



News Bulletin



January 2023

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed spending some quality time with family and friends.

This term, we have welcomed six new children to our nursery – we are sure they will all enjoy their learning at Blackfell. All of the children across school have settled well and are enjoying their new topics. I am sure that you found your spring curriculum overview informative. All important dates for the rest of the academic year are on our school calendar. In addition, our class pages on the school website are updated regularly for you to see what the children have been learning.

Our newly elected school council will be working alongside Miss Dodds and Mrs Reynolds. They will be organising our pre-loved uniform shop and leading work from the NSPCC across school.

It is always wonderful to welcome you to join us in school. We have a number of parent/carer workshops and have whole school parent/carer consultations planned for early March. Further details to follow.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2023.

Julia Watkins

Headteacher

Attendance

Our attendance for last term was 94.4%. We were delighted that 40 children achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term and were rewarded with a gold certificate. Our aim is for all children to achieve at least 97% attendance across the academic year and this term our 100% attendance reward will be a pizza lunch in school. In addition, there will be spot prizes. This begins with all children with 100% attendance for the week first three weeks of the spring term. Names will be put in a hat and drawn to win a prize.

Well done to Year 3 who achieved the class attendance award for December.

Health and Safety

Please park in a safe place around the school at the beginning and end of the school day. We have had concerns raised about cars parking on pathways and blocking access. The community police will be carrying out spot checks at the beginning and end of the school day to support us to and to raise awareness of the importance of parking safely. We understand that it can become congested; however, safeguarding of children is a priority. In addition, please refrain from smoking around the school gates and keep dogs on a lead off school premises.

Early Years

The children in Early Years have had a busy start to Spring Term 1. Our theme in Nursery and Reception for this half term is 'Destination Outer Space'. We are focusing on three texts which are linked to space. We will be taking part in some exciting craft activities linked to space.

Nursery

In Maths, the children have been introduced to 2D shapes and have been using these shapes to make rockets. The children have enjoyed being imaginative in our role play area which has been transformed into a Space Shuttle! We have also welcomed new starters into our Nursery who have settled in well.



Reception

In Literacy we have been reading 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. We have talked about the characters in the book and we have been looking at the Moon. We watched the Moon landing when Neil Armstrong took the first steps, the children loved watching this! We have a 'space station' in our role play area, the children have enjoyed pretending to be astronauts.

In Maths we have looked at 2D and 3D shapes and the children have been on a shape hunt around the classroom spotting some 3D shapes that we might find at home! They did a great job!

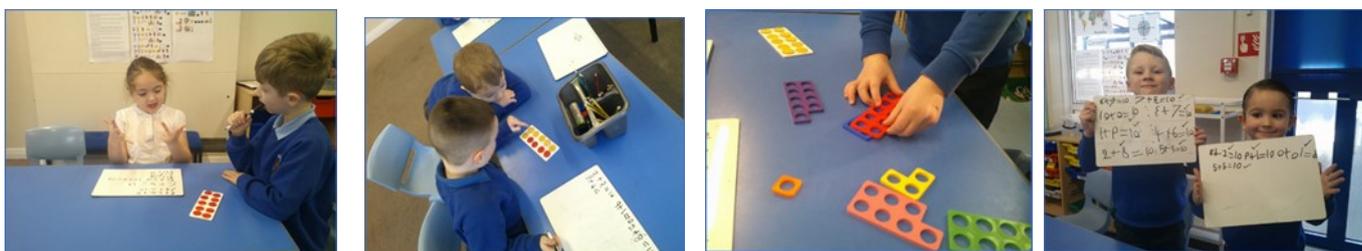
We also made some 'moon cakes' using chocolate and rice crispies, we used cheerios to make craters on the moon!



We would like to politely ask if all parents/carers could provide each child with a pair of wellies – these will be kept in school for when children are accessing the outdoor area in wet weathers. We would also appreciate any donations of unwanted wellies, which are in a good condition, to keep with our spare clothes.

KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 1

In Year 1, we have started a new topic in Maths which is place value within 20. To know numbers to 20, we need to be confident with numbers to 10 and different ways to make 10. We carried out a practical lesson to help us understand all of the ways to make 10, using different resources. We worked in partners, using red and yellow counters and tens frames, to see how many different ways we could make 10 and wrote them on our whiteboards. This is called our number bonds to 10. We also used numicon to make 10 and played games on our whiteboards to consolidate our knowledge. At the end of the lesson, we came back together as a class and shared our findings. Here is some of our work below!



In Literacy, we have been focusing on the story 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have been using a story map in every lesson to help us tell the story. This helped us to create a drama performance based on the key events, in order to tell the story.



In art, our new topic is printing patterns. We went for a walk to see if we could see any repeating patterns in our school. When we got back to the classroom, we used paint and different objects to create our own patterns.



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

In PSHE we have begun to learn about how jobs help people earn money to pay for things they need and want. In our first session, we discussed all the different types of jobs we knew about and how these help us to pay for things like our homes, shopping and even our bills. We then carried out a charades style game: we were tasked with working in pairs to act out the role of a job, if the class were able to guess correctly we earned our wages. Can you guess the types of jobs we acted out?



In Art this term, Year 2 will be looking at the work of the famous sculptor Antony Gormley. We learnt that he makes sculptures in the shape of human form using simple wooden and metal shapes. In our first lesson we used flat shapes called Tans. We arranged them to create our own individual representation of the human form.



In Music, we have started our new topic, which is learning how to play the ocarina. We will look at the history of the ocarina, listen to music played on the ocarina and start to learn to play the ocarina. We will learn how to play high and low sounds, then how to play different musical notes. During the unit we will learn how to play the rhyme London's Burning.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 3

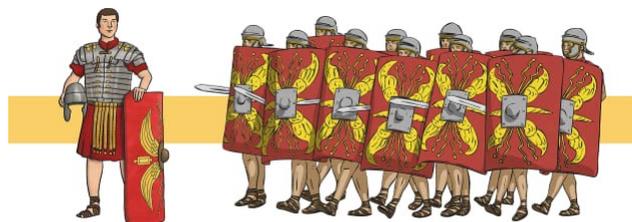
Happy New Year from Year 3! We have got off to a fantastic start to the new term with lots of different activities. We have begun our new PE unit and we love it! We are learning all about yoga. We have been practising breathing techniques, down dog, mountain and kind warrior. We look forward to learning more poses and creating our own routine.



We have been continuing to look at the story "After the fall". Today we have been thinking about how Humpty Dumpty was feeling at different parts of the story. We begun by thinking of different questions we would like to ask him. We then took it in turns to answer the questions and give our reasons. We all enjoyed playing Humpty Dumpty.



In our History learning we have been looking at the Romans. We have been learning about the meaning of invaders and settlers and how the Romans invaded England. We have looked at the Roman army and their different ranks within. We then practised some Roman army formations to help protect us from attack.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 4

Year 4 have made a great start to the new year! We are already enjoying many of our new units this term and we are learning so much.

In Literacy, we are engrossed with our new novel 'Coraline' by Neil Gaiman. At the start of the unit we spent time generating curiosity about the book by asking questions and making predictions. We also spent time exploring relationships and tracking emotions so we did some 'hotseating' where a few different children took on the role of Coraline and were quizzed by their peers about her thoughts and opinions.



For this half term, our unit in Science is all about sound! For our first lesson we spent some time investigating what sound is and looking at the visible vibrations objects make as they make a noise. We had lots of fun making different observations. Our favourite was banging the tuning fork to make it ring and vibrate, then putting it in some water to watch it splash as a result of the vibrations.



To kickstart our History unit about the Anglo Saxons, Year 4 became archaeologists and investigated a range of sources which were uncovered at Sutton Hoo. We used the sources to learn about who we thought had been buried there and what life was like for the Anglo-Saxons. We determined that they were keen fighters as well as being skilled in metal work and they also enjoyed items which were decorative as well as practical.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 5

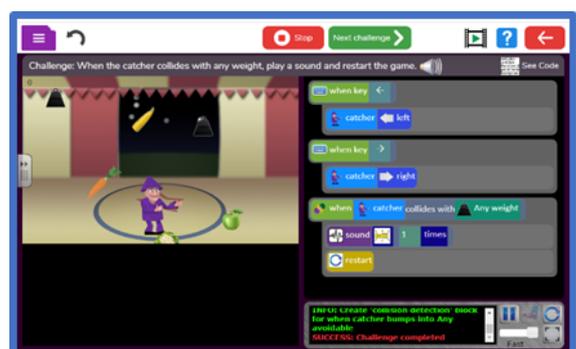
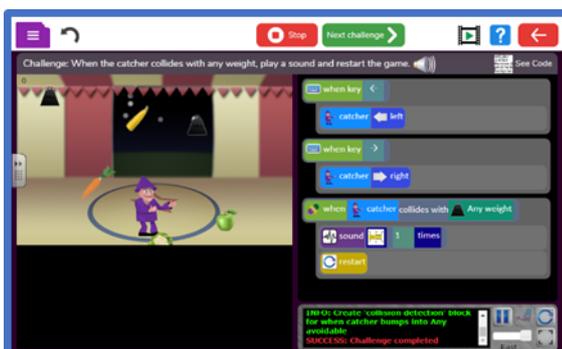
Year 5 have had an incredible start to the Spring term and are excited to complete all of our new topics this term! Our new unit in PE is all about archery. Some of us have learnt how to play archery in the past however, it is completely new to some members of the class. During our first lesson we spent some time learning how to hold the bow and how to place the arrow correctly. We had some practise shooting at the given target and then we enjoyed playing some team games to build up our target practice. We are looking forward to developing our archery skills further as the term goes on!



In Art our new unit is all about cityscapes and during our first lesson we spent some time learning about the artist Charles Fazzino. We looked at some examples of his work and spoke about how he makes his cityscapes look 3D and the use of bright, bold colours. Following on from this we then created our own cityscape in the style of Charles Fazzino. We explored the use of contrasting colours to make our buildings stand out and then put it together in layers allowing a 3D look of the art work.



In Computing we have moved on to our coding unit for the Spring term. In our first lesson we recapped some coding vocabulary and spent time thinking about what coding can be used for. We used Purple Mash to help create our own codes to create a 'catcher game' and we had to correctly code the game to make fruit and weights fall down from the sky and allow the main character to move side to side. The aim of the game was for the catcher to collect the fruit to gain points but they must avoid the weights! We enjoyed following the videos to help with our code making skills.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 6

One of our P.E units this term is yoga. Year 6 are enjoying learning that yoga improves strength, balance and flexibility. Slow movements and deep breathing increase blood flow and warm up muscles, while holding a pose can build strength. This lesson we practised our relaxing sitting pose and performed a range of movements known as the 'Sun Salutation.'



Our History topic this term is the Ancient Greeks. Using our atlas skills we located Greece within a map of Europe; investigated the climate; used our geography skills to look at the climate and position to the equator and tectonic plates. Using our research skills, we found out about the ancient Greek city states and then marked them on a map. Year 6 are looking forward to learning about this interesting period of ancient history.



In Computing, we have begun to refresh our Coding knowledge. We have looked back at games we have played before, completed codes for games, debugged games and have begun to design our own game on Purple Mash. We are excited to get started making our games.



Miss Kitchen and our school librarians are updating our school libraries. If you have any good, quality children's books that you no longer need, donations will be greatly received.

Miss McTeer and Miss Forrest would welcome any good quality pots, pans and kitchen utensils for our Early Years outdoor area.

Well done to Pine who won the reading challenge with the most points in the Autumn term. It was a close race. Pine had a festive morning together and decorated Christmas biscuits. This term children need 9 signatures to complete the reading challenge. All children who receive their 9 signatures will receive an individual prize. The team with the highest score overall will have a team treat. Any children who don't have their 9 signatures will not participate in the team treat. Please ensure you listen to your child read at least once a week to support with their overall fluency and sign their reading diaries. Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to announcing this term's winning team at the end of the Spring term.

Valentines Lunch

School meals will be serving a themed Valentines lunch on 14th February. If your child is normally packed lunch but would like your child to have a meal please inform the school office. The menu will be:

- The Power of Love
Mediterranean chicken
Boiled potatoes
Vegetables
- Endless Love
Vegetable Lasagne
Garlic Bread
Salad
- Crazy in Love
Cheese or Tuna wrap
Spicy Wedges
Mixed Salad
- Heart biscuits



School Council Spring 2023



This term School Council Riley, Neve, Harry, Lana, Jenna, Sebastian, Leo, Isla, Mia Grace, Theo, Alex, Faye, Caleb and Izzy will be supporting Mrs Reynolds and Miss Dodds . Washington Community Hub kindly donated dried pasta, tins, cereal and baby products. Children helped sort the food and it was distributed to families across Blackfell.



As per the letter that was distributed, school will be supporting the work of the NSPCC through the 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Programme. Workshops will be delivered to all classes over the coming weeks. On Friday 3rd February we will be having a non uniform day where we ask that children wear something green and donate £1. The focus of the day will be a fun number day.

Next half term, we will also be looking at recycling around school and enhancing our pre loved uniform. A meeting with a company called Groundworks will be visiting the school councillors to share their ideas.

Please see the school website for our full school calendar.