



Blackhorse Primary School Newsletter



T1 Wk2: 13th

September 2024

School takes stronger line on Smartphones



At the end of last year we held a parents' event sharing our increasing concerns about the harms children were facing as a result of uncontrolled Smartphone access.

We showed our initial support for the 'Smartphone free childhood' parents' movement, which summarise the [problems with children's access here](#).

Over the summer, phone company EE became the first to officially agree that children [should not be given a Smartphone](#).

This year, both Blackhorse & Emersons Green schools are taking action.

As of this term, children will not be allowed to bring phones to school unless they are in Year 6 and have a note from a parent explaining that they are walking home alone and it is needed for safety reasons. We recommend that if you are considering buying a phone for safety reasons, then you buy a cheap 'dumb phone' which can only text and call - but has no internet connectivity.

We are also creating a parents' action group to steer how else both schools can support parents and reduce the peer pressure to own a smart phone at primary school. The first meeting will be held virtually on 8th October at 7pm, via [this link](#). We'd love to see you there if you have an interest in this vital topic.

Year 6 rise to the challenge



Year 6 have demonstrated our Champion values magnificently during their time away from home at PGL this week. For many of them, it is the longest they have spent away from home and they have taken part in a range of activities you don't get to do every day.

They have climbed, abseiled, been swung through the air, and taken to the water, even though they were supposed to be rafting across it. They also enjoyed firing arrows at the staff during a game of archery tag.



The highlights for the staff were: 1) the teamwork and encouragement they have seen from the children towards each other; 2) the bravery they've seen from individuals pushing themselves out of their comfort zone; 3) the positive attitude of the children especially around heights and challenges and 4) the staff have told us it's the best group for sleeping that they have ever taken!

We take Y6 away at the start of the year to enable them to feel proud of what they have achieved and take it into the year ahead. We would like to thank the staff for giving up their time this week to make it such a fun and successful experience for the children.

Term 1 Diary Dates:

Mon 16th Sept: PTA Meeting

Weds 18th Sept: Meet the Teacher for Y5 & Y6

Thurs 19th Sept: Individual Photos

Weds 25th Sept: Parent's Forum

Mon 30th Sept: EYFS Intake 2025 Open Morning

Fri 4th Oct: INSET Day: school closed to pupils

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

Tues 22nd Oct: Parent's Evening

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

Thurs 24th 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

This week's Champions!

Each week, the staff nominate one child per class who has been 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 Champions are:

| Year | Nominees |
|---------------|---|
| Resource Base | Jack & Rudy |
| Reception | Jules, Eli, Cooper K & Mia R |
| Year 1 | Millie & Kaitlyn |
| Year 2 | Olivia & Jasper |
| Year 3 | Axelle & Esme |
| Year 4 | D'Nai & Ruben |
| Year 5 | Harry F & Harrison |
| Year 6 | Our Intrepid PGL'ers |

Blackhorse Farm Continues to Thrive



Our aim to provide Expert Tuition and Wider Opportunities for all continues to be provided on Blackhorse Farm. Simon Evans, our green-fingered Gardening teacher, works with the children every Friday and

to grow a range of fruit and vegetables and make the grounds not only look good and reflect the seasons but also to make them attractive to a range of pollinators.

Each term Simon works with a different year group to support their learning in Science, Geography and the environment. This term he is working with Sycamore class. He also takes our Champions each week for a fun session and an enrichment group. This week the courgettes grown on the farm were used to make cake by the school kitchen.



This week's Champion...



Respect is our focus this week and Olivia in Y2 has been chosen as our Champion. Olivia gets to take home the trophy and Champ for the week.

Miss Doulton writes Olivia has started the year as a true Blackhorse Champion. She consistently follows our school values and is an incredible role model for the rest of Chestnut Class. We can't wait to see all of the amazing things that Olivia achieves this year.

Search for Mission Masters begins

Mrs Wilson launched the recruitment process for this year's Mission Masters in assembly today. Look out for the email she sent home containing all the details on how children can put themselves forward to be elected as their class representative.

Attendance Champions this week: Year 1 98.7%

Well done Y1, top of the list for the 2nd week running.

