



Blackhorse Primary School Newsletter

T3 Wk1: 10th January 2025

New Look Parents' Forum for 2025



This year we are re-launching our 'Parents' Forum' so that you can offer your suggestions as to how to 'build champion learners'.

In Terms 1-2, we shared with you some 90 second reels via [Instagram](#) and [on our website](#) which articulated each aspect of our school vision (more to follow).

We have held a Parents' Forum for over a decade, where parents can join us over a coffee to help us understand how we can improve as a school.

In 2025, we will be refreshing these, focusing on how we can better achieve our vision of building champion learners.

The first of these will be on **Monday 20th January at 9am in the staffroom**. At this meeting Simon (Exec HT) and Jacqui (DHT) will briefly explain how the vision of the school focuses our work, focusing this time on **extended opportunities**. There will then be an opportunity for you to suggest how we can develop the school's mission to offer unparalleled opportunities to children further. This might include ideas around specialist, visit, clubs or visitors which you would like to see children access.

If you would like to join us, please come to the office after drop off on Monday 20th and join us for a tea or coffee!

Happy New Year

Welcome back to Term 3, we hope you all enjoyed the festive break. The children have settled back into the routine of school life well and are applying themselves to their learning.

The staff enjoyed a productive INSET day on Monday with input on various aspects of the curriculum and teaching and learning. These sessions helped set the tone for the remainder of the academic year and will benefit the children's learning.

In the morning, staff focussed on the teaching of Writing,; ways to encourage active participation in lessons; and a new music initiative. In the afternoon the focus was the teaching of Design Technology.

Our new music initiative is the teaching of the recorder to every child in KS2 as part of their music curriculum. Following a visit to Marshfield Primary with parent and musician Emily Correa, to see whole class instrumental teaching in action, Steph Phillips has been writing plans for whole class recorder lessons in KS2. The PTA kindly purchased a recorder for every child and member of staff.

It was great to pop into Y5 on Thursday to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the first recorder lesson. We look forward to sharing what we have accomplished later in the year.



Diary Dates:

Tues 14th Jan: Y4 Folk Music Workshop

Thurs 6th Feb: Y6 trip to Lifeskills

Fri 7th Feb: PTA Rags to Riches Collection

Thurs 12th Feb: Last day of Term 3 for pupils

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

Mon 24th Feb: Start of Term 4

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

Mon 3rd March: Leaf Literature Festival Begins

Attendance Champions this week

Our attendance champions this week are Year 1 with a very impressive 98.8% attendance. Year 6, Year 2 and Year 4 also exceeded our target of 97% What a great start to the term for these year groups.

Personal Effort

The theme of our assemblies this term is the Personal Effort aspect of our unique recipe of building Champion Learners. It fits nicely with the start of a New Year, a time when many of us resolve to make positive changes in our lives.



We discussed US author, Robert Collier's quote; **'Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.'** We talked about what this may mean for us as individuals and how we do this in school.

Two examples were the effort we put into reading at home five times every week and completing our Numbots and TTRS challenges. By applying effort in this way our fluency in reading and maths improves which in turn helps solving problems and applying these skills in our learning.

We also talked about the importance of effort when attending extra curricular clubs. The reason our Musical Theatre productions are so impressive is the huge amount of effort put into learning lines, learning songs and turning up for every rehearsal. We will continue focussing on Personal Effort throughout this term.

This week's Champions!

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

Year	Nominees
Resource Base	Maria & Henry
Reception	Bobbie & Jack
Year 1	Felix & Ethan
Year 2	Blair & Rosa
Year 3	Corey & Holly
Year 4	Millie & Theo
Year 5	Jacob K & George
Year 6	Ben A & Kam

This week's Champion...

Respect is our focus this week and Ethan in Cedar has been chosen as our Champion.

Miss Vigor writes "Ethan consistently shows kindness and consideration to his classmates, always listening attentively, sharing generously, and using polite words. Whether it's helping a friend in need or showing patience with others, Ethan's respectful attitude creates a positive and welcoming atmosphere in our classroom. We are proud of his actions and the example he sets for others. Keep up the fantastic work, Ethan!"



Census Day change to menu

Thursday 16th January is Census Day, the day when future funding is allocated according to the uptake of school meals. We rely on these funds to support our budget.

We have switched the menu for Thursday and Friday around. Thursday is now Chicken Bites or Vege Sausage Roll with chips and beans. Friday will be Sausage Pasta Bake or Vege Lasagne. Wraps, Jackets and Pasta will be available as usual. There will also be ice cream and a range of the children's favourite puddings on offer. Please encourage your child to have a hot meal on this day.