



The Blake School - Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

As we finish the second full week of the school year, everyone is now settling down into more familiar rhythms. Our new lunchtime and Collective Worship patterns are working well and the children are very much enjoying being able to mix with others on the playground and our new Adventure Zone.

Today, it was a particular pleasure to be part of two class-led collective worship sessions. It is always such a joy to hear your children talking so confidently and with such pleasure about their learning.

This week curriculum letters have been sent home for children in Years 1 – 6. Please do take some time to read through these letters, which not only share with you the learning that will be taking place over the coming two terms, but also include lots of practical information.

We continue to have a steady trickle of Covid-19 cases in school. If your children have any of the three Covid-19 symptoms, please do take them for a PCR test. You are also encouraged to take your child for a PCR test if you believe them to be a close contact of anyone who has tested positive for the virus. Yesterday I spoke again to the Local Authority team and received further confirmation that the actions that we are taking are proportionate and appropriate.

In school, as in the rest of society, we continue to balance risk. We know that the risk of Covid-19 transmission is a real one but in line with the government guidance we are prioritising high-quality learning and the delivery of a rich curriculum face-to-face. Continuing to ensure that your children receive first-class teaching and experience all that school life has to offer them will have a positive impact on your children in the long term.

One of the pleasures of this term is children once again eating together in the school hall. This is currently two year groups at a time, which means we have fewer children eating at one time, reducing both levels of business and noise. It is wonderful to re-establish the connection between our kitchen and the meals the children are eating. All children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal every day. As the days get colder, we would encourage you to take up this free hot meal. If you are claiming certain benefits, your child may also be entitled to a free school meal; do get in touch with the school office if you think you may be eligible.

As this new school year gets under way, we will once again start to give out our Values Certificates, celebrating children who have demonstrated either our Value of the Month, or one of our other values during the past week. As the children are once again mixed on the playground over break and lunch times it has been a joy to see how they care for one another. Watching one of our oldest children yesterday crouch down to support a much younger child was a very visible demonstration of how your children care for one another, even when they are not friends or classmates.

At the start of a new academic year, showing care for one another is a good place to start. If a community is to flourish it needs to be built on good foundations and showing one another that we care, reinforces the value that we see in each other. I am so proud of your children that despite all the challenges of the past year, including being kept apart from one another, they have not forgotten how to care for others. I look forward to seeing our community flourish in the year ahead.