



News Bulletin

June 2022



HEADTEACHERS 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 lots of exciting events including Sports Days, Educational Visits and Year 6 Enterprise Week.

Last half term ended with our wonderful Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We all had a fantastic time celebrating HRH Queen Elizabeth II reign and enjoyed a whole school event 'Music through the Decades'. The children were presented with a commemorative Blackfell bookmark to mark this special event. School have received a commemorative book about Queen Elizabeth II produced by the DfE to present to every child from Reception class to Year 6. We have added a special message inside every book so the children can keep the book and remember in the future our celebrations of this historic event at Blackfell Primary School in June 2022. They will be distributed early next week.

We look forward to meeting and welcoming new children and their families for September in our planned induction meetings. We do still have a few places for September in Nursery for three and four-year-old children to join us and have spaces in some year groups across the school. All prospective families are welcome to visit our school for a tour and to meet the staff.

Transition arrangements for all children to meet their new teacher/s and teaching assistant/s will be on Thursday 30th June. Staffing arrangements for September 2022 will be shared with the children and an overview sent home on Friday 17th June.

Details of our recycling of school uniform were sent home earlier this week. If you do have any out-grown uniform that is good quality and can be used by others, we would welcome donations from next Monday. All families will be able to access free uniform donations. Further details to follow.

School will be purchasing a house team coloured PE t-shirt with the school logo for every child from Reception to Year 6 for September 2022. This will be for this year only. Order forms to indicate size required have been sent home this week. Please complete and return to school as soon as possible so that we can have all orders with you for the start of the new school year. These t-shirts replace the previous white t-shirts required for PE days.

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

I hope that the sun will begin to shine for our planned events and for the rest of the school year!

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

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

Headteacher

Toddler Group

A toddler group runs in the community room every Tuesday morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. New families are welcome to join in the fun. For details please contact Alison on 07879687650 for further information.

Safeguarding

It has been reported that a minority of parent/carers have been using foul language at the school gate.

We would also like to remind parents/carers to refrain from smoking/vaping at the school gate. School has a no smoking policy within the school grounds and appreciate support to not smoke in the immediate school vicinity.

No dogs are allowed on the school site. Many children have a fear of dogs. Please allow children to walk out of the school gate without any dogs jumping up. This also applies to when you are dropping children off at breakfast club.

An increasing number of children are being collected late either at the end of the school or at the end of after school clubs. Please ensure your child is collected on time.



Over the next few newsletters we will be introducing governors who serve on the governing body at Blackfell Primary School.

Angela Star, Chair of Governors, started as a parent Governor when her two children attended our school from 1999 onwards. Working in the NHS means she is able to bring a lot of knowledge and skills to help the school. Angela is also the school's safeguarding governor.



Neil McIntyre is currently serving his second term as parent governor. Neil has a daughter in Year 4. Neil is a qualified accountant and brings a wealth of experience to the finance committee. Neil enjoys helping out at the school wherever possible, including attending assemblies, performances and supporting school visits. In his spare time Neil enjoys days out with the family, keeping fit, reading and gaming.

Lost Property

We have a number of items in lost property. If you are missing any items please call into school to reclaim. Any clothing that is not claimed by Friday 1st July 2022 will be donated to the recycling scheme that we will be running in school.

Attendance

Well done to Year 1 who were May's winners of Attendance of the Month with 98.2%. Children will be rewarded with a fun afternoon on the school field and also enjoy an ice-lolly. Attendance for this academic year is currently 93.3%. We aim for every child to achieve 95% or above.

Nursery - 91.4%

Reception - 90.7%

Year 1 - 98.2%

Year 2 - 93.7%

Year 3 - 88.8%

Year 4 - 93.5%

Year 5 - 96.3%

Year 6 - 93.2%

Dinner money increase

The cost of a school meal will increase from September 2022 to £2.60 per day. £13 per week. School meals still provide good value for money with children being able to enjoy a hot meal and pudding and a drink. Children are guaranteed their choice of meal as meals are ordered in class during registration.

Children who are moving into Year 3 in September are no longer covered for free meal under the universal scheme - therefore if you would like your child to have a school meal payment will be required. If your child will be changing to packed lunch could parent/carers please inform the office.

September 2022 School Start and End times

Following the successful staggering of the school day, we would like to remind you of the timings of the school day in preparation for new classes in September 2022. As a school, we have seen many benefits to both children and parent/carers including less congestion at the school gate and to parking before and after the school.

Children will continue to have a fluid start to the day. All school doors open from 8.40am. **All children must be in the classroom ready to learn for 8.55am.**

Start and end times to the school day

Nursery 8.45am -11.45am (Nursery class door)

Reception 8.40am - 3.10pm (Reception class door)

Year 1 and Year 2 8.40am - 3.10pm main gate

Year 3 and Year 4 8.40am -3.15pm main gate

Year 5 and 6 8.40am - 3.15pm main gate

EARLY YEARS

In Early Years this term our topic is 'All Creatures Great and Small'. To link in with this theme Early Years had a trip to Hall Hill Farm. The children had a super time and experienced first-hand a range of different animals. The children enjoyed feeding the goats and sheep and watching the baby piglets. They thoroughly enjoyed holding the rabbits, chicks and taking a tractor ride around the farm to see lots of other animals, such as, highland cows, alpacas, donkeys, wallabies, turkeys and the beautiful peacock with its fabulous feathers. The children sat on hay bales in the barn to have their dinner and a super day was had by all.



Nursery

In Phonics this term the children will be learning about body percussion and alliteration. We have been learning a new rhyme every week - this week we focused on 'If your happy and you know it'.

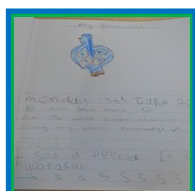


In Maths the children have matching 1:1 correspondence using number cards and animals. We are getting so good at recognising our numbers and finding the correct amount to match the number.

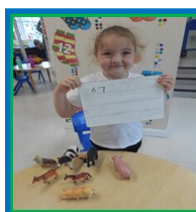


Reception

In Phonics and Literacy we have been practising writing sentences. The children have been using their phonic knowledge to help them listen to the sounds in words to help write sentences. We have been drawing pictures of farm animals and writing labels to describe them.



In maths, we have been solving problems. We have been taking part in lots of practical activities to help us find the double of a number and learning how to share a set number of objects with a friend.



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 1

In DT this term, Year 1 are preparing for a Teddy Bear's Picnic! We received a letter from Mr Bear who explained he was going to be having a picnic and needed us to choose the best picnic food for the day. We completed a taste test where we tried different sandwiches, crisps, pastries, cakes, and fruit, and decided which ones were the best, and which ones we didn't like. We used our senses to explain whether we liked or disliked something and practised using our DT vocabulary such as, salty, sweet, sour, and spicy.



In Art this term, we are learning all about the artist Andy Goldsworthy. He creates artwork using natural materials so we went on a hunt around our school grounds to find materials we could use to create our own piece of artwork. We found sticks, grass, leaves, and bark. We then brought our materials back to the classroom, where we sorted them into different categories, before creating our own Andy Goldsworthy inspired artwork on the yard. Our artwork had to interpret a river or spiral shape. As you can see below, we did a fantastic job!



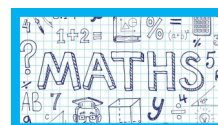
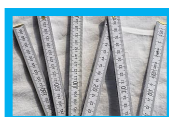
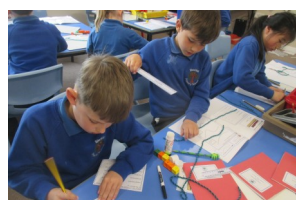
In Science, we have been using our five senses: touch, taste, smell, sight and sound to help us complete an investigation. We had to use all of our senses to help Ella find her missing teddy bear. Ella gave us clues, and we had to measure footprints using our sense of sight and find out which one was 10 centimetres; use of our sense of smell to identify the smell of mint; use our sense of taste to identify an apple; our sense of touch to find a soft and fluffy material; and finally, our sense of hearing to listen for a squeaky sound. Each group then discussed their findings before we came together as a class and identified Daniel to be the missing teddy bear. We were fantastic sense detectives!



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

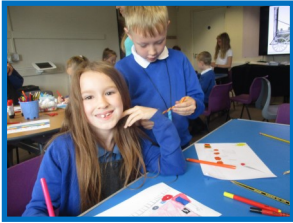
MATHS—Length and Height

We have been very busy in Year 2 building on our maths skills through our new topic - Length and Height. We used our knowledge of numbers and counting to measure carefully in centimetres. First we collected a variety of objects from around our classroom and estimated which one was the longest. Then we measured them to the nearest centimetre and ordered them from shortest to longest. We also used a metre rule to compare different lengths and measure our classroom. Using a trundle wheel we measured our outside yard and found out that it measured 32 metres in length!



LOWER KEY STAGE - YEAR 3

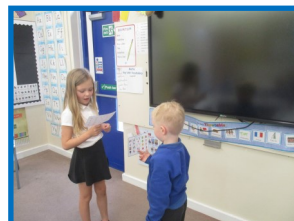
Year 3 had a fantastic trip to the George Stephenson Museum in Newcastle. They learnt all about his life, completed some observational sketch of 'The Billy Locomotive', created their own train of the future and even had time to test out some different types of wheels to see what are the best for a train on the tracks. They were all surprised at the which wheel shape was actually most suitable.



Year 3 have been investigation friction in science. They have been measuring in Newtons how much it takes to move a weight across a surface. They found the smoother the surface, the less force was required because there was less friction between the weight and the surface.



In French, Year 3 have been practising how to greet their friends, ask how they are, reply and end a conversation. They enjoyed showing their friends their conversations and friends enjoyed translating to English what they had said.



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 4

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed our Computing lessons this term. We have been working on spreadsheets and during this lesson we were developing our understanding of working with a budget. We were given a range of different prices and had to plan a part based on a set budget. We had lots of fun changing our budget and editing the amount of people to change the overall cost.



During History we have been learning about Joseph Swan. We have been investigating why the lightbulb was an important invention and today we created a poster showing the benefits of this invention.



In Art we have enjoyed learning about Van Gogh. We have been looking at how he creates texture and depth in his artwork and have applied his skills to our own work. We have been looking at his painting 'Starry Night' and have enjoyed using sketching techniques with colour and pencil to create the desired effects of movement in the picture.



To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we enjoyed taking part in a whole school competition to design an outfit for the Queen. We worked in small groups to design different elements from her dress to her crown and accessories. We worked incredibly well together and were very proud of our finished piece.



Upper Key Stage - Year 5

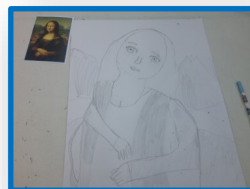
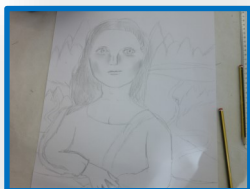
In History, Year 5 have been learning all about the life of Lord William George Armstrong an engineer/inventor who famously built Cragside house and grounds and used hydroelectricity to light it. This made it the first house in the World to be lit by hydroelectricity.



For our class visit we visited Lord Armstrong's house in Northumberland—Cragside. We had a fantastic time finding out more about how he used the movement of water to create hydroelectric power. We toured his house, explored his grounds and finally ran off some energy at the play ground.



Within our art unit, we are studying Leonardo Da Vinci as our famous artist this term. With great care, we took time practising our sketching skills by creating self-portraits; we thought carefully about the position of the eyes, nose, ears and mouth. We then applied this knowledge to copying the Mona-lisa and (by mixing our own colours) painted her. Some of our work is proudly displayed in school



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS - YEAR 6

Year 6 had a brilliant time on their residential to Derwent Hill. They enjoyed a range of outdoor activities including: gorge walking, the big swing, low ropes course, canoeing and mountain climbing. We are incredibly proud of the children for how well they represented our school and how they all took risks encouraging one another.



Our Design Technology this term is cookery, we are exploring a range of British Dishes. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their taste test of a Ploughman's lunch and cooking their own seasonal fruit crumbles!



We have also been joined by the School nurse this term to discuss transition into our Secondary Schools. She discussed the type of support available to us and some top tips for moving on.