



# Blackhorse Primary School Newsletter

T1 Wk6: 11th October 2024

## Wising up to childhood smartphone risks

**This week, the Parents' Digital Action Group met for the first time.**

This is an open group made up of parents from Blackhorse and Emersons Green, concerned about the detrimental effect that Smartphones are having on our children.

The group discussed what evidence is emerging about these risks, ranging from increased anxiety, loneliness and difficulties in socialising.

If you want to learn more about these risks, you can listen to a fascinating podcast by Jonathan Haidt, Social Psychologist at the University of New York, [here](#), or read more about it [here](#).

At the meeting we discussed the recent move by Mangotsfield Secondary School to ban all Smartphones, which looks to be followed by Winterbourne and the new Lyde Green Secondary School - which seemed popular amongst parents, especially those with children at the school who are seeing the benefits to their children's well-being. We also talked at what we could do at our schools to make it easier for parents to resist buying their child a smartphone, and will be sharing more ideas in the coming weeks (including modelling restraint by not fiddling with our own phones on the playground at the start and end of the day)!

We will be holding another meeting on 26th November (details to follow), so come along if you can!



## Harvest Service

**We will be holding our Harvest service on Tuesday 22nd October at 9:15am. We are inviting Year 2 parents to attend and represent the community as their children will be performing a retelling of The Little Red Hen.**

Harvest is a time to show gratitude for the food gathered from the fields and also a time to remember that not everyone has as much and to show generosity to others. We would be very grateful if you would be able to provide a donation for the foodbank at the Resound centre which serves so many people in our community.

The current shopping list shows the items they are in short supply of. Please bring donations to school from the morning of Monday 21st October.

### Shopping List

Coffee  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned potatoes  
Custard  
Nappies size 5  
Tollie rolls  
Deodorant  
Shampoo

### Please no more!

Pasta  
Cereals  
Tea bags  
Baked Beans

## Blackhorse marks World Mental Health Day

Today we marked World Mental Health Day by providing the children and staff at school with an extended break time. Following this break, children had the opportunity to take part in a series of calming activities and have a chance to reflect.

Schools are very busy places and it is not often children and adults have the time to stop and be together and to have the chance to talk. We will be repeating these days once a term until the end of the year.



## Term 1 Diary Dates:

**Tues 15th Oct: ESFA Girl's 7-a-side tournament**

**Thurs 17th Oct: PTA School Disco**

**Fri 18th Oct: PTA Rags to Riches Collection**

**Fri 18th Oct: 9:15 Rec & KS1 Achievement Assembly**

**Mon 21st Oct: PTA AGM in school and online**

**Tues 22nd Oct: Harvest Assembly**

**Tues 22nd Oct: Parent's Evening**

**Thurs 24th Oct: ESFA School's 7-a-side tournament**

**Thurs 22nd Oct: Parent's Evening**

**Fri 25th Oct: 9:15 KS2 Achievement Assembly**

**Fri 25th Oct: Last day of Term 1**

**Mon 4th Nov: Start of Term 2**

## Calling out for religious connections!



We are working to raise the profile of Religious Education (RE) for your children at Blackhorse and to support this, we plan to organise more educational visits to religious sites and to invite guest speakers from various faiths to talk to the children.

To increase our extensive opportunities provision, we would love your support! If you have any connections to religious sites that could host a school visit or know someone who might be willing to come in and speak to the children about their religion, we'd love to hear from you. Each year group champions a specific religion, alongside their learning of Christianity so all faiths are welcome and desired.

If you are able to help, please contact Beth Vigor via the school office.

## Parent's Evenings

You will have the chance to meet with your child's class teacher to find out how they have settled into their new class. These will take place on Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th October. Sign up is via the Arbor App and opens at **6pm on Monday 14th October**.

## 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 nominees are:

| Year          | Nominees          |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Resource Base | Maris & Vienna    |
| Reception     | Ashleigh & Nia    |
| Year 1        | Ezra & Maisie     |
| Year 2        | Edith & Annabelle |
| Year 3        | Betsy & Tom       |
| Year 4        | Benji & Harry     |
| Year 5        | Wilf & Kiki       |
| Year 6        | Owen & Ben        |

## This week's Champion...

**Respect is our focus this week and Tom in Lime has been chosen as our Champion.**

Miss Coode writes Tom has had a brilliant start to year 3! He has impressed me with his fantastic listening skills and his engagement in all of our lessons. He has a great attitude to learning and is always trying his best to grow and improve in all subject areas. Tom shows respect to everyone in school and is a great friend and role model to others. Keep it up!



**Attendance Champions this week: Year 4 98.2%**

Year 1, Year 5 and Reception are also above our attendance target of 97%. Thank you for your help with this.



## Rags to Riches Collection

**Help raise money for the school by having a clear out at home.** By now, you should have received a bag to fill with unwanted clothes. Please bring this to school and leave by the bike shed on Friday 18th October.