



Blackhorse Primary School Newsletter

T1 Wk5: 4th October 2024

Priorities for the Year



One aspect of our mission to develop Champion Learners is Expert Tuition and as a staff we are always looking to improve our teaching and the support we provide to children to help the children learn.

Today's INSET day offers our staff the opportunity to work alongside their Leaf Trust colleagues to develop their practice.

The Distinctly Primary day offers a range of workshops across the Trust schools in a range of subjects including Science, Music, Art and PE. Our support staff are attending training, led by Simon Botten and Jacqui Taylor, on adaptive teaching for SEND children.

Days like today are planned in to support us in reaching the goals we have set in our School Development Plan. We are in the second year of a three year plan and are building on the progress we made last year.

Goal 1: The school's culture actively promotes high levels of challenge, resilience and motivation.

We will continue to focus on using our school values of Pride, Respect, Bravery and Success to underpin the children's attitudes to challenge and to build their resilience. We are looking at further developing our attendance strategy to help ensure we see high levels of attendance across the school. We are continuing our work to involve even more children in our extra-curricular clubs offer by reducing the barriers to attending. We are also looking to create a parent version of our successful Mission Masters to help all members of the community to understand and work together to build Champion Learners.

Goal 2: Improve the teaching of writing so that more pupils achieve or exceed the expected standard.

We are already seeing improvements in children's writing as a result of the effort by our team on the precise teaching of gram-



mar. Children are also demonstrating improved spelling in their writing. This year we are focussing on how teachers model writing effectively throughout the teaching sequence with a particular focus on non-fiction writing.

Goal 3: Develop pupils' wider curriculum knowledge so that they can retain, recall and apply knowledge across all subjects.

Last year we focussed on improving the teaching sequence and progression in P.E and R.E. We also looked at the use of vocabulary in our Enquiry lessons to enable the children to explain their learning using the correct terminology. This has been very successful. This year we will continue to build on the improvements in P.E and R.E and shine a lens on the teaching of Music and Design Technology.

Work has already started on our music development plan focussing on how we can improve the teaching of music at Blackhorse for all of our children.

We are always looking for parents who may have particular interests or knowledge, either from their field of work or from a hobby or faith, they can share with us or with the children to help improve their learning and give it a real world context. Do get in touch with your child's class teacher if you feel you can help in this way.

Term 1 and 2 Diary Dates:

Mon 7th Oct 3:45 PGL Information Meeting (current Year 5)

Tues 8th Oct: PTS Uniform Sale in the hall

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

Thurs 17th Oct: PTA School Disco

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

Mon 21st Oct: PTA AGM in school and online

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

Fri 25th Oct: 9:15 KS2 Achievement Assembly

Fri 25th Oct: Last day of Term 1

Mon 4th Nov: Start of Term 2

Wb Mon 3rd Nov: PTA Book Fair

Thurs 7th Nov: PTA Books at Bedtime

Fri 22nd Nov: PTA Wreath Making Event

Fri 29th Nov: INSET Day: school closed to pupils

Thurs: 5th Dec: Blackhorse Illuminations & Carols

Tues 10th Dec: Reception Nativity 9:30 and 2:15

Weds 11th Dec: Christmas Lunch

Thurs 12th Dec: KS1 Christmas Performance 2:15 & 6

Mon 16th Dec: Y3/4 Christmas Performance 2:15 & 6

Tues 17th Dec: Y5/6 Christmas Performance 2:15 & 6

Fri 20th Dec: Last day of Term 2

Reminders

Parking: Please remember that the school park is only for those people with a Blackhorse Parking Permit and not for those who are running late or can't find somewhere to park. To help keep our community safe, please avoid parking on double yellow lines, zigzag lines and on our neighbour's driveways.

Arriving on time: The first part of the school day is important to set the scene for the day and help the children feel ready to learn. As children move through the school teachers provide tasks to activate children's thinking. If your child regularly misses these opportunities and is entering school via the school office as the doors are closed they are missing valuable learning time. Please aim to arrive on time.

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 bravery. This week our nominees are:

Year	Nominees
Resource Base	James & Henry
Reception	Harry & Cody
Year 1	Emily & Freya E
Year 2	Dottie & Evie W
Year 3	Avi & Sonny
Year 4	Otto & Sofia
Year 5	Isabel & Lucas
Year 6	Frankie & Jacob

This week's Champion...

Bravery is our focus this week and Henry in Sycamore has been chosen as our Champion. Mrs Lynam writes we are so impressed with how well Henry



has settled into Sycamore Class this year. He is able to follow all of our routines already – it's as if he's always been here! Henry is working really hard in all of his learning and is wowing us with his super maths. We are also so impressed with how polite and kind Henry is to all of his classmates. Well done Henry, you have had a great start to the year!

PTA Uniform Sale

The PTA will be selling pre-owned uniform sale in the hall after school on Tuesday 8th October. Please enter via the gate next to the bike sheds and follow the path to the back of the hall.

Attendance Champions this week: Year 4 97.7%

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

