



Blackhorse Primary School Newsletter

T3 Wk1: 9th January 2026

Happy New Year

Welcome back to term 3. We hope you all enjoyed the chance to spend time together and enjoy a lovely two week break from the routine. The children have returned to school with a positive attitude and are ready to learn.

The staff enjoyed a productive INSET day on Monday with input on various aspects of the curriculum, teaching and learning and safeguarding. Teachers spent time analysing the children's writing books and looking closely at ways to support the children to improve. By paying close attention to details such as letter formation, spelling and the use of punctuation the teachers devised individual plans to support the children to improve.

Teachers also had time to discuss in further depth, one of our main priorities this year, the use of Adaptive Practice using the Education Endowment Foundation's 'Five a day' approach. Staff focussed on using cognitive and meta-cognitive strategies to help children during teacher input and independent work. Using mnemonics and word mats and verbalising how to plan a task are just a few ways that help.

Teachers in KS2 were also introduced to a new scheme for the teaching of French. Language Angels contains a range of fun interactive videos to help children learn a range of vocabulary with authentic pronunciation..



Farewell to Mrs Gillard



Yesterday we said thank you and farewell to Emily Gillard. Emily joined us in 2018 as an apprentice teaching assistant. Since then, she has worked with individuals and small groups across the school, most recently in reception.

Emily has taken a teaching assistant role at a school closer to her home and family. We wish her all the best in her new role.

A Guide for Parents on Managing Children's Digital Lives

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel De Souza, has published a [new guide](#) on managing children's digital lives. It was written with the direct involvement of children in England and taps to their expertise in the ever changing world of technology.



Children who took part in the survey are clear that they value firm, informed and protective boundaries when adults have the concerns about the content they are accessing online. In a week when Roblox introduced [facial scanning](#) in an attempt to check the age of its youngest players, the role of parents in monitoring children's use of technology is paramount.

It is understandable that parents feel uncertain—especially with constantly changing guidance and often complex platform controls. This guide aims to demystify common online challenges, help you start open conversations with your child and support you in setting regular, realistic boundaries.

It focusses on the subjects young people said were most important: screen time; when bad things happen and Artificial Intelligence. It contains lots of top tips for dealing with issues before and when they arrive. There is also a useful guide to children's preferred platforms and AI tools.

We will continue to use our E-Safety curriculum to help children stay safe online and to enable them to become responsible and safe users of technology. If you have any concerns do not hesitate to reach out and talk to us.

Term 3 Diary Dates:

Mon 12th Jan: All clubs begin

Tues 13th Jan: Y5 trip to We the Curious

Mon 19th Jan: Fire Service visiting Reception

Tues 20th Jan: NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe workshops in Y2, Y5 & Y6

Fri 6th Feb: Rec & KS1 Achievement Assembly 9:15

Mon 9th Feb: Rec weight, height and vision screening

Tues 10th Feb: Flamenco Music Concert at Resound

Weds 11th Feb: Y5/6 Author Visit

Thurs 12th Feb: Y2 trip to SS Great Britain

Fri 13th Feb: KS2 Achievement Assembly 9:15

Fri 13th Feb: Last day of Term 3

Mon 23rd Feb: INSET Day

Tues 24th Feb: Term 4 begins

This week's Champions!

Each week, the staff nominate one child per class who has been a model pupil, demonstrating the values which we look for in Champion Learners!

This week we have been focussing on the school value of respect. This week our Champions are:

Year	Nominees
Resource Base	Maria & Mason
Reception	Darya & Olivia
Year 1	Raven & Crue
Year 2	Hazel & Lottie Sm
Year 3	Jamie & Jaden
Year 4	Esme P & Sonny
Year 5	Sebby & Inka
Year 6	Olami & Scarlet

Attendance Champions this week:

It has been lovely seeing the children return to school in such a positive manner. Year 4 are our attendance champions this week with attendance of 96.9%. Year 3 are next with 96.7% followed by Year 2 with 96.5%

Huge congratulations to Ash and Elder who achieved 100% this week. Maple also deserve a special mention with attendance of 99.1%

This week's Champion...

Respect is our focus this week and Raven in Birch has been chosen as our Champion.

Mrs Bone writes 'Raven is an absolute joy to have in Birch Class. Each morning, she enters the classroom with an incredibly positive attitude and this continues throughout the school day. She tries her absolute Blackhorse best during every lesson and faces challenges with resilience - showing pride when she overcomes them. Raven is a lovely friend and always ensures those around her are feeling happy. Raven is a true Blackhorse Champion and should be so proud of all she has achieved so far this year. Congratulations Raven!'



Census Day

Next Thursday 15th January is School Census Day. Lunches taken on this day help provide much needed funding.

To encourage as many children as possible to have a school meal, the kitchen are providing one of the most popular choices from the menu, chicken bites, vegetarian bites and the other daily options of pasta, jacket potato or wrap are also available. There will be ice cream and a range of other favourites available for pudding. Please encourage your child to have a school meal on this day.

On Friday the options will be sausage and mash or vegan bean chilli.

Parking in Patch Court

A resident of Patch Court has been in touch to ask for help. This morning a parent dropping off their child, reversed into his van and then drove off. The footage was captured on a Ring door bell.

If this was you, please contact the school office who will put you in touch with the owner.