fair with St John's Church, Blackford on **Saturday 13th July 1pm - 5pm**.

There will be traditional sports day events running from 1.15pm - 2.30pm, as well as a free bouncy castle and stalls. Cumbria Fire and Rescue are bringing a fire engine and there will be barbeque food and refreshments on sale. There should be something for all the family!

We will shortly be sending home raffle tickets and we would be very grateful if families could sell the tickets to family members. There are some amazing prizes, including a £50 Hills Garage fuel voucher.

We are holding a non-uniform day in school, in return for tombola prizes, on **Friday 5th July**.

We are very grateful to Westlinton Parish Council for generously funding this event. Now all we need is for the sun to shine!



Blood Bikes Cumbria



Last term Blood Bikes Cumbria visited school and gave a very interesting talk to the children about the work the charity does across Cumbria and beyond, providing a much-needed service.

It was amazing to learn how this charity supports the NHS transporting much-needed blood supplies to hospitals. The children really enjoyed sitting on the Blood Bike too! Thank you to Denzil Addison his colleague George West for a very informative visit.



Monthly Family Services

We have really enjoyed our monthly family services with Reverend Ian this year - they are always engaging with lots of laughter and drama involved! It is wonderful to see how relaxed and at home our children are in our church - thank you Reverend Ian!

Our next family service will be in September.



Curriculum

History

Last term in history, Year 3 and 4 were learning about the Victorians. The children enjoyed looking at historical sources to ask and answer questions and they tried to deduce what life might have been like during this time period. We learnt about Queen Victoria and her role as monarch and we also looked at the new inventions that were created during this time - there were so many! The children also set up their own Victorian museum.



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Mrs Combe

Design and Technology



Y5/6 have been building bridges in Design and Technology. We started by making a truss bridge prototype, using dried spaghetti, before moving on to using wood.

The children developed accuracy with their measuring skills and showed great care and technique when using the tools.



The final step was assembling the wooden bridge and applying their knowledge to add strengthening reinforcements. The children really enjoyed this unit and the opportunity to use the woodwork tools.

Mrs Noble

Drama

Last term the juniors had a wonderful morning at Richard Rose Morton Academy watching the drama department's performance of The Wizard of Oz. The children were mesmerised by all the amazing singing, dancing, costumes, set and lighting. We certainly felt inspired once we got back to school!

Mrs Brown

PE

In PE, Year 3 & 4, have been developing their fundamental skills of co-ordination and balance. We have been practising sending and receiving in a variety of ways and we have been developing our counter balances with a partner. We included these skills in different games as part of our 'creative' multi-ability learning. Great work!



Reception, Y1 and Y2 meanwhile had the chance to learn the skills of Pickleball with Miss Stevens. The children learnt to control the ball with the paddle and receive and return the ball across the net. Well done everyone!

Mrs Combe
PE Subject Leader

Community

Cumberland Building Society Charity Day

On an extremely wet and cold February day, four colleagues from Cumberland Building Society generously gave their day to clearing out and tidying up our school grounds.



We are very grateful to Heather Henderson and her colleagues for braving such an awful day! Thank you!

Asda Gardening Donation

Asda have very generously donated compost, seeds, pots and watering cans to help start our garden area. We are very grateful to Asda for these donations.



Easter Activities

The week leading up to Easter was a very busy one in school! The children were delighted to meet a lamb and this really set the scene for our Easter celebrations! Thank you to Tom and his Mum Heather for bringing in Spotty!

We also had a visit from Bulrush, a beautiful, gentle donkey, and the children learnt about why donkeys have a 'cross' on their backs.

Gemma Thomlinson organised a super Easter fair in school to raise funds for our playground development. Thank you to Gemma and to everyone who supported this event.

Mrs Down, Thomas' Grandma, kindly found time during lambing to come and help the children to plant up the Easter tub which has brightened up the front of the school. And Mrs Douglas even managed to find time for an egg drop competition!



Easter Egg Competition

And finally, we ended the spring term with the traditional Easter Egg competition – and what a wonderful competition it was! From butterflies to an empty tomb - the different designs were amazing and picking winners wasn't an easy task for the judges!

Thank you to Christina Storey, Joan Forrester and Linda Davidson for taking the time to judge the eggs and to St John's church for sponsoring the prizes. The day ended with a visit from the Easter Bunny!



Outdoor Play and Learning

We have been very busy enhancing our outdoor spaces - and the children are loving the new additions! As a school, we have joined up with the charity OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) and over the next two years we will be continuously enhancing the playtimes for our children. Did you know that over the 7 years your child is in primary school, they will spend 1.4 years just in morning and lunchtime break? That's a lot of time playing!

Research shows that children's mental and physical health is declining, but positive play experiences can improve children's mental and physical health. Blackford school children have an abundance of energy and it has been an absolute privilege to watch them thrive as we improve and enhance our outdoor spaces. Mrs Combe is our Curriculum Leader for OPAL and Mrs Douglas our Play Leader and we are very grateful for their commitment to this new project.

New boat - thank you to Natalie Kennedy for sourcing a boat - it has been a huge success. Thank you also to the 'Family Coulthard' who turned out in force to install the boat - under the close inspection of Claudia!

Hammock and Strap Lines - these are also proving to be a great hit with the children.

Seating logs and Blackboard Wall - thank you to Leeann Jackson and family for sourcing the wonderful seating logs in our new bark area. Thank you also to Joesph who helped to paint the blackboard wall - this is a great addition to our playground!

Ladybirds and Beetles Game - thank you again to Leeann Jackson for the carefully crafted Ladybirds and Beetles game!

New bark - We are very grateful to R&M Lowther Tree Surgeon for the donation of a truck full of bark. This has transformed this area and has made it such a pleasant space for the children to play in.

Suitcases - Mrs Combe has brought in three huge suitcases which are a perfect size for our younger children to climb inside - they also like just pushing them round the playground!



Sport

Carlisle Schools' Partnership Y2 and Y5/6 Sports Events

Year 2 and Year 5/6 took part in a sporting event with schools from across our partnership. The Year 2 children spent a morning at the Sheepmount before walking across to the Sands centre for some more activities. The Y5/6 children spent the afternoon in the Sands Centre. The children enjoyed the games and the athletic activities and it gave our school children chance to meet children from across the city.

Sports Day - Sheepmount

Thank you to everyone who braved a chilly June morning to come and watch our Sports Day. At the Sheepmount. The children spent the morning having a practice at the different events before they took to the running track for the races. Thank you to Mrs Combe and Michael Barnes from GLL who planned and led the morning activities.

It was good to be able to give the children the experience of an athletics stadium and we will do this again next year, however we will also hold a traditional Sports Day event for children and parents at school next year and use the Sheepmount stadium for teaching purposes.



Diary Dates

Date	Event / Location	Time
Wednesday 19 th June	Y3/4 trip to Talkin Tarn	All day
Thursday 20 th June	Year 6 Leavers' Service in Carlisle Cathedral Art Show for families	11.00am 3.00pm
Friday 21 st June	Parents' Coffee and Chat in school hall Class photographs for Reception, Year 2 and Year 6	9.00am
Tuesday 25 th June	Year 6 transition event at Houghton School	9.30am
Wed 26 th – Fri 28 th June	Year 5 and Year 6 residential to London	Wed - Fri
Monday 1 st July	Year 6 Transition Day and Moving Up Day for all pupils	All day
Friday 5 th July	Non-uniform Day - bring a tombola item Cyclewise for Year 5 & 6	All day All day
Saturday 13 th July	Blackford Community Summer Fair	1.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 19 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Service in St John's Church - all welcome	9.30am

Summer Holidays

Monday 22nd July 2024 - Tuesday 3rd September 2024

School starts for children on **Wednesday 4th September 2024**