



Mr Botten: Our Very Own Author



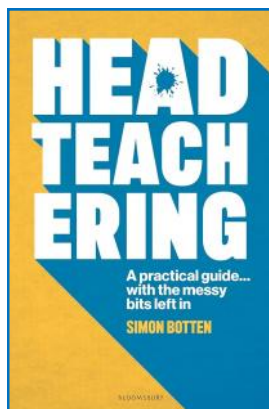
The children at Blackhorse are used to welcoming visiting authors to our school to hear them talk about the inspiration behind their books. We have already

enjoyed three author visits this term. Last night it was Mr Batten's turn to mark the publication of his book: **Headteaching A practical guide with the messy bits left in.**

The launch took place in the school hall, in front of an audience of teachers, local and national headteachers, trustees, governors, and his family.

Contributors to the book Keziah Featherstone, Ro O'Reilly and Claire Savoury spoke to the audience on a range of school leadership topics. Simon then took to the stage to describe the journey from writing blogs about aspects of school leadership and being approached by Bloomsbury to convert these into an essential guide to what's it really like to be a headteacher.

It was an insightful and humorous presentation in which Simon discussed the lessons he has learned in the last 20 years as a Headteacher. In a time when there is a shortage of teachers looking to take on leadership roles, it was a call to arms for future leaders to take the leap into school leadership and shape the futures of the next generation. We are all very proud of Simon and feel privileged that he is ours.



Expert Tuition in Music Lessons

Last year we began teaching every child in KS2 the recorder as part of our music curriculum. By practicing regularly and over a sustained period of time the aim is to develop our children into confident and competent musicians.



This year professional musician Emily Andrews has kindly volunteered to offer expert tuition to the children in Y3 and Y4 every week. The children and staff are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity and we look forward to hearing them perform as the year goes on.

The recorder teaching forms part of our school music development plan which is led by Steph Phillips. She is keen to find out about the level of music participation out of school. If your child receives music tuition out of school can you please let us know by following [this link](#).

Parents' Evening Consultations

You are invited meet your child's class teacher to find out have they have settled into their new classroom and discuss how they are progressing academically and socially. You will also be informed of their current targets and how you can support their learning at home.

The meetings are due to take place on Monday **20th October from 3:35 until 7pm** and on **Wednesday 22nd October from 3:45 until 6pm**. To book an appointment please sign up via the Arbor App. Booking will open on **Wednesday 15th October at 6pm**

Term 1 Diary Dates:

- Mon 13th Oct: EYFS Intake 2026 Open Morning**
Mon 13th Oct: Harvest Assembly Y2 parents invited
Tues 14th Oct: ESFA Girl's 7-a-side tournament
Tues 14th Oct: Flu Vaccinations
Weds 15th Oct: EYFS Intake 2026 stay and play
Thurs 16th Oct: PTA School Disco
Fri 17th Oct: Rec & KS1 Achievement Assembly (9:15)
Fri 24th Oct: Girl's football v Barrs Court
Fri 17th Oct: PTA Rags 2 Riches clothes collection
Mon 20th Oct: Parents' Evening
Tues 21st Oct: Y2 visit to We the Curious
Weds 22nd Oct: Parents' Evening
Thurs 23rd Oct: KS2 Achievement Assembly (9:15)
Fri 24th Oct: INSET Day: school closed to pupils
Mon 3rd Nov: Start of Term 2

Attendance Champions this week:

Year 3 top the attendance chart this week with attendance of 97.2%. Reception and Y2 are next with attendance of 97.1% and 97% respectively.

When it is broken into classes, Elm top the charts with a fabulous 99.6%! Beech are next with 97.9% and Cedar are third with 97.2%. Two other classes exceeded our target of 97%

Update from the school kitchen



Following feedback from the children several changes have been made to the Autumn menu with some of the least popular choices substituted.

The new menu is available to view [here](#). Next week is Week 1 in the 3 week cycle.

On Thursday 23rd October the team are planning a spooky twist to the menu. It will still be the brunch offer as stated on the menu but with added spooky bits including their infamous dessert selection.

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 Pride. This week our nominees are:

Year	Nominees
Resource Base	Jack & Henry
Reception	Irene & Louie
Year 1	Harrajvir & Jude
Year 2	Jaxon & Krisha
Year 3	Charlie & Ada
Year 4	Grace K & Esme
Year 5	Millie & Mia B
Year 6	Henry & Harry W

This week's Champion...

Pride is our focus this week and Harry in Yew has been chosen as our Champion. Mr Denton

writes; 'Harry has had a fantastic start to the year and has embodied this week's value, pride. Throughout



every lesson, he has worked tirelessly to ensure his work is neat and to a great standard. It was also wonderful watching him represent the school on the football field this week - something I know filled him with pride.' The team earned a 4:3 victory in a very close game against Watermore Primary and are through to the next round of the cup.

Strawberry Plant Sale

Calling all gardeners and budding gardeners. Our gardening teacher Mr Evans is holding a strawberry plant sale next Friday 17th October at the end of the day in the gazebo. All proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase seeds for this growing season.