



Blakesley Church of England Primary School

Our Vision

As a Church of England school at the heart of the community and in partnership with parents, Blakesley C of E Primary School is committed to enabling all pupils to achieve their full potential. It is a place where we learn how to love God, one another and ourselves and to serve the community. We will do this through developing a love of learning within a creative, dynamic and vibrant environment based on Christian values where everyone aspires to excellence.

Newsletter Spring Term: January 2020

Happy New Year!

We would like to wish all of our families and friends a happy and healthy 2020.

On behalf of all of the staff at Blakesley, I would like to say thank you for the kind and generous Christmas cards, wishes and gifts received. We were all very touched by your kindness. We hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful festive break.

Dates to add to your Diary

Monday 13 th January	Lockdown Practice
Tuesday 14 th January	GLK Gymnastics Club starts. Session 1
Wednesday, 15 th January, 5pm	Closing date for applications for Reception Class places 2020
Friday 17 th January, 2.45pm	KS2 SATs Information Session for Parents of Y6 pupils
Wednesday 22 nd January	School Nurse Height and Weight Checks (Rec and Y6) Letters to follow
Thursday 30 th January	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics (details to follow)
Tuesday 4 th February	Life Education Bus Visit – all day
Tuesday 11 th February 3.30 – 6pm	Spring Term Parents' Evening
Thursday 13 th February	Photographer In: Whole Class Photographs
Thursday 13 th February, pm	Y3/4 Mini Red Tennis (details to follow)
Thursday 13 th February 5 – 7pm	Spring Term Parents' Evening
Friday 14 th February	School closes to pupils for Half Term week
Monday 24 th February	Training Day
Tuesday 25 th February	School re-opens to pupils
Thursday 5 th March,	Yr5/6 High 5 Netball (details to follow)
Thursday 5 th March, 2.45pm	KS1 SATs Information for Parents Meeting
Friday 6 th March	Bikeability, Y3 & 4 (details to follow)
Friday 20 th March, 9.30am	Mothers' Day Service, led by Reception Class, St Mary's Church, Blakesley
Thursday 2 nd April	Y3/4 Quicksticks Hockey (details to follow)
Friday 3 rd April, 9.30am	Easter Service, led by Class 3, St Mary's Church, Blakesley
Friday 3 rd April	Break up for Easter
Monday 20 th April	School re-opens to pupils
Monday 4 th – Tuesday 5 th May	Years 3 – 5 Frontier Centre Trip (details to follow)
Week Commencing Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATS Tests week (please avoid appointments/holiday this week)
Monday 11 th May – Friday 22 nd May	Year 2 SATS Tests period (please avoid appointments/holiday during this time)
Wednesday 20 th – Friday 22 nd May	Year 6 Whitemoor Lakes Visit (details to follow)
Friday 22 nd May	School closes for half term
Wednesday 24 th – Thursday 25 th June	Year 2 Trip to Everdon (details to follow)

Please note that all dates listed may be subject to change, we will notify you at the earliest point possible that changes are made.

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Applications for Primary School Places (September 2020)

Please note that the closing date for applications for primary school places closes at **5pm on Wednesday 15th January 2020**. Please ensure that applications are submitted before the deadline. For more information, please follow the link: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-school-places/Pages/how-to-apply-for-a-primary-school-place.aspx>

Lockdown Practice, Monday 13th January

Each year, we are required to have a practice of our Lockdown Drill in school. The Lockdown procedure plan is established in case of an emergency which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of staff and/or pupils in the school. For details of our procedures, please see the Lockdown policy on our website:

<https://www.blakesleyprimary.org.uk/index.php/key-information/policies>

Information about the Lockdown practice will be shared with the children in assembly on Thursday, 9th January. We will use the scenario of a (very friendly) dog getting onto the school site and show the children the picture of the fictional dog

...



... we hope that you will see that the intention is not to worry the children, rather to prepare them in a safe, caring way should the need to secure the school site arise.

Following Thursday's assembly, the children will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues back in their classrooms with their teachers. Please do take the opportunity to talk to them about the assembly and Monday's practice.

Life Education Bus Visit

The Life Education Bus will be coming to Blakesley on **Tuesday 4th February**. We will send further information about the topics that each class will cover nearer to the date. Parents are invited to visit the Life Education Bus from 8.40am to find out more about what's on offer in your child's sessions.

Year 2 and Year 6 SATs Tests

This year's SATs tests will start on **Monday 11th May for both Year 2 and our Year 6 pupils**. Our Year 2 SATs will be scheduled over 2 weeks, finishing on Friday 22nd May. Year 6 SATs will take place across the week of the 11th – 15th. Please avoid taking holiday or making appointments during these times.

Bikeability (Class 4 children)

We are offering our Class 4 children the opportunity to participate in a Bikeability day on **Friday 6th March**. The children will be taught to learn, practise and apply cycling skills and road safety awareness. We believe that these are essential life skills, so get your helmet ready and your tyres pumped up! Please complete the Permission Form being sent home this week and return it no later than Monday 13th January.

Residential trips

Once again this year, we would like to offer our pupils extended educational experiences that provide the opportunity for them to try new activities, learn outside of the classroom and have fun! We are in the process of planning residential visits for our children from Year 2 through to Year 6.

Full details of the visits will be communicated soon by the lead teachers, but the dates that you need for your diaries are as follows:

Year 6 pupils will have the opportunity to attend this year's trip to Whitemoor Lakes in May, details of the visit and the information meeting about it will be shared shortly.

We are also planning to take **Years 3, 4 and 5** to the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough for an overnight residential trip on **Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th May 2020**.

Finally, we would like to take our **Year 2** pupils for an overnight residential visit to Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre on **Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June 2020**.

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Plans for a special day-trip for our **Reception and Year One pupils** are also afoot – we will keep you informed as developments take place!

Spring Term Parents' Evening Dates

Our Spring Term Parents Evenings have been scheduled for **Tuesday 11th February, 3.30 - 6pm** and **Thursday 13th February, 5 - 7pm**.

Details of how to book an appointment will be sent out at the end of January.

Class Photographs

The school photographer will be joining us to take Class photographs on **Thursday, 13th February**. Please ensure that your child is wearing their school jumper and school shoes for their photograph. Thank you.

Mothers' Day Service

Our Reception children will be leading this year's Mothers' Day Service on **Friday 20th March at 9.30am in St Mary's Church, Blakesley**. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Easter Service

Our Class 3 children will be leading our Easter Service at St Mary's Church Blakesley on **Friday 3rd April**. Please join our celebrations which will start at **9.30am**

Change of Bank Holiday Date

Please note that this year's Early May Bank Holiday is scheduled for **Friday 8th May**.

Term time holiday

Please refer to the school holiday dates on our website when making holiday arrangements. Any requests for holiday in term-time will not be authorised and a standard response letter outlining the actions that the school will consider when such applications are made is also attached.

We believe that the majority of our parents realise that 'every lesson counts' and encourage regular attendance at school. We have high expectations of our children. You have high expectations of us. These expectations cannot be met if your child is absent. Thank you for your support.

School Liaison Officer Visit

Earlier this week our School Liaison Officer, PC Kev Thompson from Northamptonshire Police visited the school. He was very impressed by our children's politeness and positivity and is keen to develop our pupils' understanding of the role of Northamptonshire's Police Officers by building positive relationships with our pupils. PC Kev will be visiting Blakesley over the coming terms to lead sessions for our pupils on the 'Bertie Butterfly' Protective Behaviours programme, Road Safety and Keeping Safe in the Holidays.

Thank you ...

...to all of the parents who have shown care and support for the safety of our pupils by parking and driving considerately when dropping off and collecting pupils.

Please could I ask that parents park up before letting children out of the car, this helps to keep everyone safe. The coned area outside of the school gates helps by providing a 'passing bay' to allow the flow of traffic in both directions. Please **do not** use this as a free space to drop off your child – it's good for our children to walk those few extra steps each day.

Thank you for your cooperation in caring for all of our pupils.

Photo permission forms

Please could we ask that all photo permission slips are returned to school no later than **Monday 13th January**. We have some lovely photos of school life that we would like to share with you on our website, we need the permission slips to enable us to do this. These can be completed and sent electronically or paper copies are available from the school office on request.

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Illness

There have been some nasty bugs circulating over recent weeks. Please could I share the school's requirements for absence following sickness:

Sickness: a 24-hour clear period is required before returning to school.

Sickness and diarrhoea: a 48-hour clear period is required before returning to school.

School Office

Our school office will remain un-manned during the afternoons this term. Thank you for your support in communicating your arrangements and needs during the morning hours. We will endeavour to pick up messages and emails received during the afternoon, but where possible appreciate your ongoing support with communications received during the morning. We will always keep your child safe in school if we are unsure of collection arrangements.

Clubs

We are offering a range of extra-curricular clubs for our children to enjoy this term. Our staff offer their time to lead clubs on a voluntary basis, we are hugely grateful for the time that they dedicate to this and the opportunities to try something new or develop a talent that they offer to our children.

Please note that teacher-led clubs will start next week (w/c 13th January). Hotshots Basketball will commence this Friday, 10th January; GLK Gymnastics will commence next Tuesday, 14th January at 8am.

Please return the slip on the page below to register your child for an activity. Details of how to register your child for a club offered by an external provider will be given on the organisation's flyer, booking form and website.

Spring Term 2020 Clubs

Day	Time	Club	Leader	Year groups	Booking
Monday	3.15-4.15pm	Hockey Club	Mr Hill	Years 3 - 6	Complete slip below
Tuesday	8.00 – 8.45am	GLK Gymnastics	GLK	Years 1 - 6	Places allocated
	Lunchtime	Knitting	Mrs Edwards	Years 3- 6	Complete slip below
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Freestyle Soccer	Freestyle Soccer	All	Please book via the Freestyle website
Thursday	Lunchtime	Reading Club	Mrs Edwards and Mrs Klegeris	Year 2	Complete slip below
Friday	Lunchtime	Kidslingo French Club	Kidslingo	Years R - 2	Please book via the Kidslingo website
	Lunchtime	Code Club	Mrs Cox and Mrs Klegeris	Years 3-6	Complete slip below
	3.15pm – 4.00pm	Hotshots Basketball	Hotshots	Years 1-6	Places allocated

Thank you, as always for your support. If there are any aspects of the newsletter that you would like to discuss with me or if you have any issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Kind regards,
Sally Beaton
Headteacher*

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Spring Term 2020 Clubs

Please complete the form below, ticking the appropriate boxes and signing the permission form.

Day	Time	Club	Leader	Year groups	Booking	Please tick to register
Monday	3.15-4.15pm	Hockey Club	Mr Hill	Years 2 - 6	Complete slip below	
Tuesday	8.00 – 8.45am	GLK Gymnastics	GLK	Years 1 - 6	Places allocated	
	Lunchtime	Knitting	Mrs Edwards	Years 3- 6	Complete slip below	
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Freestyle Soccer	Freestyle Soccer	All	Please book via the Freestyle website	
Thursday	Lunchtime	Reading Club	Mrs Edwards and Mrs Klegeris	Year 2	Complete slip below	
Friday	Lunchtime	Kidslingo French Club	Kidslingo	Years R - 2	Please book via the Kidslingo website	
	Lunchtime	Code Club	Mrs Cox and Mrs Klegeris	Years 3-6	Complete slip below	
	3.15pm – 4.00pm	Hotshots Basketball	Hotshots	Years 1-6	Places allocated	

I give consent for my child/ren: _____ Year _____
 _____ Year _____

to attend the School Clubs indicated above.

Following the club, my child/ren will be:

	Please tick
Collected by parent/carers	
Collected by another adult (please name)	
Attending After-school Club	
Walking home (Yr5/6 Blakesley residents only)	

Parent/Carer Signature _____