



News Bulletin

May 2022



Headteacher's Update

As I write the introduction to our May newsletter, our Year 6 are participating in their statutory assessment test. Thank you to all of you that have supported them and we are sure that they will all do very well. All of the children (and staff) have worked extremely hard to ensure everyone does their very best and we are very proud of them. They are looking forward to their residential visit to Derwent Hill this weekend to enjoy the beauty of the Lake District and participate in outdoor activities.

As a school, we are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Wednesday 25th May. Wendy, our school cook, is serving a special lunch and we will be having a whole school assembly singing songs from each decade of her reign. Children are invited to wear red, white and blue to celebrate on this day. School have purchased a commemorative bookmark for all children as a memento of this very important occasion.

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

I look forward to seeing you all at our summer events.

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

Attendance - April 2022

Nursery - 98.5%

Reception - 98%

Year 1 - 97.9%

Year 2 - 98.7%

Year 3 - 96.6%

Year 4 - 97.2%

Year 5 - 90.5%

Year 6 - 92.9%

Well done to Year 2 who were this month's winners of attendance of the month. Children will be rewarded with an afternoon of treats. Attendance to date for this academic year is currently 95.8%. A reminder that if any time out of school is required a special leave request form must be completed so school are aware of the whereabouts of children. If your child is absent due to sickness, please call the school office from 8am on the first day. A reminder that all holiday requests will be unauthorised and fixed term penalty notices may be issued from the Local Authority.

School Council Summer Term



Please welcome Elliott, Laura, Phoebe, Harrison, Jack, Tilly, Phoebe, Jaxon, Grace, Leo, Theo and Amelia as your new school council for the summer term. They are all very excited to have been chosen to be part of the Summer Term School Council alongside Miss Hepplewhite and Miss Black. The focus this term is all about looking after ourselves and leading a healthy lifestyle. Across the term, we will be looking at what our friends and ourselves eat for our lunches and how we can improve this. The children will be introducing daily exercise for all and improving the equipment for break times to get us all moving! Keep your eyes peeled for all of the exciting developments.

To launch our campaign we are introducing the 'Keep Fit in May Fitness Challenge'. There are 30 activities to cover across the month of May. Your child can do one or more each day it is their choice. At the end of May, please send in the completed fitness challenge that has been signed no later than **Monday 6th June**. Everybody who participates in the challenge will receive a special badge. From all of the entries, one child from each Key Stage will be randomly selected to win a gift voucher. There will also be a prize for the class who completes the most challenge, they will receive a special prize of an extra hour sport with Mr Taylor. We would like to create a display of our 'Keep Fit in May Fitness Challenge'. Please send pictures to SBFyear3@blackfell.org.uk or SBFYear4@blackfell.org.uk. We look forward to seeing how the children and adults get on with their 'fitness challenge'.



Diary Dates for May

Date	Event	Details	Year Groups
19th May	Year 3 school visit	George Stephenson Museum	Year 3
27th May	School closed to children	Inset day	Whole school
30th May - 3rd June	Half term holidays	School reopens Monday 6th June	Whole school

All future events/dates/are on the school website

School Football

Our school team have now just finished their final league games finishing in the top half of the table. Blackfell have played some brilliant football this academic year and have progressed well as a team as the league has developed. A big well done and thank you to Lucas, Elliott, Layton, Graysen, Jack, Arthur, Zac, Josh, Jessica and Ellis.

Our girls' team played the first round of the Associations Girls' Trophy on Thursday 28th April. They were excellent and won their games, meaning they will be competing in the final on Tuesday 17th May. Well done and good luck to Amber, Mya, Laura, Cerys, Isabelle, Imogen, Emily, Jessica and Lily.

The first round of the Year 4 Trophy will be played on Thursday 12th May at Rickleton. Blackfell will be playing Rickleton, Lambton and St. Bedes. I know the team are really looking forward to their games. Good luck to all of the players involved!

Finally Year 5 trophy will be played 26th May at Biddick Academy. Details to follow in up and coming fixtures.



EARLY YEARS

Early Years

This term the children in Foundation Stage are learning about people who help us in our community. The children have had such fun painting and dressing up as various people who help us and re-enacting their job roles. The children have begun learning a range of songs relating to people within the community that help us. We think we have some potential doctors, nurses, police officers, teachers and builders!



Nursery

In maths, the children have been counting, recognising and ordering numbers and comparing groups of objects by saying which group has more, less or the same. This week the children will be learning how to measure short periods of time by completing a range of activities within 30 seconds and 1 minute using a sand timer.



Reception

In Literacy we have been practising our sentence skills. The children have been using their phonic knowledge to write sentences about people who help us. They have listened to a range of stories and presentations on how, for example, doctors and nurses, police, firefighters and people at home who help us. In maths, we have been learning how to find the total of 2 groups through practical activities and are beginning to practise our skills independently during our child-initiated time. This week the children will be learning how to subtract/take away to find how many they have left.



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 1

Year 1 have been learning the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in Literacy. We listened to Mrs McMeiken read the story, rehearsed the story using our story map, and discussed each part. Once we had rehearsed the story, we did a drama performance of each scene to help us recall it better, and to sequence the events that occurred.



In Science this term, Year 1 are learning about Animals, Including Humans. In our first lesson, we were identifying the parts of a human body. To help us with this, we went outside on to the yard and drew around Sephora. We then took it in turns to identify a part of her body and we labelled it. As you can see, we already know a lot about our body parts!



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the Summer Term, they have settled really well and are working hard showing off their skills and knowledge as we explore our new topics.



In Literacy all of our work is linked to a book study, 'Cottonwool Colin' by Jeanne Willis. This story is about a small mouse who was wrapped up in cotton wool so that he could go out and play as his mother was worried he would get hurt. We started our learning by completing a jigsaw of the front cover and working out what the book was about. We then listened to the story and had a discussion. Year 2 then created a story map of the events in their teams. We will soon be writing our own stories and we are all very excited about this!



In PE, Year 2 have started their topic 'Net and Wall'. The first lesson was all about being in control of a racket; they made shapes in the air with their racket using both their left and right hands, moved with a ball on the racket, caught a ball on their racket and played a game called 'Splat'. They proved very competent in these skills too! Well done Year 2.



Our Science topic this term is 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We have been looking at the terms dead, alive and never lived. There was a lot of discussion around some of the pictures, particularly the bee and flowers. We then explored outside using our detective skills to find things that were dead, alive or have never lived. We went out onto the field and looked at the habitat there sketching what we could see, we then labelled our pictures. We even found a worm!

LOWER KEY STAGE - YEAR 3

What a fantastic start to the Summer term Year 3 have had. We have begun our learning in PE with practising golf. We have been learning how to hold the club correctly, aim, swing and hit the ball with control. We are looking forward to learning about the different clubs and swings.



This term in Design and Technology, we are learning how to create our very own sandwich. We have been looking at a balanced diet and what is required. We then tested a variety of breads and different fillings to help us think what we might use in our sandwich. We tried wraps, buns, bread and thins. For fillings, we tried tuna, ham, cheese spread, egg mayo and quorn which we really enjoyed.



We have been on our first trip of the Summer Term. We joined Year 4 to visit Safety Works in Newcastle. It was fantastic! We learnt how to stay safe in the sun; what to do when seeing dogs outside, how to stay safe when crossing the road and staying safe at the beach. Safety Works is amazing, they even had a real life Metro Station! We will be definitely staying safe this summer!



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 4

Year 4 have had an excellent start to the Summer term. We have started lots of exciting new topics which we can't wait to tell you all about. During DT, we have been investigating the process in which wheat is produced. We then enjoyed following a recipe and baking our very own fairy cakes. It is fair to say, they tasted delicious and looked amazing!



We had a very exciting visit alongside Year 3 to Safety Works. During this visit, we took part in workshops which helped develop our understanding of how to stay safe around dogs, looked at road safety, water safety, sun and fire safety.



Our new musis unit is all about local artist Bryan Ferry. We have enjoyed conducting our own research into who Bryan Ferry is, what he is famous for and enjoyed listening to some of the songs he sings. We are really enjoying learning about someone from close to home.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS - YEAR 5

Year 5 have been practising their athletics skills in P.E. to get us ready for Sports Day. In our first lesson we learned how to pace ourselves for distance running. We practised running for 1 minute, then 2 and eventually built up to a 6 minute run. It was important not to use 100% of our energy so we practised using only 40% so we could keep going for longer periods of time. We practised breathing through our nose to help.

Following this, we moved on to sprinting. We understood the need for speed from the beginning and practised this over a 20m run. After this we looked at how we could improve our technique to help us run faster. We agreed that higher knees, head down and arm movements all increased our speed. In pairs, we watched each other run and gave tips on how we could improve our technique.



In our other P.E session of the week, Year 5 are really enjoying their rugby lessons. We are practising throwing, catching, attacking and defending and will finish the unit with a mini tag rugby tournament.



Within Geography, Year 5 are really enjoying finding out about North America. Using atlases, we located the continents of the world and located the countries that make up North America.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS - YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a great start back this half term and are looking forward to their new topics within their learning. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work during assessment week, the children all tried their best and we are very proud of them!



In Science, Year 6 are learning about animals including Humans. In their first lesson, they learnt about the circulatory system and its main components. We then followed instructions to make our own circulatory system using arteries and veins. We began to discuss parts of the heart and which organs are vital for this system to work within the human body.



During our new unit in P.E based on team work skills, we began by completing a paired challenged. Children were asked to lean on a partner in order to stand without using their hands. We then moved on to some blind fold challenges where children depended on their communication skills which will be tested this weekend when they visit Derwent Hill in the Lake District.