

Science Week

This year's theme for British Science Week was Innovating for the Future; we celebrated the day in school on Friday 12th March. Each year group worked on a different topic which included exploring a famous scientist. Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 worked with real plants, they found out about the parts of a plant, what they need to survive and where they grow. Year 3 found out about forces and investigated different surfaces. Year 4 explored human teeth and which sugary drinks can cause erosion. Year 5 explored materials and designed their own tents. Year 6 found out more about evolution and carried out an investigation to find out more about the Galapagos finches. A great day was had by all!



World Water Day

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is all about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. Every year World Water Day is recognised internationally on March 22nd and this year's theme was 'Valuing Water'.

Here at Blackfell Primary School we spent part of the day learning about the value of fresh water. Within our classes we discussed how regularly we access water within a typical day and of all the different ways we use water. This allowed for some very meaningful discussions around the importance we place on water and ways in which we can conserve the amounts we use. Take a look at some of the pictures below to see what we all got up to:



Nursery and Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6

Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



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Headteacher's Update

As the end of the spring term draws near, we have many things to look forward to. The lighter evenings and warmer weather when we return for the summer term, will ensure that we can spend more time learning outdoors and building on our achievements to date. We are hoping to introduce some after school activities next term, ensuring the children remain in class bubbles. It does take a lot of organising during the school day to keep children from mixing with others. Please try and support us to maintain this as much as possible at the end of the school day e.g. outside the school gate or at the local park.

Our usual Easter celebrations and events have been restricted this year. Children have all made an Easter card and I am sure that you will enjoy receiving them this week.

I am delighted that we have been able to organise a **Forest School experience** for all children across school next term. This work, led by a qualified Forest School leader from Scouted, will take place in May and June. We will be developing personal and scientific skills in our school grounds linked to our Science and PSHE curriculum. Further details will follow from Miss Dodds, who is overseeing this project.

Enjoy the Easter holiday when it comes; we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 12th April 2021 for the summer term.

Best wishes
Julia Watkins
Headteacher

COVID - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School closes on Friday 26th March for the Easter holidays. If your child becomes unwell and tests positive for Covid 19 up until Monday 29th March please send an email to covid@blackfell.org.uk. This is essential as we would need to inform Public Health England and support track and trace. Parents who would like to order lateral flow tests can do so by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

A reminder that school is closed to children on Friday 28th May for a staff inset day. Half term holidays are 31st May to 4th June 2021. Children break up for the summer holidays on Friday 16th July and return to school Tuesday 7th September 2021.

Trainee Teacher

Three trainee teachers from Sunderland University will be joining us for a 5 week placement following the Easter holidays. Miss Ali will be in Year 6, Miss Scott Year 2 and Miss Ivory will be in Reception class.

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Birthdays shout outs for March

Reception - Emily, Phoebe

Year 1 - Max

Year 3 - Jasmine

Year 4 - Janine, Ellie, Sarah, Reece, Lucas

Year 5 - Graysen, Raisa, Ava

Year 6 - Matthew



Staying active is vital for young people's physical and mental health and we understand the huge role physical education will continue to play over the coming months. Over the past few weeks we have prioritised sports outdoors and concentrated on team work and communication.

We have pushed to improve our fitness levels and resilience and we are really enjoying participating in the run a mile throughout the week. We plan to create a whole school competition next term. To also help engage pupils in regular physical fitness activity throughout the day, we have purchased new breaktime equipment. Mr Taylor has worked with Lower Key Stage 2 children developing competitive team work games. We plan for Mr Taylor to have worked with all KS2 by the end of the academic year.

Next term, Years 1-6 will also participate in a range of forest school outdoor activities based around the school 5Rs. Children will work together on a range of outdoor problem solving activities such as den building and survival skills.

We also look forward to holding our Be Safe, Be Fit, Be Healthy week in the summer term.



Foundation Stage

It has been so wonderful having the children back in school and we have all been so excited to be back together again. Since returning the children have been enjoying socialising with our friends and getting back into our daily routines. The children have settled back into school really well and have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our theme this term of Dinosaur Devastation. The children have also been taking part in British Science Week and enjoyed dissecting plants, investigating the different parts of a flower, planting flowers and learning what a plant needs to survive. We have also enjoyed taking part in Comic Relief Day and World Water Day, the theme of which this year is valuing water. After half term our theme will be 'Helping Hands'. The children will be learning all about the people within our community who help us. We hope you all have a super Easter break and look forward to continue sharing the children's learning with you during the Summer Term.

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School Council

Year 3

Year 3 are very excited being School Council over the Summer Term. Their focus will be the wellbeing of children and adults in school. Each week they are researching and creating a time table of well being activities around a theme. Our first week as, School Council, we created a range of activities around the theme of friendship. It has been great to see all of our friends around school enjoying their activities. We have talked as a Council and decided to create a project within school to help our friends. When looking at our yards we decided that we wanted to improve them. We feel they need more colour to brighten them up.



We want to improve the yards by creating friendship gardens. We have been googling ideas of what we want to create. We have lots of ideas how we want to create our friendship gardens but we need some help. We have all wrote letters to local businesses asking for donations of plants, soil, seeds, tools, plant pots and planters to help us get started with our gardens. On Wednesday we went and posted our letters and even gave some to local businesses.



We also asked for donations of gift cards and prizes for our exciting raffle to help us raise money for our project. Raffle tickets will be handed out after the Easter holidays. If anybody would like to donate any resources or prizes please contact Miss Hepplewhite. We are very excited to start our project and develop our yards. We have also applied for a Community Chest Grant to support the work.

We will be sending out more information about our project and how it is developing over the coming weeks.