

Loving, learning and flourishing in community

Message from Mr Edwards-Grundy

RE and Art week has been a lovely way to finish this term. Every day in Collective Worship we have listened to children sharing ideas, it has been a great way to remind children in their separate bubbles that we are all still part of one community.

During the week everyone was given two pebbles representing their gifts and Talents, one to keep and one to put in a jar that we are keeping in school as a permanent reminder of how together we can make a difference. In the photos you can see members of staff who are not part of classes, adding their pebbles.

I would like to thank the whole staff team for everything that they have contributed since September. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable term but we know that everyone (staff and children alike) are now ready for a rest!

As we planned this term, we were clear that our primary focus was to ensure that children settled back in well and that we protected their mental health and wellbeing. However, as ever at The Blake School, this focus on mental health runs in parallel with academic rigour. Teachers are focussed on filling children's gaps in learning and ensuring they are all making good progress.

This morning it was an enormous pleasure when four children came down to my office to share with me their work. With the additional hours of support that we have put into every year group, children are being supported to make rapid progress. We know that children who are well supported and settled are best placed to make really strong academic progress, and so across the school we will continue to retain our focus on both.

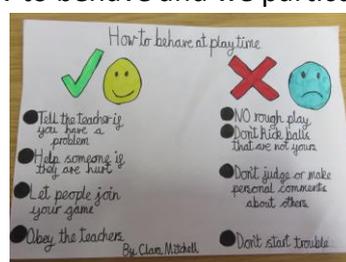


News from around the school

Alongside the business of RE and Art week, children have been continuing with their other learning. This week we asked Mrs Doland and Mrs Raven to share the work that their class have been doing. The class is continuing to learn about the Greeks, we loved looking at their posters and were intrigued by Joely's gripping diary entry that started "I am in a bit of a pickle...."!



The class has also been thinking about playground rules and what makes a successful playtime. Their posters remind everyone how to behave and we particularly like their new class rule – "Be kind".



Remembrance

As usual, after the half term break we will be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. In addition to poppies, we will also have available:

- silicon wristbands at £1 each.
- snap bands at £1.50 each. (Please note that snap bands must be taken home on the day of purchase, and not kept in school.)
- poppy reflectors and zip pulls at 50p each.

If your child would like to make a donation towards a poppy, or purchase any of these additional items, please send the money to school in a sealed envelope. The envelope must be labelled with your child's name, their class and which item/s they would like.



Outdoorsy things

The [National Trust](#) has been working with primary school aged children to create a list of fifty fun things to do outdoors before they go to secondary school.

The list has all sorts of great ideas of things to do over half-term. We hope you have fun trying to tick off as many as you can!

If you have time to complete lots of things on the list, why not bring it in at the start of next term and tell us all about the things that you have got up to. We would particularly like to see photos of you wearing a wild crown!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2nd November - enjoy your half-term!

Farewell to Mrs Thomas

Mrs Thomas has been working at the school for over 30 years! Staff and children alike know Mrs Thomas because she is responsible for everything relating to the school site. Mrs Thomas locks and unlocks, repairs, cleans, tidies, polishes, places orders, provides tissues and toilet rolls and deals with contractors. As site manager for so many years there is nothing that Mrs Thomas does not know about our school building.

Today we said a very sad farewell to Mrs Thomas from her role as site manager but are delighted that she has decided to keep an eye on us all by retaining some cleaning hours.

We all wish Mrs Thomas much joy in quieter days filled with the gardening, dog walking, crafts and reading that she so enjoys.



After half term, look out for Mrs Thomas' daughter Tash, who will be taking over the site manager role from her mum!

Uniform

As always, we have a number of items of lost property. Please can we remind you to label all items and if your child has lost something, to come and check through our lost property boxes next to the hall.

We also have some spare uniform in school from when we used to retain some stock. The uniform is brand new, but now that we no longer keep stock in school, we are selling it at 20% off the full price. Attached to this newsletter is a list of stock that we have.

If you are interested in any of these items, please email the school office and we will contact you regarding payment and pick up.