

Newsletter

Staffing News

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

It has been so wonderful to welcome your children back to school this week. We have all really enjoyed being back together in school, settling into new classrooms and making new friends.

In Collective Worship on Thursday morning, we talked a lot about new things, including new shoes and new beginnings.

The new school year is of course a significant marker, but one of our key principles in school is that every day is a new start, a chance to begin again. As I mentioned at the end of last term, we are not defined by either our worst moment, or our best moment. Every day we can start again and try again.

I shared with the children this familiar image, a reminder that we are all learning and it does not always happen as fast as we would like!



The new school year brings with it a raft of challenges, some are academic, others are personal or social. We meet these challenges as individuals, but also as a community. I reminded the children that our school community is a very special one, we are here to work together, have fun together and to support one another.

We are all looking forward to working with you and your children in the coming academic year.

We are delighted to welcome five new members of staff to The Blake School.

Lottie Ashton is working as a Teaching Assistant in Year 3 and Reception. Lottie brings experience of working with rugby tots and a love of the outdoors to her role.

Richard Baish is teaching in Year 6. Richard is an experienced teacher and has in the past provided cover for us and so he is familiar with the school.

Alice Handscomb-Retallack is our new Finance Officer. Alice has significant experience in the world of school and trust finance.

Anna Henry is working as a Teaching Assistant in Year 1. Anna's children attend the school. Anna has spent years teaching dance locally.

Having previously volunteered in school, Jessica Reilly is working as a Teaching Assistant in Reception. Jessica's children attend the school.

We have enjoyed getting to know them all more this week and look forward to working with them.



News from Around the School

It has been a very busy first two days in school!

As well as establishing new routines and starting off the learning for the year, classes have engaged in fun team building activities using our outdoor spaces. The pictures below from Years 4 and 5 reflect the fun that has been had across the school.



Our New Website

We are delighted to share that our [new website](#) has gone live!

There is still some work to do, but we are well on the way. We hope you enjoy finding your way around. We are working hard to make sure our calendar is up to date, so please do check there for upcoming events.

Getting to and from school

The Blake School is committed to serving our local community – the vast majority of children who attend our school live within a mile of the school.

We therefore encourage our families to walk, scoot or cycle to school, which is better for our world and also encourages a healthy lifestyle.

If your children are cycling to school, please do make sure that they are wearing a helmet and that they dismount before they enter the school site.

If your children are in Year 5 or Year 6 they can leave the site without an adult, but only if parents have [completed the online form this year](#). Children in Years 5 and 6 cannot collect their younger siblings.

If you do need to drive to or from school, please park in the large car park. Please do not use the doctors' car park or the local residential streets. We would also like to remind you that the speed limit from the traffic lights on Oxford Hill and all the way to the school is 20mph.

Health and Safety on Site

To keep everyone safe, we are reminding your children not to play on our playground equipment prior to the start of the school day, and not to play with balls either before or after school.

After school, many of our children are accessing clubs and our wrap around provision. To ensure their safety, when you have collected your children, please do leave the site as swiftly as possible. Thank you.

Our Development Priorities

Every year, we set three key development priorities. Building on the work we have already been doing, our three priorities this year are –

1. To equip children with a range of strategies to promote regulation, well-being and positive mental health.
2. To strengthen the staff community by developing the leadership team and investing in staff development.
3. To evaluate and further refine SEND provision across the school.

Plans are already in place to move these priorities forward. Claire Main now has a Deputy Head role and is out of class, giving her more time and capacity to support and lead in a number of areas.

Naomi Rowlands has a day out of class to lead on outdoor learning across the school.

Liz Henderson now has an extra day in school to support children, parents and staff in her role as SENDCO.

We plan to run frequent short polls through the year to gain parental feedback on our progress against our objectives, so please do look out for these.

**Loving, learning and
flourishing in
community**