

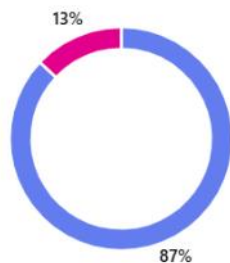


Blackhorse Primary School Newsletter

T5 W3: 9th May 2025

Parents and Governors vote to ban all smart phones

Following a parent survey in which 231 parents voted overwhelmingly (87%) to support the school's proposed smartphone ban, the governors, having considered the evidence have also voted to support the school's stance.



This means that, from September, no Year 6 children will be allowed to bring a smartphone to school (other year groups were banned from doing this in 2024).

The school has taken this decision in order to reduce peer pressure on children to own a smartphone at primary school and to support parents who wish to delay buying one for their child.

Over the years we have seen the growing negative impact of Smartphones on our children. Mostly this has related to loss of sleep and playing outside, but it has also resulted in much more serious safeguarding incidents where children have experienced real-world harms. By instituting this ban, we believe that we are making our school's position clear in that we can no longer implicitly support smartphone ownership by allowing them to be brought into school.

This ban only affects the current Year 5 children who will be going into Year 6 in September, and further details of this will be emailed to the Year 5 parents in coming days.

Thank you to all the parents (most of the school) who responded to the survey and shared their views.

Reception Braver than Mr Fry



Reception children channelled their inner **Brave Bear** courage this week when encountering a range of creatures that can make many feel squeamish or scared., especially **Mr Fry**

Jonathan brought his jungle Roadshow to the classroom and the children got to look at and hold snakes, millipedes, katydids and spiders! They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the teachers were very impressed with the knowledge they shared with Jonathan about the creatures on show.

Another Popular Author Visit



Author **B Ware** visited **KS2** on **Tuesday** to introduce her new book, **Warning: May Contain Dragons**, the **2nd book in the Words of Warning series.**

She read from the book before running writing workshops for the children. Olami in Rowan particularly impressed her with her creativity and was awarded a certificate for Imagination that knows no bounds.

Later this term Joseph Elliott will be visiting Years 2-5 to share his very funny book; *Nora and the Compass of Chaos*.

Diary Dates:

Mon 1th May: KS2 SATs begin
Fri 16th May: Rec & KS1 Achievement Assembly
Mon 19th May: Quadkids Athletics
Weds 21st May: PTA Spring Disco
Thurs 22nd May: Y2 visit to Bristol Zoo Project
Thurs 22nd May: South Glos Cross Country
Fri 23rd May: KS2 Achievement Assembly
Fri 23rd May: Last day of Term 5
Mon 2nd June: INSET Day: School closed to pupils
Tues 3rd June: First day of Term 6
Tues 3rd June: Explorer Dome in school for 3 days
Weds 4th June: Parent's Forum: Personal Effort
Thurs 5th June: Y4 Tented Camp

Attendance this week

Year 3 are our attendance Champions this week with very impressive attendance of 98.4% Year 5 and 6 also exceeded our target of 97%. Willow class managed attendance of 100% this week which is amazing.

Mrs O'Connor Returning

We are pleased to announce that Sarah O'Connor will be returning to Blackhorse following her maternity leave in June. She will return to teaching in Ash from Monday to Wednesday. Jeorgia Scott, who is doing a wonderful job teaching Ash this year will continue to teach the children on Thursday and Friday.

Census Day: Change to Menu



On Thursday 15th May we are changing the menu in an attempt to encourage as many children as possible to have a school lunch.

The options on Thursday are Chicken Bites or Cheese and Onion Pasty along with the usual offer of tomato or cheese pasta, jacket potato or wrap. Mr Fry, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Poole will be dusting down their aprons and providing an ice cream stall with a choice of toppings.

Friday's meal will be Chicken pasta or Mushroom Stroganoff. Order as usual via the Arbor App.

This week's Champions!

This week we have been focussing on the school value of pride. This week our nominees are:

Year	Nominees
Resource Base	Mason & Jonnie
Reception	Savera & Reeva
Year 1	Caleb & Bertie
Year 2	Ellana & Megan
Year 3	Kizi & Alex
Year 4	Mia-Doris & Theo
Year 5	Rose & Ivy
Year 6	Leighton & Jacob

This week's Champion...

Success is our focus this week and Ivy in Rowan has been chosen as our Champion.



Miss Wooler writes "Ivy brightens up our classroom every day with her unwavering positivity and "can-do" attitude. No matter the challenge, she tackles every task with determination and never gives up. Her resilience is inspiring, and she approaches each day with a smile that lifts everyone around her. Kind, thoughtful, and always ready to help, she is truly a joy to have in class!"

Parents' Forum: Personal Effort

As part of our School Development Plan this year we are aiming to engage with parents to help us to continue to develop our school mission to build Champion Learners.

At our next Parents' Forum, we are seeking your views on Personal Effort and what this means for children and staff at Blackhorse. You can watch this [Vision Reel](#) filmed earlier in the year to see what is meant by Personal Effort.

The meeting will take place in school at 9am on Wednesday 4th June. Please come along and share your views.