

## MESSAGES FROM YOUR CLASS TEACHER

Hello Nursery, I hope you are all keeping safe and well at home. Throughout this half term I have really enjoyed looking at all of the hard work which you have been doing at home. It's been great to view your Arctic work which you have been sending to us. I have particularly enjoyed watching your music videos of you all dancing to the songs and appraising them with your grown-ups at home. I am also very impressed with your maths work and how well you have been using your resources in your packs to help you with your number work. It's lovely to see you all smiling through your tricky PE challenges. You have blown me away with your ICT work - I have loved viewing and giving feedback on your story scenes and your favourite characters on Purple Mash. You are all working so hard and we are all very proud of you. Next half term, our topic is Dinosaur Devastation. I am looking forward to sharing this new topic and learning with you. I hope you have a lovely half term break and I hope to see you soon, Miss Clark.

Hello Reception, I hope you are well and keeping safe at home. This term our topic has been 'Arctic Antics', and throughout the term I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing your learning at home with you. It has been super to see the work you have produced based on Polar habitats and the impressive igloos, animals and artwork you have created. I have been so impressed with how talented you all are. I have especially enjoyed our live sessions as it has given us the chance to share our learning and ideas together, alongside the opportunity to share our news and be able to say a big hello to our friends. Plus, it has been wonderful for us to be able to see all your wonderful smiley happy faces. Over the last few weeks you have continually impressed me with the maths, phonic and literacy work that you have completed. I can see how well you have used your resources sent home in your packs to help support you with your number and letter formation. It has been a pleasure to give you feedback on all your work, it has been one of the highlights of my day. There have been lots of occasions when you have all put a big smile on my face, especially when I watch the videos of the ways in which you have completed your PE and Music activities. A big well done to you and also to your parents and carers, you have all worked so hard and have done a brilliant job - we are super proud of you all. After half term we will be moving on to our new topic, 'Dinosaur Devastation' and I can't wait to see some of the work you produce. Have a super half term everyone, stay safe and I hope to see you all very soon, Mrs. Hutchinson.

Year 1 have made Miss Brooks and I extremely proud this half term with all of their hard work, dedication, and amazing effort. It has been a joy to see you all every morning in our live meet, and hear what you have been getting up to! This half term, Year 1 have been reading the story of The Gingerbread Man in Literacy, and they impressed me so much with their drama performances, and sentence writing. I can't wait to read their own versions of the story! Year 1 have also been busy creating their own models of playground equipment in D&T, and completing science experiments observing the weather and measuring rainfall in home made rain gauges. I know Year 1 have loved our daily stories, and they have sent us lots of photographs of drawings they have done from the stories they have listened to, and pictures of them reading at home that we have made into a display in our classroom. Next half term we will be starting some Geography work all about Australia, and we will be starting a food and nutrition project called Teddy Bear's Picnic. I know Year 1 all love baking so I can't wait to see what you come up with! A big thank you for all of your hard work this half term Year 1, we are delighted with how well you are doing. Keep up the hard work! Miss Henderson

Year 2 have been working so hard this term. It has been fantastic to see so many children confidently participating in our live sessions especially considering it was something completely new 5 weeks ago! This term we have spent a lot of time learning about explorers both through our literacy and our history work. Several children loved pretending to be Neil Armstrong the astronaut on Purple Mash! Not only that but we have been busy in science learning about human lifestyles and in art we have been investigating a range of 2D and 3D human sculptures. I am incredibly proud of how well you have all adapted to remote learning and I have been very impressed with the quality of work that has been sent in. Next half term we will be starting our DT and Geography units. In Geography we will be learning about life on different continents and in DT we will be designing and making the perfect Pizza - I can't wait to see how you get on! Keep up all the hard work, Year 2! Mrs Agar

Hello Year 3. You have all made myself and Miss Hough very proud of the fantastic work you have been doing on your home learning. You have covered multiplication and division, created fantastic power points, leaflets and posters for your non chronological reports on the Romans, learnt all about the Roman reign in Britain and about the human skeleton and muscles. Along side all of these activities you have been designing some marvellous sculptures for around school, listened and appraised the music of Bob Marley and even had time to set yourself some goals. You have been fantastic! It had been excellent to see all of your hard work and sharing news during our morning meetings. Next term we are going to be learning about our local area in Geography, looking at creating a healthy sandwich in design and technology, learning how to use Microsoft Word in computing, learning why lent is important to Christians and continue to listen and appraise reggae music. Enjoy your holiday. Keep safe and positive! Miss Hepplewhite.

Hello Year 4, I hope you are all keeping safe at home. You have been producing some excellent work over the past few weeks and I am so proud of you all. I have particularly enjoyed reading your fantasy stories. You have included some excellent setting and character descriptions! I have been very impressed with how well you have been doing with our fraction topic over the past few weeks in Maths, you are all putting so much effort into your tasks even when we are finding them quite tricky. I have loved seeing all of your pictures I have been sent of you completing our PE activities, you all looked like you were having so much fun. After half term we will be beginning our new Geography unit which I am particularly excited about as we will be looking at the effects of volcanic eruptions. Keep up the hard work year 4, you are all doing amazing! Miss Black.

Year 5, we would like to say a huge well done to you all for your hard work, your perseverance, your resilience and resourcefulness, and your focus in completing your assignments and learning at home. You have risen to the challenge and you are all amazing - you truly are shining stars, we are very proud of you! It has been wonderful to see you at our morning meetings to share our learning and our ideas, thank you for your contributions and engagement. Next term we will be continuing with our fraction work in Maths, we will be looking at discussion texts for Literacy and continuing with our Science topic on Materials. In Design and Technology we will be looking at cookery, and Geography will focus on Coasts. We will also be exploring the Easter story as we move forward to Easter. Keep up the hard work and we look forward to seeing more of home learning. Very well done! Mrs Gilbert and Miss Kitchen

Year 6, I would like to say a huge well done to Year 6! You have been absolutely fantastic accessing remote learning and submitting work. I have been so impressed with the quality of work and I am really looking forward to sharing all of your achievements with your parents during our teacher parent meetings. It has been amazing to see how well you have handled our new maths unit, algebra, and I am impressed with your build up to writing a Greek myth, I can't wait to read them this week. Not only that, but it has been so lovely to see you all each morning at our morning meets, your commitment and dedication to your own learning is faultless. You definitely deserve a well earned break this half term, keep up the hard work and keep smiling, we are all so proud of you! Miss. Dodds and Mrs. Kearney.

# Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



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## Headteacher's Update

As half term quickly approaches, I wanted to say a huge thank you for the brilliant job you are all doing at home to support your child with their remote learning - well done to everyone as we know that it is not easy! We understand the challenges and commitments are very different for each household so if you need any support or advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Last week, we all celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. It was lovely to see all of the children and staff enjoying some wellbeing activities and taking some well-deserved time out. The daily meets on Friday morning brought a smile to everyone's faces with the outfits and accessories shared by the children and staff. It definitely cheered us all up!

As you know we love to celebrate the children's achievements in and out of school. Celebration assemblies continue to be posted every Monday on your child's teams page so please take time to share these achievements; you can even send a message to the star of the week in the comments underneath the video

Teachers are looking forward to virtual parent/carer consultations this week via Teams or a telephone call. If you haven't made an appointment, please e mail your child's class teacher to arrange one at a mutually convenient time.

We hope to hear plans for children to return to school after the half term holiday. We have been told that we will receive two weeks notice of any potential opening so that we can complete appropriate risk assessments to openly safely. We can't wait to see the children back in school as soon as it is safe to do so. Please be assured that any information I have on this will be shared, you will be updated as soon as I know more.

Enjoy the half term break when it comes. I know that many of the children will be hoping for snow!

Very best wishes and stay safe everyone,  
Julia Watkins  
Headteacher

## SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. The campaign this year focusses on how we can decide what to trust online, supporting our children to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online. Teachers will engage your child with this in their live Team meetings through discussion, they will then be directed to a pre-recorded assembly through The Safer Internet Organisation. Your child will then be asked to complete activities via Teams to explore this year's campaign further. You will also be e-mailed with up-to-date advice regarding online safety and top tips to support your child using the internet at home.

# Newsletter

## Birthday 'shout outs' for January/February

Nursery - Freddie

Year 1 - James, Farrah

Year 2 - Jasmine, Annabel

Year 3 - Joseph, Isla

Year 4 - Charlie, Morgan, Callum, Aaron

Year 5 - Kate-Lyn, Isabelle, Parneet, Shay, Elliott, Laura

Year 6 - Benjamin, Alexander



## Nursery/School Places

We currently have spaces in our Nursery starting after Easter for 15 or 30 hours. Once a child reaches the age of two you can register them at school. Children can start with us when they turn three. If you would like to arrange a visit to our Nursery please contact the school office and a socially distanced visit can be arranged. We also have school places available in Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4.

We are very impressed with all the hard work that is going into home learning. We hope you are enjoying the phonics, literacy and reading sessions staff are preparing - the work we have seen has been amazing so keep it up.

As during the previous lockdown, Oxford Owl are still providing free e-books. Parents can sign up for free access and sort the books by Oxford level at [https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/user/sign\\_up.html](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/user/sign_up.html). Your child's class teacher should have been in touch to share which Oxford level books are suitable for your child. For children who are still learning their phonic sounds and practising their blending and segmenting, we recommend signing up for a Teach Your Monster to Read account online. It is free to sign up as a parent and your child will have their own monster avatar and earn coins for practising their phonic skills. They also get rewarded with certificates when they complete levels.

For older children, there are also free books at [www.getepic.com](http://www.getepic.com) where books are organised by age level. Parents can sign up for a month's free trial.

If you would like any support with reading books, please email your child's class email account and we will get back to you.

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 4th March and have lots of exciting activities planned for that day. Further information will be shared with children following the half term break.

# Newsletter

## MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Last week we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'Express Yourself', with the aim of encouraging children and adults to express themselves in a variety of ways. Throughout the week the children and adults were given opportunities and ideas in which to express themselves maybe through a piece of artwork, wearing your favourite outfit, dancing, gardening, knitting and yoga. To help support with our health and wellbeing we introduced our 'Wellbeing Wednesday'. This is an opportunity for everyone to take a step back from devices and screen time every Wednesday and find different ways in which we can de-stress, switch off and be kind to ourselves. Wellbeing Wednesday covers three main elements that are vital to our health and wellbeing. These are physical exercise, enjoying the great outdoors and a mindfulness activity. You can participate in some of the activities we suggest every Wednesday or maybe you have already found something that you do that makes you feel calm and relaxed and you have participated in those instead. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' and have begun sharing some of the activities or hobbies they enjoy to support their health and wellbeing. Maybe you would like to share your ideas via our class 'Other subjects Folder', or perhaps through our 'Health and Well-being folder', where some of the children and staff have already begun to share their ideas. Keep a look out for any new ideas or initiatives via our Health and Well-being Folder. The week ended with the staff and children taking part in wearing something in which to 'express themselves'. This ranged from wearing accessories or their favourite outfit which would make someone smile. Fun was had by all!

