

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Last Friday, I spent the day interviewing candidates for next year. I always love interview days. It is inspiring to hear interviewees talk about why they love teaching and what drives them to seek the best for the children in their care.

One of the candidates asked me what three words I would use to describe The Blake School and I chose –

- Redemption
- Freedom
- Safety

Redemption is so important for all of us because it means that we are not simply stuck with how things are, there is the possibility of change. This change is not only of our circumstances, but also personal growth and transformation. In school, redemption means that every day is a new day, the slate is wiped clean.

After a year of lockdowns, we all long for greater freedom! In school, there is freedom for your children to try new things and to fail, freedom to take risks and freedom learn and flourish.

Safety underpins both redemption and freedom, only when children feel safe can they be free to learn. In school, safety is about the warmth of welcome and the acceptance that there is for your children. Safety is in knowing that you are loved, no matter what.

I know that despite our greatest endeavours and best of intentions we don't always get it right, but each and every member of the staff team is working to make this school the very best it can be.

In Collective Worship this morning I reminded children that when I was in primary school I found reading and writing really hard and it is still something that I have to concentrate hard on. Perseverance is not just something we ask of the children, we all have things that we need to persevere at.

As we seek to live out our values and reflect our ethos, we will all need perseverance. Working together towards our common objectives is what makes us community. Thank you for all that you continue to do as a parent body to work with us and for being part of our very special community.

## From the Chair of Governors

The governors were so pleased when the school was able to fully reopen and welcome all the children back.

To hear again the hubbub from the school playground at play- and lunch-times around Cogges is a delight.

As more people get vaccinated and the situation in the UK improves the school is able to gradually relax the multitude of changes that were put in place to make it difficult for Covid to spread in the school. This is tricky since it must be done gradually and carefully, always considering the effect on the children, the staff and the wider community.

The governors, who are continuing to meet remotely every month, have an important role in monitoring this process. We are also continuing to monitor development priorities and with great pleasure, look ahead.

Please can I encourage you to complete the annual parent survey, the link for which is below? As governors we scrutinise the data and work with the senior leaders in school to use it for planning and decision making.

If you ever wish to feedback to the governors directly, you can do so by emailing [governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk).

**Dr Phil Fowler**

## Annual parent survey

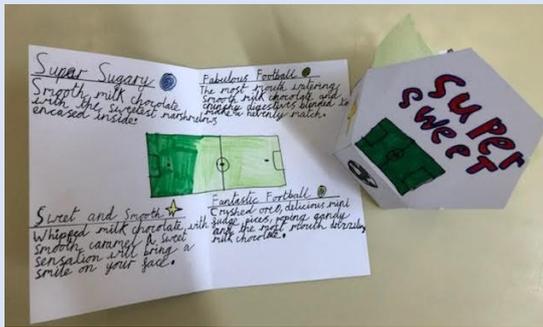
Thank you to everyone who has already completed our annual parent/carer survey.

If you have not yet filled in our survey, we would be really grateful if you took some time to do so.

[Click here to  
take the survey](#)

## News from around the school

We have all longed to visit Year 5 this week as they have been making chocolates! They have designed and made some really impressive boxes to put their chocolates in – we wonder how many chocolates made it home without being nibbled...?



## Around Blake Care

We are delighted to be starting the planning for our taking in-house of wrap around provision.

Whilst timings and staffing for the care may look very similar to the way it is now, we are planning some exciting new things, which we hope will make the provision a great way for the children who need it, to start and end their day.

To help us with our planning, if your children will need wrap around provision after the May half-term break, please [complete the form](#). We will be sending out formal booking information to all those who complete the form, in the next couple of weeks.

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## Please park safely and considerately

We are very blessed to be able to use the large farm museum car park for parking at drop off and pick up times. For the safety of your children and the wider community, please drive slowly around the school entrance and park in the car park. Please do not park in prohibited areas such as on the yellow zig-zags. If you can, please walk or cycle to school with your children – better for them, better for our world.