



News Bulletin



June 2023

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It is difficult to believe that we only have a few weeks left until the end of this academic year! We are all looking forward to our Aspiration week. This week, children across school are exploring the world of work and our community. As I write, there is a fire engine on site for all children to visit and hear what it is like to be a firefighter. Other visitors to school include an accountant, financial advisor, nurse, chef and a police officer to name a few. In addition, some of the children will be exploring our local community visiting a care home to sing for the elderly and complete a survey at the Galleries in preparation for their own pop up cafe in the school hall on Thursday 6th July at 2pm. Further details to follow. I'm sure that the children will share all of their exciting work with you. As usual, photographs and work are updated on our school website on the class pages.

Year 6 (and staff) enjoyed a fantastic weekend at Derwent Hill in the Lake District. The weather was mixed but the children enjoyed a wide range of outdoor adventurous activities including gorge walking, canoeing and high ropes. Thank you to the staff who gave up their time to make this visit possible and to help to provide the children with many memorable experiences of their time at Blackfell.

Transition arrangements have begun for September already. We are looking forward to welcoming new children and their families in our up and coming induction meetings. We do still have places for September in Nursery and Reception for three and four-year-old children to join us. Transition arrangements for children in Reception up to Year 5, to meet their new teachers and teaching assistants across school, are during w/c 3rd July.

We always aim to work in partnerships with families and children across school to provide the very best education for our children. To support our plans for next academic year we will be sending a Parent/Carer survey to you all. Your views are very important to us and we welcome feedback about the work we do across school. There will be an electronic survey e mailed (one survey per family to be completed) on Friday 30th June and we ask that it is completed by Friday 7th July.

All dates for the rest of this term are available on our school website.

I hope that the sun will begin to shine for the rest of the school year! Please remember to apply your child with sun protection prior to the school day and to bring a water bottle to keep them hydrated.

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

Blackfell News

Goodbye

Mrs Hutchinson will be leaving Blackfell after 11 years. She has asked that we share her special message with the school community.

'It has been a privilege to work alongside each and every one of you, and it is with deep sadness that I inform you that I will be leaving Blackfell early as my health and mobility is not improving at a rate acceptable to me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout my time at Blackfell. Everyone within the Blackfell school community will always hold a special place in my heart. I am so proud to have been part of the Blackfell team and wish you all the very best for the future.'

We are sure that you join us in sending Mrs Hutchinson our very best wishes for the future and thank her for her dedication over the many years she has been with us.

School Meals Competition



Well done to the winners of the Coronation competition, Emily Year 2 and Sebastian Year 4. They had to design a cake fit for a king and provide the recipe, method and name the cake. The children were presented in celebration assembly with a framed certificate and a £20 Amazon voucher.

Following our assembly from Keep Washington Tidy, the school council planned a poster competition. This week, they have had a look through the fabulous entries and have picked some winners based on their interesting design, use of colour and important message. We have awarded a winner from Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2, Upper Key Stage 2 and an Overall Winner. Winners have been presented with a voucher each and their posters will be displayed in school.

Key Stage 1 winner - Phoebe (Y2)

Lower Key Stage 2 winner - Anna (Y3)

Upper Key Stage 2 winner - Maisie (Y6)

Overall winner - Annabel (Y4)



Summer Reading Challenge

We invite you to encourage your children to take up the Summer Reading Challenge. It's the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for children aged 4 to 11, delivered via public libraries. Children can sign up at their local library or online– please see below for further details.

Last year, in the Washington area, 406 children joined the Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge:

Significantly **improves reading confidence** and independence

Ensures pupils are **ready for their return to school**, preventing the summer reading 'dip'

Aids the **successful transition** between year groups and key stages

Contributes to *all* pupils' **achievement**

Encourages **extra-curricular activity** – encouraging family engagement with reading

Develops links between your school, the library and the **wider community**

For children who took part in 2022:

77% read more over the summer holidays

75% improved their reading skills

71% felt more confident about their reading

How it works:

Children sign up through their local library and receive a collector folder.

They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer, collecting special stickers and incentives.

Library staff and volunteers help children to discover new books that suit their interests and reading level and run a programme of free themed activities in the library.

Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a certificate and/or a medal.

Children can take part online, too! www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Year 3/4 Garden

Children have enjoyed planting lots of fruit and vegetables this term. Miss Hough and her team of gardeners have spent breaktimes and lunches planting strawberries, runner beans, pumpkins, onions and raspberries. They have also planted flowers which the children enjoy filling their watering cans and watering daily. Year 2 have also enjoyed their lunchtimes on the yard giving a helping hand.



EARLY YEARS

Early Years

The children have had a very busy and exciting Summer term so far! Our topic this term is 'People Who Help Us', We have been doing lots of activities about people who help us in the community. The children have loved looking at lots of different emergency services, and other people who help us, such as bus drivers, vets, chefs/cooks, the list is endless! We are excited for our 'Aspirations Week' coming up and have some visitors coming in to talk to the children about their work!

Nursery

The children have enjoyed getting really creative based on our theme of 'People Who Help Us.' They have worked alongside Miss Forrest to create vehicles for people who help us in the community, including; fire engines, ambulances and police cars. They have also enjoyed making characters representing people who help us.

In PE our topic is games. We all showed excellent listening and attention skills when we did a lesson all about cars. We had to pretend to be cars and listen for the instructions 'green light' - which meant go and 'red light' – which meant stop. If we were still moving when Miss Clark said 'red light' we had to go back to the beginning and start again. We all had great fun!



Reception

In Literacy we have been reading books about emergency services and have been working hard to write super sentences in phonics. The children have been fantastic remembering their punctuation. We have recently started some handwriting jobs in our special handwriting books, working on our letter formation and ascending and descending letters.

We have been visiting the computer room weekly, and the children have loved using 'paint' to make different emergency service vehicles. The children have been using shapes and different types of brushes to create their pictures. We also have been using Purple Mash to play on some games and complete tasks. The children will all have their own log in soon which they can access at home too!

In Maths, the children have been working so hard, they have been learning all about capacity, measuring how much liquid is in a container. We have been learning full, empty, half full, nearly full and nearly empty.



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 1

In Literacy we have been writing instructions on how to make a sandwich. To help us with our writing, we made ham sandwiches, working in pairs. We started off by talking about how to be safe using the equipment. We then made sure we had all of the right ingredients and equipment. We talked through each step, Miss Richardson took pictures of these steps to aid us when writing. We had lots of fun and even got to eat the sandwiches at the end!



In



Geography, we have been learning about coasts. One of our lessons involved us researching South Shields beach and creating a poster on it. This was done in small groups. We looked at what activities you can do there, physical and human features and the different jobs you can have. Lots of us have visited South Shields beach, so we already had lots of knowledge on it!



In DT, we did more eating as our topic is food and nutrition. In one lesson, we looked at the eat well plate and discussed what we thought would be healthy foods to take on a picnic. We then tried a range of different fruit and vegetables, some of which we've never had before, and described what they looked like, felt like, smelt like and tasted like.



We have also made the most of the sunshine and enjoyed the ice pops Year 6 were selling to order to raise money for their end of year events.



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

Year 2 had a fantastic time learning to ride their bikes with Ross and Marcus. We first had to make sure our bikes were safe and we then moved on to finding our balance. Once we were able to balance and pedal we had some different challenges to complete like weaving in and out of the cones. We had a great time, thank you Ross and Marcus.



To end our Maths unit on Statistics, we enjoyed investigating the colour of smarties you can find in a tube. We found out that no two tubes were the same! We tallied our data and produced a bar chart. We then answered some questions about our data.



Our Geography this term is all about map work. Over the next few weeks, we will be developing our own maps of the local area. This week, we went for a walk around Blackfell to explore the significant buildings and features we would need to include on our maps.



In DT, we are going to be making pizzas. We have discussed how we could make pizza healthier. We have begun exploring different ingredients. In this session we have taste tested bread to decide on which would be best for a pizza base.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 3

Year 3 had a fantastic afternoon at their Sports Day. They all enjoyed taking part in a variety of races for points for the house team. The races included egg and spoon, vortex throw, skipping race, dribble shoot out and long jump. We ended our sports day with a sprint. Well done to Willow who came first .



Year 3 have been exploring the poem "Excuses for Mum". First of all we read it as a class and discussed who the reader was and how they would be feeling. We then recited the poem and added expression. Finally we added some actions and performed to our friends.



Year 3 have been trying out some new sports. They have been learning the skills of archery and curling. They had so much fun practising. They then had a whole class tournament in both of the sports. They look forward to trying more different sports this week.



Year 3 enjoyed visiting the Discovery Museum in Newcastle. They learnt lots of different reactions, facts and events in history at Professor Pumpnickel's Science Show. There was smoke rings, bangs and lots of fizzing. They then enjoyed looking around the museum at the different exhibitions. They looked at local history about the development of Newcastle, the river Tyne and machinery before ending their day with some fun science.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 4

Year 3 and 4 have had a fantastic trip to the Discovery Museum where we enjoyed watching Professor Pumpernickel's Science Show! There were lots of impressive experiments and even some explosions too. In the afternoon, we spent some time exploring the museum and looking at displays and artefacts based on Joseph Swan, the local inventor we've been studying in History.



In Music, we've had lots of fun learning our first notes on the recorder! So far we have learnt 'B' and 'A'. Once we were feeling confident, we even managed to read some music notes and play some simple tunes!



This term in Art we have started to explore the life and work of Vincent Van Gogh. We have looked closely at a range of his paintings and used these as a basis to develop our sketching and paint skills. By mixing primary and secondary colours with white and black we learnt how to make different shades and tints for our paintings and we experimented with a range of pencils and lines to add tone and texture to our sketches.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 5

Year 5 continue to work well and we have a busy final few weeks ahead of us.

The weather was beautiful when we participated in our annual sports day. We competed in a range of different events: egg and spoon, standing long jump, vortex throw, football speed dribble and sprint races. Well done to Willow who won this year's event !



During our Health and fitness week, we really enjoyed learning new fencing skills. We were able to apply a range of different rules to our own mini games. The coach was really pleased at how quickly we applied our new skills!



In Science, we enjoyed looking at how levers and pulleys, which if used correctly, can make everyday tasks easier. We created our own class pulley and mini levers. It was great fun!



We have also explored the human ageing process looking at what were facts about growing old and those which are myths. We designed brilliant posters explaining the ageing process in humans.



As part of our local historical study on William Armstrong, we delved into the Industrial Revolution and its inventions that have reshaped the world ever since. Conducting research on some of the most significant inventions proved to be really interesting. Furthermore, we engaged in a lively class debate about the invention we believe has delivered the most benefit to the world since.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 6

Year 6 had a fantastic residential weekend away in the Lake District. There were so many activities packed into 3 days! Day 1 : a trip to Keswick to have lunch and an ice cream, a trip to Friar's sweet shop and exploring the lake and the parks; Day 2: High Ropes challenges and Gorge walking; Day 3: Canoeing and some local exploration. Children demonstrated resilience, risk-taking, team work, communication, independence and encouragement for their peers. All the children behaved impeccably and were a credit to Blackfell and we are very proud of them.

