

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

It has been a very busy week in school with our children in Year 2 completing their secret spy missions and our children in Year 6 taking their SATs.

I could not be more proud of the way that the children have conducted themselves this week, they have tackled the week calmly and with confidence. They are a credit not only to themselves, but also to the teachers through the years who have taught and prepared them.

Watching our Year 6 children this week I have been struck by how this season reflects our Value of the month, Patience. Our Year 6 children have not simply landed at this week, their learning and their maturity are a result of years of investment, by them, by you as parents and by the staff team here at The Blake. Along the way, alongside moments of joy and anticipation, there have been moments where we have all wondered if the children will be ready for this week – such is the nature of Patience. We none of us can anticipate the journey, or its ending, we simply keep going, doing the next right thing.

Talking to children in Year 6 about their SATs, I was struck as I always am, by how your children have grown in their understanding, balancing this academic marker against all the other things that are important for them as young people. The children talked about doing their best and wanting to show all that they have learned, but also reflected on all the other things that they know and can demonstrate that SATs are not designed to measure.

At this time of year, with only one term left until the summer break, we as a staff team are very much looking ahead, with plans for next year well under way. I am delighted that at their meeting this week, the committee of The Friends confirmed that they would contribute a large sum of money towards building an outside classroom. This structure, which should be erected during the summer holidays, will increase our capacity to provide children with opportunities not simply to learn outside, but also for character development.



There is no doubt that character development needs the Patience of us all! It is one of the great privileges of being part of a community, that together we learn and together we rub the corners off one another as iron sharpens iron.



Well done to all the children who this week were awarded with a Values certificate. Their commitment to showing our Values is a large part of what makes our school community such a safe and happy place.

I know that many of the children awarded certificates this week have been waiting very patiently for their hard work to be recognised!



Especially if you are the parent of a child in Year 6 – have a wonderful and relaxing weekend!

There are two significant fundraising opportunities coming up, both organised by The Friends. If you can, please support these events, as it is your fundraising that allows for us to invest in our outdoor space to give all children access to learning outside of the classroom.

The first event is our 'Wild Walk', which is taking place on Friday of next week, the last day of term. All children in Years 1 to 6 should come to school wearing their PE kit on Friday. Children have brought home a sponsorship form; all children will take part in the event, but please do get sponsorship if you can. You can send cash into school, or if you prefer you can donate online. The details came home on a slip of paper today: Friends of the Blake School Association, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 20396168.



The second event is our annual school fete, this year taking place after school on Friday 7th June. Each year group will be responsible for running a stall, please do look out for information coming home from your child's class teachers about how to support their stall. We will also be sending home information about how you can donate to the stalls of other year groups, if you wish to do so.

Please do publicise the event to your friends, family and neighbours, it is open to the whole community. We are very much hoping that the sun will shine, and a great time will be had by all.

As always we are very much looking forward to hearing our choir sing at this event. Thirty children from our choir are next week going to perform at 'The Big Sing' in Oxford, performing alongside other primary school choirs; we can't wait to hear some of the highlights as part of the summer fete.

The Blake School Summer Fete

Ice creams

Friday 7th June

Face

Rides

3:15pm - 5:00pm

painting

Stalls and
Games

Hot dogs

Drinks

Toys

Music and
Choir

Please bring cash and loose change.

Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

On the morning of Monday 10th June (straight after drop off), we will be holding an informal coffee morning for parents who would like to talk about the challenges of EBSA with other parents who may be facing similar challenges. Laura Riberzani (Educational Psychologist) will be presenting some of the thinking around this very difficult area to help inform discussion. If you would find it helpful to attend this time of sharing and discussion, please contact the school office.

Where did you last have it?!

This question is asked by teachers and parents of children up and down the country and at The Blake School it is no different. Children go out to play with a water bottle and snack pot and wearing a jumper and come back indoors having misplaced all three!

In an attempt to reduce the amount of time that children spend fruitlessly searching through lost property, we have changed our approach.

Any named items (whether pots, bottles or clothing) will be delivered back to the child. Only un-named items will make it to our lost property boxes.

As the days warm up and children take jumpers off as they get warm on the playground, to help save you money and to reduce the number of never claimed items, please can we remind you to name everything?

The internet and social media

In school, we are spending an increasing amount of time helping children to resolve issues that have happened online overnight or over the weekend.

These events often demonstrate children's lack of maturity to deal with the challenges of the online world and result in a great deal of upset.

For everyone's protection, please make sure that your child's devices have appropriate parental controls and make sure that any online games are played in a space where you can hear and see what is going on.

Loving, learning and flourishing in
community