

Newsletter

Blackfell Reading Bingo Bonanza

We are excited to introduce our brand new reading challenge for all children and staff to take part. Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. It is important for children to read a range of texts as this helps to develop their vocabulary and understanding.

Your child will be receiving their own reading bingo board where they will have nine reading challenges to complete by **Friday 13th December**. These challenges are fun, encouraging children to share their reading with others. We are asking for parents and carers to sign each challenge when completed and send in photographs of their child taking part. These photos will then be displayed in the children's classroom reading area. Emails are:

SBFNursery@blackfell.co.uk

SBFReception@Blackfell.co.uk

SBFYear1@Blackfell.co.uk

SBFYear2@Blackfell.co.uk

SBFYear3@Blackfell.co.uk

SBFYear4@Blackfell.co.uk

SBFYear5@Blackfell.co.uk

SBFYear6@Blackfell.co.uk

To help with the challenge, each week children will be visiting the school library to pick a book to read for pleasure. Children can use their own books from home if they prefer. There will be some fantastic prizes for all children.

One Line: Dip from the Reading Bingo Box

Two lines: Dip from the Reading Bingo Box and a Bingo Bonanza with special prizes

Full House: Bingo Bonanza Lunch and games afternoon with spot prizes! Don't forget your dabber!

Children are still required to have their home reading record signed weekly alongside our reading challenge. We all look forward to seeing your fantastic photos of your Bingo Reading Bonanza.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the class teacher or Miss Hepplewhite.



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Date: Oct 21

Headteacher's Update

What a fantastic start we have had to this academic year! All children are very settled and enjoying all aspects of school life. It was a pleasure to read all applications and appoint our Year 6 children to numerous roles of responsibility across school last week. They impressed me with their letters of application and have all made an excellent start to their new roles that include house captains, vice captains, grounds maintenance team and librarians to name a few!

Reading is our whole school priority, especially encouraging everyone to read for pleasure. Miss Hepplewhite is launching a new challenge this week and information is available in this newsletter. I have enjoyed hearing many children read across school. It is my intention to hear every child read in every class; look out for a postcard from me to say well done and for them to keep up the excellent work!

We are looking forward to celebrating Children's Mental Health Day this Friday. Thank you to our autumn term school council for organising this fantastic event.

We have many things to look forward to. It is a little early to be mentioning Christmas but be assured that Christmas celebrations are planned at Blackfell. These include decorating trees, parties, Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day! Dates are on the school website.

Enjoy the half term holiday when it comes.

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

Football

It is great to be back competing in the Washington District football league with our school team after what seems like such a long time! Fixtures will continue to run up to the half term break when the dark nights will stop us for the winter. Games will continue again from February half term. The season has started well with some great football and teamwork from our squad. We look forward to competing in the autumn cup this Thursday.

Our girls' team will also compete in the autumn cup on Thursday 4th November; I know they can't wait to start playing. We will let you know in the November newsletter how they get on.



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School Trips

Year 2 visited the Discovery Museum to learn about The Great Fire of Gateshead. Children learnt about the events which took place during The Great Fire and explored some artefacts from that period. Children had the opportunity to try on costumes and watched a puppet show to recall the order of events. Afterwards the children had the opportunity to explore the rest of the science museum and went on an artefact hunt. It was a wonderful experience for the children to get out on a school visit again, they all had a fabulous time.



Reception Admission Places - September 2022

Parent/Carers can now apply for their choice of Reception school places from Monday 4th October. Parents are encouraged to apply online at www.sunderland.gov.uk before the deadline of 15th January 2022. **If your application is received after this date, it will reduce your chance of being offered your first choice.** If any parent/carers would like a visit/tour of our school, please contact the school office. Parents are informed of their offer on Tuesday 19th April 2022.

Parking

I am sure everyone is aware of how congested the area at the front of school can become at the beginning and end of the school day. We have staggered start and finish times to try and help with the fluidity and volume of cars. Can parent/carers please ensure the safety of all children and not double park in this area. If possible please walk to school. Please do not park on any double lines. Once you have collected your child please leave the area as quickly as possible.

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School have signed up for children to complete a piece of artwork that can be turned into personalised gifts and keepsakes for parents to purchase. Children will bring home an artwork sheet home on Wednesday. They draw their own picture or design, there are examples on the back of the art sheet. There is also clear guidelines on what art materials to use, for example do not use glitter, pencils or crayons. Please complete the art sheet with your child's name and return to school by Friday 15th October. The artwork will be uploaded onto the My Child's Art website where you can then view and place any orders. These will be delivered to your home in plenty of time for Christmas and will make perfect stocking fillers to give to your families. School will receive commission on any orders placed which will support our school funds.

World Mental Health Day

On Friday 8th October we will be celebrating Mental Health Day. This will be a non uniform day, children are to wear something yellow or wear a yellow accessory and pay £2 to support Young Minds. The school council from Year 5 and 6 have worked really hard organising the day. Positive messages, quotes have been made into bunting to display in each class. Children will work in their house groups filling a box with positive /happy/ items (these to be brought in from home). Various activities have been arranged throughout the morning. Children in Years 3,4,5, 6 will have the opportunity to take part in a yoga session in the afternoon. Photos will be placed on the school website for you to view.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Thursday 21st October. From Monday 18th October non perishable foods, tins, cereals, dried pasta, rice etc can be sent into school. We will be supporting Washington Food Bank with all the donated food.

Attendance

School's current attendance is 96% up to today. We aim to achieve the school's target of 97% for the academic year 2021-2022. As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our pupils, we monitor pupils' attendance and punctuality on a daily basis. We continue to reward children/classes with attendance of the month. For the next 3 weeks, up to half term, spot prizes will be awarded to children across school.