

EASTER CELEBRATIONS 2024



Parent/Carers of children in Nursery and Reception joined their classes to hear an Easter sing a long followed by a craft session. The rest of school performed an Easter Assembly.



Well done to all the entries for this year's Easter Egg competition. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. All children in school received an Easter egg for their creative effort.



Blackfell Bulletin - March 2024

Headteacher's Update

As the spring term comes to an end, we have had a fantastic run up to the Easter holiday. British Science Week was a great success and enjoyed by all of the children. This year, the theme was 'Time' and we all enjoyed a range of experiments. To build on this work, we look forward to welcoming Newcastle University to lead some science activities at the beginning of next term.

Once again, it has been proven that we certainly have many talented children and parents/grandparents/carers in our school community. Thank you to everyone for your support with the fabulous entries in our Easter Egg challenges for Years 1-6. The standard of all entries was very high and congratulations to our winners. Mr Hoggett, our site supervisor, had the difficult job as 'head judge' to choose first, second and third winners linked to the theme for this year to celebrate Washington's 60th birthday 'Celebrations -Let's have a party!'. In addition, it was fantastic to see family of Nursery and Reception children joining in with crafts and hearing the children sing Easter songs and rhymes.

I would like to thank Blackfell Community and Neighbourhood Watch for their very generous donation of £1000 to help us plan a Family Community Day to celebrate Washington's 60th birthday. Please put Tuesday 2nd July in your diary for this community celebration. We are in the early planning stages of the event that will include a whole school family picnic, sports, folk band, rock band, food stalls and ice cream van. If you know anyone, or can support this event in any way for example with stall, activities, entertainment, please get in touch with us at school.

In addition, last term we made a bid to Sunderland Community Chest and I am delighted to share that we have been successful and have been awarded £2000. This money will be used to resource much needed books and sports outdoor equipment across school as well as role play resources for Early Years and Key Stage 1.

We have many exciting plans for next term that includes educational visits, Sports days and a Be Safe, Be Fit, Be Healthy week. Further details to follow. Dates can be found on our school website calendar.

We hope that you all have an enjoyable Easter holiday and we have some good weather.

With very best wishes,
Julia Watkins

Children in Year 6 will be taking their Statutory Assessment Tests w/c 13th May and have all worked very hard. Breakfast Club will be free for all Year 6 children for that week. Details will be sent home after the Easter holidays.

School term dates 2024/5 are now available on our school website. Please note that children return to school on **Monday 9th September**, inline with cluster schools. Two other INSET days, when pupils do not attend school, are Friday 25th October 2024 and Friday 23rd May 2025.



A big congratulations to our girls' football team for their outstanding performance in the Spring Cup of the Washington District. It was wonderful to see the hard work they put in, demonstrating excellent teamwork. We are incredibly proud. Well done Tilly, Ava, Lily, Lexi, Isla, Jasmine, Annabel Jenna and Ellen.

Well done to Max Doak, Bailey Smith, Jasmine Goodman, Lola Irving, Ellie King, Anna Huang, Jay Smith and Cameron Sherriff the winners of the February attendance incentive. Children were presented with a £5 voucher in celebration assembly. Reception won attendance of the month for January with 96.5% and Year 3 in February with 98.7%. Children were rewarded with a movie afternoon with treats and extra playtime.

School's overall attendance is currently 94.3%. We aim to achieve 96% by the end of the academic year. When we return to school after the Easter holidays (April 15th - May 24th) to May half term, if the attendance figures improve to 95% all children across school will be treated to a fun afternoon and served an ice-cream/ice-lolly.

This term the school council have been very busy. We have organised a range of activities and events all centred around the theme of **'Health and Well-Being'**.

Earlier this term for Safer Internet Day, we designed a quiz for children in Years 1-6 to raise awareness of the importance of internet safety and how to stay safe when using games and apps. There were many entries from across school which we had to narrow down to only three winners who each received a £5 Amazon voucher.

'Well-Being Wednesday' Children took part in a sponsored dance marathon to raise money for school funds. All children from Nursery to Year 6 enjoyed a 30 minute session with Little Movers where they can had fun dancing along to different songs and playing a range of games. Children came dressed in something that made them smile. With everyone's support and effort we raised an astonishing £943.15. Thank you to parent governor Gemma Newton for supporting and leading the dance classes.



Safeguarding

We ask that all parent/carers please refrain from smoking/vaping at or around the school gates when dropping off or collecting children. In addition, please keep all dogs away from the school entrance.

There has also been an increase in the number of cars speeding outside of the school gates. Please remember to keep to speed limits and park responsibly when children are entering/ exiting school.

Tuck shop is available for children in Years 3,4,5,6. Only 2 items are permitted to be bought. There is a selection of cheese, yogurts, mini cheddars. cereal bars and bottles of water. Items are priced at 50p. Children can also access fruit free which is situated outside of Year 3 / 4 classroom

Please ensure if children bring in a snack for playtime from home this is not chocolate bars or packet of crisps. We understand that children get hungry by morning play but we do not want children eating food from their packed lunches during this time.

Thank you for your support for Red Nose Day. School raised £95 for the charity.

On the 7th March the whole school celebrated World Book Day. We took part in a range of activities and shared an assembly together. The day was a huge success. All class pages have been updated to show the activities children took part in. Please take some time to have a look.

A huge thank you to all of you who took part in our 'Read Your Way' competition and sent in photos of you reading in unusual places. We were blown away by the creativity from you all and received a huge number of entries. The judging was extremely tough and we even increased the number of prizes awarded to one per class as we were so impressed by the entries. We had photos of children reading on horses and camels, in dens, in trees, at the hairdresser, at the fire station, at the football, at the top of Penshaw Monument, on climbing walls, down a mine and even on the bus. All children who entered received a certificate and entries have been displayed in school for children to share. The winners from each class and overall winner were awarded with their prizes. Well done to Harriet, Emily, Lincoln, Elliot, Emily, Leo, Jaxon, Tilly and to our overall winner Joseph.

