

Blakesley CE Primary School
Blakesley
NN12 8RD
January 13th 2023

Newsletter 2 T3

Dear Parents and Carers,



Epiphany

As part of our Collective Worship on Monday, led by Rev Sue Stanley, we celebrated Epiphany. Epiphany- also known as Three Kings' Day- is a special date in the Christian calendar. It is when people celebrate how a star led the Wise men to visit baby Jesus after he had been born. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal' as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

To mark the special celebration, our school was blessed. The blessing involved chalking the doors, by writing the message '20 +C+M+B+ 23' near doorways and entrances.

The "C", "M", and "B" stand for the names of the three Kings – Caspar, Malchior & Balthazar, and the "+" represents the cross. The message also abbreviates the Latin phrase, Christus Mansionem Benedicat, meaning "May Christ bless the house." The numbers are self-explanatory when put together- our year, 2023.



Forest School

On Wednesday, Classes 1 and 2 were taken to Forest School. Despite some inclement weather the children (and adults too) had such an exciting and engaging time. The woodland full of textures and materials gave the children a wonderful opportunity to explore, identify and build. From a scientific viewpoint, different types of woodland were discussed as well as naming features eg. ground/canopy. A wide range of leaves and tree types were identified. Bark was examined closely. Evidence of habitats of the variety of species living in the wood were found eg. badger setts and rabbit holes. Gathering sticks to build dens was carried out with great enthusiasm too.

From the quality of recounts written by the children when back in school it is evident that a great deal of learning took place.

Thank you to Mrs.Cox and staff for providing such unique and high-quality learning opportunities.



Nursery Consultation Update

After analysing all the responses received during the Consultation period, the overwhelming viewpoint was one of positivity towards the proposal of potentially offering nursery provision at Blakesley CE.

All the documentation received, letters, emails and minutes from the Consultation meeting, held on 20th Oct 2022, was passed on to the Chief Executive Officer at PDET. Along with gathered information from a number of other schools exploring the possibility of offering Nursery provision, all the documentation was then submitted to the office of the Regional Director of the DfE.

We are still waiting for formal approval from the DfE, to allow us to decide how to proceed.

We appreciate your patience as we wait to hear and hope to be able to update you further, very soon.



Curriculum overviews

Please note all curriculum overviews showing the learning planned for your child for the term ahead are always posted on our school website under the Curriculum tab and then click Curriculum Overviews. This term, these documents will be e mailed out to all families too.

Bank Holidays

Additional Bank Holiday

An additional bank holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Monday 8th May 2023. As this date had previously been announced as the first day of the 2023 key stage 2 (KS2 Year 6) test week in England, a change to the KS2 test schedule this year will be necessary. Ministers have considered the situation carefully and have decided that KS2 tests will take place in the same week with tests following the usual order but each taking place one day later than originally planned.

As such, the new schedule will be:

- Tuesday 9th May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)
- Wednesday 10th May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11th May: Mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12th May: Mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)



Online safety guide: Staying safe on new devices.

Quite likely over the Christmas period a few new digital devices have found their way into homes. Attached is a document that suggests top tips to make it easier for users to protect themselves and their devices - helping users to steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. Reminders about staying safe when on-line cannot be emphasised enough. Stay smart when using any device that connects to the internet.

CODING CLUB!

Coding club

Thank you to the leaders from Hexagon at Silverstone Park who came to school yesterday to launch a new after-school Coding Club for Year 5 & 6 pupils. This club gives members a great introduction to a STEM skill, plus provides opportunities to think about engineering, electronics and software development – very much the big careers of the future!

Hexagon have kindly loaned us their advanced Lego WeDo 2.0 kits that will enable the children to practice basic coding skills and, using their imaginations design their own moving creations.

There is no doubt the children who attended had a challenging yet very successful first session.

Forthcoming events

- 15/1/23 Closing date for Applications to primary school places
- 24/1/23 Y5/Y6 Magistrate's Visit
- 3/2/23 Y5 PDET Maths Enrichment Day
- 6/2/23 School Nurse Y6/Rec children Height/weight recording
- Wk beginning 27/2/23 Parents' Evenings

If there are aspects of the newsletter that you would like to discuss or if you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Laurie Hill
Headteacher