



News Bulletin



March 2023

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

As the end of the spring term draws near, we have many things to look forward to. This includes our Easter Egg Competition for Years 1 to 6 and Easter Bonnet Parade for Nursery and Reception children.

Easter Egg Competition entries need to be brought to school at 9am on Tuesday 28th March at 9am. Good luck to everyone!

It is hard to believe the changes in weather we have had over the past few weeks. On our recent snow day, we had a snow competition and Year 4 were crowned winners! All photographs are on the class pages for you all to see.

On Tuesday 18th April, we look forward to M and M productions visiting school for a whole school performance of Jungle Book. This is being paid for from school fund and supports our creative arts curriculum.

To celebrate King Charles III coronation, the children have been completing some art work for 'My Child's Art'. You may remember that we did something similar a few years ago. You will be given the opportunity to purchase a range of items with your child's design. A flyer explaining how to purchase will be sent home in the coming days.

Enjoy the Easter holiday when it comes; we are all looking forward to lighter nights and warmer weather!

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

Headteacher

Year 4 winners!

Well done to Year 4 the winners of the Snowman competition. All children had great fun playing out in the snow.



Swimming Lessons

Year 4 have completed 2 terms of swimming lessons. After Easter children from Year 3 are looking forward to starting their lessons. These will continue to be on a Wednesday morning and be held at Washington Leisure Centre.

Derwent Hill

We have secured a residential weekend for September 22nd - 24th 2023. Letters have been sent out to parents in Year 5 (who will be Year 6 in September). To secure a place please return these by Wednesday 29th March.

BLACKFELL NEWS



Kings Coronation

To start the celebrations of the King Charles Coronation in May, we are working with 'My Childs Art' on a fundraising event to help support school fund.

Children have created a piece of artwork and drawn a royal self portrait. Parent/carers will be given details of how to log on to a portal to place your order. There will be a selection of gifts to order for example a mug, tea towel, keyring etc. The more we sell the more money that is raised for school.

Sports News

We are delighted to announce that Blackfell Primary School has achieved Gold in the Sunderland Active Charter Mark. The Charter Mark measures a school's performance over four key areas that include education, sport, physical activity and key community standards. Levels of achievement are measured through bronze, silver and gold level accreditation and are recognised by both the Education Leadership Board and the Health and WellBeing Board. Well done to all staff and children!

GOLD
active
Sunderland
School 2022-23



More Mindful Meals

Families from across school enjoyed taking part in a three week cooking programme ran by Groundwork. They learnt about how to cook well, live well, love food and hate waste. Children prepared and cooked soup, pasta & sauce and pizza's. Children got to take the food home to enjoy together with their families.

World Book Day Winners

World Book Day was a fantastic day. It was great to see children dressed as characters and colours of the rainbow. All classes read a rainbow of books and the children thoroughly enjoyed sharing a story with a child from another class in school. Thank you to all of those who entered our World Book Day Competition. The winners were Emily (Reception), Isla (Year 2), Robyn (Year 3) and Lily (Year 5). The Y6 Reading Warriors were overwhelmed with the number of fabulous entries and had a difficult job helping Miss Kitchen judge the winners. The winners were awarded in Celebration Assembly with a voucher.



Polite reminder

Whilst we endeavour to have an open door policy, if parents would like to speak to their class teacher, it isn't always possible to see them straight away. Best practice is to call school and make an appointment in person or by telephone. This would be at the end of the school day when they are not in class or teaching.

Uniform - Pre Loved uniform

This term in the community room, School Council and children from Year 5 have been helping set up a uniform Swap Shop for families to obtain free school uniform.

We have received over the past few months a large supply of school uniform in excellent condition, some items have not been worn.

We would welcome families to use this as it is a chance to get free good quality uniform for their child.

After the Easter holidays, 'Swap Shop' will be open on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 3pm. Access will be via the community room door. Please feel free to come along and collect some items.

If you have any good quality uniform in the house which is no longer suitable donations are welcome.

A reminder of the expectations of school uniform: grey/black trousers or skirt, white or blue polo shirt, royal blue cardigan or jumper. For PE we request that children wear the colour t shirt depending on what house team they represent and a royal blue hoodie can be worn if PE is outdoors. Hoodies are not to be worn in class or around school.



Calculate, Cook, and Achieve

SUPPORT



[This](#)

Do you want to be able to cook nutritious, and reasonably priced meals?

Are you interested in improving your understanding of maths in everyday life?

Why not come along and try our new and exciting course?

It's FREE and you will receive a slow cooker, a bag of ingredients each week to take home and cook along with your family.

There are only 6 places available and you need to have no maths qualifications above a Level 2 (Grade C GCSE qualification or below).

Apextra C.I.C. is offering an exciting and different learning opportunity to develop your maths skills, use them in everyday activities, and overcome your fear of maths.

This course is informative, enjoyable, and relatable. You will complete a Taste Test Challenge each week and gain a Food Hygiene qualification.

We will work with you to put your learning into practise, whilst learning how to plan, prepare, and cook healthy and nutritious meals.

The course will start on Tuesday 25th April 10am - 2.30pm for 10 weeks at Blackfell Primary School.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Interested? Please contact Denise Hepplewhite

07747832225 or dhepplewhite@apextra.co.uk for more information



Multiply



EARLY YEARS

The children have had a very busy and exciting Spring term. Our topic this term has been Traditional Tales and we have been doing lots of activities surrounding stories such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have also been very busy preparing for their Easter Bonnet Parade. Please check our class pages for the activities the children have been taking part in.

Nursery

In maths we have been learning all about size, comparing size and positional language. In Literacy we have been sequencing a story and creating a story map. Well done Nursery we are so proud of you!



Reception

In Literacy we have been reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have had great fun growing our own magic beans, although we have no growth just yet! The children have loved looking after their broad beans by daily watering and keeping them near the window for sunlight, they even learnt about 'photosynthesis' which was a very tricky word for us to say. The children have been writing super sentences using their imagination to say what they would like to grow if they had their own magic beans!

We also had a fabulous day celebrating 'World Book Day'. The children loved reading our rainbow coloured books! They looked great and we even had a visit from the Year 4 class to read books and help decorate bookmarks with us.

In Maths we have been continuing to learn our number bonds to 5 and looking at numbers that are equal and unequal. We have been comparing numbers and using super maths vocabulary to say which numbers are more than, less than or equal to another number! We have been practising our Easter songs and the children have had lots of fun and they can't wait to perform for you all.



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 1

In literacy, we have been reading a new book called 'Handas Surprise'. In this story, Handa takes 7 delicious fruits to her friend. These fruits are exotic fruits, some of which we haven't tried before. We used our senses to feel, look and taste a variety of fruits such as mango, pineapple, passionfruit and banana. We really enjoyed this!



Our new science topic this term is plants. We have been learning about different parts of a plant and what plants need to grow. In pairs, we planted our own sunflower seeds. We discussed what we need to do to our plants in order for them to grow, which is putting them in sunlight and watering them. Every few days, we have been watering and observing our plants to see how much they have grown.



We have been busy making Easter cards for our family. We enjoyed being creative using different materials to make our eggs and chicks, along with buttons, feathers, googly eyes, pens, ribbon and stickers for the design. We worked really hard making these and had great fun!



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

Maths: Measuring

In Maths we have been learning about different measurements. We have found out about how to measure length using centimetres and metres, mass using grams and kilograms and volume using millilitres and litres. We have been carrying out some practical maths by using scales to compare and measure weight along with measuring the capacity of water.



PSHE: Dangers in the house

As part of our PSHE this half term, we have been learning about keeping ourselves safe. We have been learning about how to keep safe in the home and identifying possible different dangers and risks. In this lesson we sorted risks into different dangers, for example items that may be sharp or hot. We then sorted some different liquids and discuss which were safe to drink and which were not. We agreed we should always ask an adult if we are unsure or tell someone if we think something is unsafe.



Design Technology: Fire Engines

In Design Technology, we are going to be designing and building our own fire engines. To start off we have been learning about axis and have started to develop some prototypes to ensure the wheels will turn on our engines. We have also discussed some features which must be on our engines, for example the hose and ladders. Take a look at what we have been up to so far. We can't wait to make our final engines!



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 3

As part of their PE topic Year 3 have been working as a team with a number of mini challenges. They worked together in their house team and had to order themselves on the bench in alphabetical order without touching the floor. They found it tricky to begin with but soon they realised working together and listening to each other made the task much easier.



Year 3 had an amazing celebration for World Book Day. They looked fantastic in their costumes and rainbow colours! They enjoyed reading to Nursery children some of their favourite stories. They taught Nursery The Gruffalo Dance and made some excellent book covers, book reviews and character description.



Year 3 have been exploring measurement in their maths topic. They have been measuring in meters, centimetres and millimetres. They explored the classroom and decided on an appropriate measurement. Over the unit they have been practising converting meters to centimetres and centimetres to millimetres.



Finally, after an action packed month, Year 3 went on a trip to the Galleries as part of their Geography learning about their local area. They took a walk to the Galleries to do a survey of all of the local services that can be found in their. They looked for food, leisure, services and retail. Back in school they collated their data into a bar graph.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 4

Year 4 have been working very hard and we've managed to fit so much into such a short half term.

At the beginning of March, Year 4 loved celebrating World Book Day. During the morning, we joined Reception to share their favourite books and help them make a book mark with their favourite characters. We loved working alongside the younger children to enjoy a range of stories together. In the afternoon, we spent some time sharing our favourite characters and books with one another by completing some reviews. We also designed our own book covers for the story we wrote based on Coraline. To finish the day, we competed in teams to carry out a scavenger hunt in the library. We all had so much fun!



In Science, Year 4 have been investigating how solids, liquids and gases can change state. We've investigated the best temperature to melt wax using equipment such as thermometers and stopwatches to see how long it took to melt (if at all). As well as this, we set up some mini experiments to explore how water can change to/from ice or water vapour. We were surprised to discover how much water is lost from a kettle as water vapour when it boils and how quickly ice melted when salt was added.



Within our RE lessons, we have been learning about the importance of Good Friday to Christians. We began by looking at the significance of the Last Supper within the Easter story and how Jesus told his disciples he had been betrayed but commanded them to love each other when he was gone. Year 4 enjoyed re-enacting the supper and thinking about how they could put their own friends first in future.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 5

Year 5 and 6 had a visit from the Community Police Officers who explained the different types of anti-social behaviour which takes place in and around Blackfell. We had lots of different questions for the police and found out what would happen if you were to participate in anti-social behaviour. The children were all interested in how we can keep our local area safe!



Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their time in the snow this month. We took part in a snowman building competition where we built a family of snowmen working as a team. We also created some snow cats and snow dinosaurs! The children showed excellent team skills and brilliant levels of creativity with their snowmen building.



In music we have been learning how to play the ukulele. We have been learning how to play different chords and how to hold the ukulele correctly. We worked together to make sure we were playing the correct cords and are looking forward to developing our musical skills further



To celebrate world book day, we enjoyed coming into school wearing a rainbow of different colours! We enjoyed different activities ranging from reading with children in Year 1, completing book reviews and reading different books in the different colours of the rainbow.



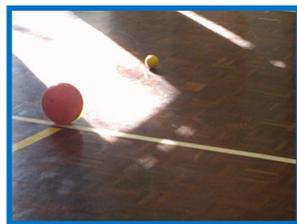
UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 6

Year 6 have been brilliant this month and it has been a pleasure sharing their successes and progress with their parents/carers at consultations.

In PE we have begun to learn hockey skills. We have revised our learning from Year 5 and practised holding a hockey stick, the correct side to use, how to flip our stick and how to dribble. We are looking forward to practising our stick control to beat a defender and score goals.



Our other unit of P.E this half-term is golf. We have really enjoyed practising our putting where we have played a range of games to improve the pace and direction of the ball.



We really enjoyed making the final version of our clay pots. We adapted our designs as we worked and painted them when dry.



Year 6 made the most of the snow we had! Working as a class team, we sculptured two snowmen playing football. It was of course Sunderland vs Newcastle. It was great to see how much effort the class made into perfecting the sculpture. Well done; a great team effort!

