



Parent Champion Forum



On Monday our Blackhorse parent forum relaunched as the 'Parent Champion Forum.' This year we are focussing on how we can improve and share the schools mission of 'Building Champion learners through Purposeful Practice, Extensive Opportunities, Expert tuition and Personal Effort' with our parents and families.

The first meeting was shaped around 'Extensive Opportunities' and how we can develop unparalleled opportunities to our children. Parents shared thoughts around how these extensive opportunities could be made more explicit with the parent body and how we could shape this further moving forward.

Key discussion points included:

1. How the school's mission could develop the extra-curricular offer, suggestions included wider opportunities for EYFS, different age ranges and STEM opportunities
2. How the school's mission could utilise and signpost our website and social media to share the opportunities already on offer within the school day, term and year to the wider school community
3. How the school could enhance opportunities to involve parents' skills and expertise more widely and how this could fit in with our curriculum.

We will be looking at ways to include these suggestions going forward.

The 'Parent Champion Forum' will meet every term with a key goal of working together to deliver the schools mission of building champion learners. Everyone is welcome and it is a great opportunity to share your ideas and experiences with the school leadership team.

Our next meeting is taking place on Tuesday 18th March at 2:30pm where we will be discussing the key ingredient of 'Expert Tuition' over a cup of tea or coffee.

Reading, reading reading!

At Blackhorse we want children to learn to read, so that they can read to learn. We work hard to provide



Expert Tuition in reading to provide all children with the skills to do this.

It was fantastic to see so many of you, 205 in fact, take part in our reading workshops this week to learn first hand how we teach reading in your child's class. From Reception to Year 6 and in Resource Base, parents got to see the approach to developing children's skills and confidence in reading.

For those looking for further information our [Reading Strategy](#) contains all the information on how we teach reading at Blackhorse. Our aim is to ensure not only that children can read but that they want to read so they become enthusiastic, independent readers by the time they leave us.

As parents you play an important role in this and reading at home with your child and hearing them read is one of the most important things you can do with your child. We expect all children to read at home 5 times every week.

We prioritise reading across the curriculum and allocate resources each year from our budget to provide a rich, varied and up-to-date collection of books. Along with support from funds made available from the PTA we are fortunate to have a great collection of books in school.

Diary Dates:

Weds 5th Feb: Gone Green Day

Thurs 6th Feb: Y6 trip to Lifeskills

Fri 7th Feb: PTA Rags to Riches Collection

Fri 7th Feb: 9:15 Rec & KS1 Achievement Assembly

Weds 12th Feb: Positive Mindset Parent Workshop

Thurs 13th Feb: 9:15 KS2 Achievement Assembly

Thurs 13th Feb: Last day of Term 3 for pupils

Fri 14th Feb: INSET Day—school closed to pupils

Mon 24th Feb: Start of Term 4

Mon 24th Feb: Positive Mindset Parent Workshop

Tues 25th Feb: Author, Mevan Babakar, visiting Rec & KS1:

Mon 3rd March: Leaf Literature Festival Begins

Tues 4th March: Maths Parents' Morning

This week's Champions!

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

Year	Nominees
Resource Base	Rory, Lex & Laiken
Reception	Lake &
Year 1	Story & Aila
Year 2	Idris & Maya
Year 3	Isabelle & Clara
Year 4	Charlie & Ocean
Year 5	Elsa & Jasmine
Year 6	Vanessa & Hannah

Attendance Champions this week

Our attendance champions this week are Year 4 with a very impressive attendance of 98.1%. Year 2 also exceeded our target of 97% this week.

This week's Champion...

Success is our focus this week and Vanessa in Willow has been chosen as our Champion.



Miss Jenkins writes "I am delighted that Vanessa is our Blackhorse

Champion this week: it is very much deserved. Vanessa comes in every day and tries her best - her confidence has been growing and growing since September and she is making so much progress. Vanessa has been coming to every early morning group that she has been invited to, proving that she is determined to succeed and I truly believe that she will. Keep up the hard work Vanessa - you are a star!



The Leaf Literature Festival 2025

The second Leaf trust Literature Festival is due to commence on Monday 3rd March. There will be a variety of events to celebrate books and reading.

Can we remind you the Design a Bookmark competition closes on Monday 27th January. Please return entries to Laura Jenkins.

The PTA are planning an event for the Literacy Festival which will involve children having the chance to win a book. They have created a wish list of books that they would love people to buy as a prize donation. These books will be won by individual children to take home. If you would like to buy a book, please see our Wishlist below. Please try and avoid buying on a Friday or Saturday as Amazon will deliver to school when no one is there! Thank you so much for your generosity.

Literacy Festival – [Amazon Gift List](#) –

Lunar New Year

On Wednesday 29th January the kitchen are celebrating the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Snake with a special Chinese menu.

There will be the choice of Sweet and Sour Chicken (Bites) and vegetable rice or Vegetable Chow Mein. Our food providers, Educatering, are providing free Fortune Cookies for those who have a school meal. Please order via Arbor. Our popular Roast Chicken and Roasted Vegetable Quiche will be served on Thursday 30th.

