

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

I want to start by saying a huge thank you to you all for your words of encouragement and support as we welcomed one of His Majesty's Inspectors into school this week to carry out an Ofsted monitoring visit. We really enjoyed spending two days showing Simon Woodbridge everything that makes The Blake School such a special community. We cannot share any of the feedback from the visit until the report is made public – we hope this may be before the summer break, but it has to go through an extensive quality assurance process first and this can take some time.

I would like to share however that (as always) your children were fantastic; they talked knowledgeably and confidently about their learning, they reflected our Values in their classrooms and on the playground and the work in their books continues to show perseverance and enormous progress. Simon asked that his thanks be passed on to your children for making his time in our school such an enjoyable experience.

As a staff team we were all deeply moved by the comments that you shared in the open text box within the Ofsted parent survey. Thank you for making the time to complete the survey within a busy working week, and for being so generous and warm in your comments.

In Collective Worship on Monday, which now feels a very long time ago, we thought some more about our Value of Goodness. To shape our thinking this week we used a passage from Romans chapter 12 –

'Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'

As soon as the passage was read, we all realised the enormity of the challenge! Goodness is not just something we do for our friends, it is not just a nice thing to have in places where we are comfortable and when things are going well. Goodness is active in the face of evil, it is behaving in a counter cultural way towards those who make our lives difficult and hard.

That however is where Goodness makes the biggest difference, when we can show it in the face of hostility, when we can draw on its strength to stop returning hurt for hurt and evil for evil.

You only have to watch or listen to the news for a matter of minutes to realise that Goodness is not very often a tool used on the world stage! The world of politics and international relations is too easily one where people, places and decisions appear to be overcome by evil, where evil is repaid by more evil. How much more important it is then for us to do what we can in our homes, our workplaces and our communities to live differently, to change the narrative and do what is right – even when that is the harder thing to do. For us, and for the children, showing Goodness can start with the smallest of steps. With the forecast hot weather on the horizon, Goodness may well begin with offering a drink to a classmate or work colleague whom you might otherwise avoid. I wonder what difference that small gesture could make in the coming week!

News from Around the School

Our children in Year 4 had a wonderful time on Friday taking all that they had learned about Stone Age cave art into a practical lesson. They used their hands, sticks and paintbrushes to create their own Stone Age art, it was a lot of fun.



Values Awards

Congratulations to all our children for showing our Visitor our Values this week, but particular congratulations to the children who this week received a Values Award.



Annual Parent Survey

Thank you for completing the Ofsted survey. Our [annual school survey](#) however provides us with lots more information about our school and the things both to celebrate and to look at changing in the coming year. If you do have time over the next week or two to complete our survey, we would really appreciate that.

News from Around the World – Cinderella Rockerfella

A huge well done to our Year 6 children for their fantastic performance this week, enjoyed by the school and parents alike. It was full of energy, confidence and fun – a truly memorable performance!



Loving, learning and flourishing in community