

# THE BLACKMOOR BULLETIN

W/C 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 ——

Summer Term: Issue 3
Acting Headteacher: Mr E Naylor
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'Keeping Parents Informed and Involved"
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# ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK: 91.80 %

86.52% Kindi 3 +: 98.35% Chestnut: Beech: 89.80% 91.76% Pine: 96.00% Rowan: 93.17% Hazel: Oak: 90.86% Olive: 97.54% Cherry: 84.13% Maple: 97.04%

96% +93% - 95.9%

90.1% - 92.9%

90% and below

Good attendance is essential for your child's learning, confidence, and friendships. Please ensure children arrive on time each day.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely bank holiday weekend. Although it has been a shorter week in school, the children have had a busy week with their learning and after school activities.

On Thursday, we took some time to acknowledge VE Day, giving the children the chance to learn a little about this important moment in our history. Through our assembly and picnic the children reflected on the significance of the day in an age-appropriate way. It was lovely to see their curiosity and thoughtful engagement.

We were also delighted to welcome our CEO, Mrs Tennyson, to school this week. During her visit, she commented on the children's wonderful behaviour and how calm and purposeful the atmosphere around school was. It is always lovely to have such positive feedback and I am incredibly proud of how our children represent our school each day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr E Naylor **Acting Headteacher** 

# Transition Arrangements for September 2025

We would like to inform you that the Welcome Meeting for new Reception children will take place on **Monday 19th May 2025**. Representatives from the Children's Centre, Day Nursery, After-School and Breakfast Club, and our PTA will also be attending to share information about the services available.

As we prepare for September 2025, we will be sharing our staffing arrangements and introducing the new teachers. By **Friday 23rd May 2025**, your child will bring home a letter outlining their new teacher and the transition process.

We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for all our children and will keep you updated throughout.

More information to follow.



#### **School Choir**

A BIG thank you to our amazing choir, and Mrs Snelham, for entertaining us during our VE Day Picnic. The children sang a beautiful song to mark 80 years since the end of the war.

A huge thanks also to everyone for your efforts in dressing the children in their red, white, and blue clothing — they looked fantastic! Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated. \*\*\*

"Victory in Europe, a moment of hope and unity."



# Reflections of the Week

#### **Little Kindi:**

We have started our new topic Mini Beasts this week! The babies enjoyed **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, exploring the book in small groups and on their own—turning pages and holding it the right way up. Soft caterpillar and butterfly toys helped bring the story to life.

Lots more themed fun to come - do not forget to check Tapestry for further updates!

"I love coming to school and having fun. I like assemblies when we get to go in the Golden Book."

Luna (Year 1)



This week, the children in Kinid 3+ have thoroughly enjoyed exploring a new obstacle course, created using a range of outdoor equipment. They embraced the challenge of balancing independently and showed great confidence as they navigated the course.

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on subitising numbers up to 5. We started with the number 1 and had some thoughtful discussions about the different ways each number can be represented. The children have approached the activities with lots of enthusiasm and curiosity.





"Learning is fun when we do it together!"

#### **Reception:**

This week in maths, Reception have been busy exploring rekenreks - a brilliant tool for developing early number skills. The children have been learning how to use them correctly, using key terms like "push" to move a set number of beads and "tip back" to clear the board.

This hands-on approach has helped build their confidence with counting and number recognition. They have really enjoyed using the rekenreks and are becoming more familiar with them each day!



"Every day is a chance to learn something new."

"The teachers in my school are like my best friends. We are kind to each other and look after each other."

Finley (Year 1)

#### Year 1:

This week, Year 1 have been working hard on developing their friendship skills. The children have been learning about appropriate ways to communicate with one another and how to greet friends kindly and respectfully.

It has been lovely to see them putting these skills into practice, modelling thoughtful and positive behaviour throughout the school day.

Well done, Year 1!

#### Year 2:

This week, Year 2 have been busy exploring right angles as part of their maths lesson. The children have been learning how to identify right angles and were excited to put their knowledge into action by searching for them around the classroom.

Armed with paper angle checkers, the children investigated everyday objects - from books and tabletops to whiteboards and window frames - and were amazed by how many right angles they could find.

Can you spot any at home?



# **Headteacher's Recommendation**

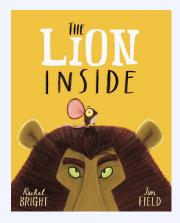


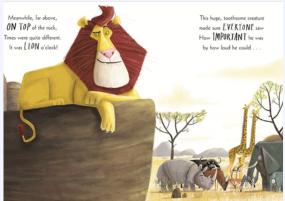
This week, I am delighted to recommend **The Lion Inside** by Rachel Bright, a wonderfully engaging story that has quickly become a favourite among our children.

The book tells the tale of a small, quiet mouse who feels invisible in a world that seems to value boldness and noise. Determined to be heard, the mouse sets out to find his roar by approaching the fiercest creature he knows — a lion. What follows is a heart-warming journey about bravery, self-belief, and the discovery that we all have both a mouse and a lion within us.

The Lion Inside encourages children to think about courage not as the absence of fear, but as the willingness to face it. It is an ideal story for promoting confidence, empathy, and the understanding that true strength can come from the most unexpected places.

I highly recommend sharing this book at home — it is a lovely read for all ages and sparks brilliant conversations about resilience and kindness.







## **School Trips and Visits**

Once again, a huge thank you to all parents and carers who took part in our recent School Improvement Questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us reflect on our current practice and continue to improve the learning experiences we provide.

One of the main themes that came through was a desire for more enrichment opportunities and purposeful trips/visits to complement the children's classroom learning. I wholeheartedly agree that these experiences are vital in helping children develop curiosity, creativity, confidence, and a love of learning.

In response, we have been working hard behind the scenes to plan an exciting timetable of trips and visits for the upcoming academic year. These activities have been carefully chosen to support the curriculum, encourage hands-on exploration, and give children opportunities to connect their learning with the wider world.

At the upcoming 'Meet the Teacher' event, we will be sharing full details of the enrichment plans for the 2025-26 academic year.

# Awards at Blackmoor Park

#### Writer of the Week:

We value the importance of English through various initiatives, including the weekly 'Writer of the Week' award. This award recognises children who demonstrate exceptional writing skills, creativity, and a positive attitude towards developing their English.



#### **Maths Champion:**

We highlight the importance of mathematics through various initiatives, including the weekly 'Maths Champion' award. This award recognises children who demonstrate outstanding mathematical skills, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude towards learning maths.



#### **Rooted in Respect:**

We promote positive behaviour and school values through the weekly 'Rooted in Respect' award. This award recognises children who consistently demonstrate an awareness of the school rules - Ready, Respectful, and Safe.



### Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher

It is always a pleasure to sit down with the children to hear about what they have been up to this week, and celebrate their achievements. Well done to the following children.

YR - **Pine:** Sienna YR - **Chestnut:** Alfie YR - **Beech:** Arlo

Y1 - **Hazel:** Skyla Y1 - **Rowan:** Annie Y1 - **Oak:** James

Y2 - Olive: Liz Y2 - Cherry: Isaac Y2 - Maple: Archie

Keep up the fantastic work everyone - I am already looking forward to next week's group!

# Lost Property and Pre Loved Uniform Sale





We have a growing collection of unclaimed items in our lost property, so we will be setting out a Lost Property Table at the end of the school day this week. Please take a moment to have a look through and reclaim any missing items, particularly school uniform and coats.

We understand that times are financially tough, and school uniform can be costly to replace, so we encourage all parents and carers to check carefully for anything that may belong to your child.

Any items that are not claimed will be added to our Pre-Loved Uniform Sale in the second half of the summer term, offering families the chance to purchase good-quality items at a reduced price.

Our table will be located at the front of school near the main entrance.

# VE Day Picnic and Celebration

This week, our children enjoyed taking part in our VE Day celebrations. They attended a special assembly where they learned about the significance of Victory in Europe Day and the end of the Second World War.

Dressed in red, white and blue, the children then took part in a lovely picnic on the school playground, enjoying the sunshine and a real sense of community. It was a wonderful way to reflect on this important moment in history.

"We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead."





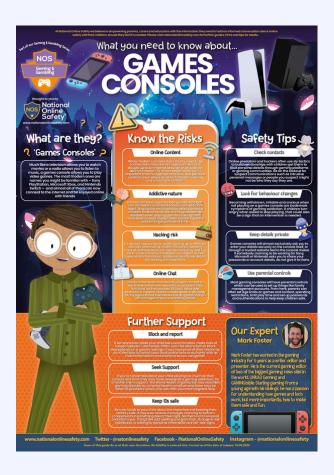
Learning and Achieving Together

#### **Games Consoles:**

As part of our commitment to online safety, I would like to highlight key advice from National Online Safety about the safe use of games consoles.

Modern consoles like the PlayStation, Xbox and Nintendo Switch offer online features including chat, content streaming and web access, which can expose children to risks such as inappropriate content, online predators, and data breaches. I encourage all parents and carers to use parental controls, monitor online interactions, and talk to children about keeping personal information private.

Watching out for behavioural changes and setting time limits can also help manage children's gaming habits. For more support, you can block and report concerns, and seek advice from professionals if you are worried about your child's gaming behaviour.



## Safeguarding Structure at Blackmoor Park Infants

At Blackmoor, the safety and well-being of our children is our highest priority. We have a robust safeguarding structure in place to ensure that all concerns are dealt with swiftly, sensitively, and in line with statutory guidance.

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):**

Mr Naylor (Acting Headteacher)

#### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs):**

- Mrs Rattigan (Assistant Headteacher Early Years)
- Miss Wilkins (Assistant Headteacher Key Stage One)
- Miss Franklin (Family Support Worker)

#### Early Years Safeguarding Team (Little Kindi):

- Mrs Shepherd (Extended Services Lead)
- Mrs Crowley (Extended Services Lead)



As key members of staff in our Early Years/Extended Service provision, Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Crowley are also trained to respond to safeguarding concerns and support our youngest children with care and vigilance.

## School Payments -Arbor Pay:

PAs part of our ongoing efforts to streamline payments and enhance convenience for our families, we are excited to introduce Arbor Pay, our new online payment system. This move is part of our transition towards becoming a completely cashless school.

From September 2025, Arbor Pay will allow you to make payments securely for school meals, trips, clubs, and other activities, all from the comfort of your home. The system is easy to use and helps to ensure faster, more efficient processing of payments.

If you need any assistance or have any questions about the new system, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.



## Sun Safety at Blackmoor Park Infant School

This is another reminder, as we are expecting more warm weather in the coming days, about the importance of sun safety during the school day.

Please make sure your child arrives at school with long-lasting, all-day sun cream applied, as staff are unable to apply it during the day. We also recommend that children bring a labelled sun hat and a refillable water bottle to help keep them cool and hydrated while outdoors.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping the children safe in the sun!



# **Use of Playground Equipment**

It has been lovely to see so many parents and carers taking the time to engage with their children on the playground after school. We have especially enjoyed watching the children make the most of the new climbing apparatus and goal posts, and it is heartwarming to see them playing, exploring, and enjoying the outdoor space in such a positive way.

As we continue to encourage active play and physical development, we kindly remind all parents and carers that once children have been handed over by their class teacher at the end of the school day, they should be supervised by the adult who has collected them. This is particularly important when using the climbing apparatus and other equipment, to ensure that all children are safe and well-supported while they are playing.

We also ask that any younger children accompanying parents are kept close by to avoid any accidents. This helps ensure that everyone, both children and adults, can enjoy the equipment in a safe and controlled way.

# Early Collection and Holiday Requests

I would like to take this opportunity to kindly remind families of the importance of regular attendance and punctuality.

I am aware that some children are being collected early on a regular basis. While I completely understand that early collections may sometimes be necessary for medical appointments or genuine emergencies, I would ask that this is kept to an absolute minimum. Early collections can be disruptive both for the child and the class, and the missed learning time can quickly add up.

I would also like to address the requests I have received for term-time holidays. Although I understand the challenges families face, especially with rising holiday costs, I must clarify that I am unable to authorise holidays during term time.

Our policy states that any holiday requests must be submitted in writing, but schools are not permitted to approve absences unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Whilst I sympathise with the desire for family holidays, I appreciate your understanding and support in ensuring children are in school as much as possible to benefit from their learning.

### **Staffing News**

I like to take a moment to send our best wishes to Mrs Robinson, who is currently spending some time away from school. Our thoughts are with her, and we all look forward to welcoming her back in the autumn term.

In addition I would like to make you aware that we have appointed a new Teaching Assistant to work in Miss Taylor's class. They will hopefully start with us after May half-term.

### **Job Vacancies**

We are currently recruiting for the following positions at Blackmoor Park Infant School and Kindergarten:

- Mid-Day Assistants (2 positions)
- Early Years Practitioners (2 positions)
- HLTA Higher Level Teaching Assistant

If you are passionate about supporting children's development, we would love to hear from you.

For more information, please click on the following link to be taken to The Three Saints Academy Trust Website, or speak to a member of staff in the school office.

https://three-saints.org.uk/pages/vacancies/vacancies.htm

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Wishing you and your family a restful weekend.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday for another positive week at Blackmoor Park Infant School and Kindergarten.

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