



O.A Blakenhale

NEWS



OABLI/OABLIJ/@Blakenhalesport

Core Values & Character Building

This half term has seen the children continuing to flourish as individuals and young adults. Every time I look around the academies, speak to colleagues or present at conferences; I always vocalise how proud and privileged we are as staff to be part of this journey shaping the lives of our wonderful children. As an academy, we focus every day on our core values of:



All the children's learning activities and experiences are designed to build on each of these areas, and I can honestly say that our pupils demonstrate all of the values in abundance.

As you are aware at Blakenhale, we want to develop not only academic skills and knowledge, but also character through positive thoughts and actions. January and February's habits are:



Patience

Please speak to your child about the habits, what they mean to them, and the ways in which they are working on the habit in school and in everyday life.



OABLI/OABLJ/@Blakenhalesport

Core Values & Character Building

Enrichment Fridays have been developing brilliantly. This term some children have been to the Laura Ashley Tea Rooms, learning about silver service and why afternoon tea is so popular. Watch this space for more news on when the group serve afternoon tea to parents and the local retirement home. Hair and Beauty have moved on to designing make-up looks and hairstyles – very impressive work taking place in there. All groups are fully immersed in their knowledge and skills learning and I guarantee we have stars of the future in each of the groups.

We are still continuing to develop our health and well-being agenda to beyond Blakenhale and to other academies. **Please don't forget that we do hold a parents' workout session every Monday at 2:45pm-3:15pm and Fridays from 9:05am to 9:30am. If you would like to join the friendly group, please enter via the main office entrance.**

UNIFORM REMINDER:

Please ensure that children have their PE kits in on a Monday and leave in school until the end of day on a Friday. **Blue Blakenhale PE tops (with the logo on) are compulsory.** Should you need to purchase any new tops, please do so from the Bolam club shop website:

<https://bolampremiersportswear.co.uk/club-shops/>

Year 6 **MUST** wear their school ties every day. We are getting them secondary ready, so I would appreciate your support in this.

If you have any questions relating to any aspect of school life, please do get in touch.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Y1, Y3-Y5 Parents Evening: 21st March

Enrichment Showcase (Y3-Y6): 11th April

GOODBYE

The 15th February sees us saying farewell to Ms. Headley our Office Manager. She has been a fantastic and supportive member of staff who has been so integral in our journey and successes. We wish her all the very best in her exciting new role. Good luck Ms. Headley – you will be amazing in your new role and we will miss you!



All that is left for me to say is; have a brilliant half term break and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 25th February at 8:45am.

Mrs. Hoods-Truman

Executive Principal

E-SAFETY

The NSPCC have teamed up with O2 to help children stay safe when they are using the internet, social networks, apps, games and more.

For more information go to www.nspcc.org.uk & search online safety.

A good way to make sure your children stay safe online is to follow the NSPCC, TEAM rules...

Help your kids stay safe online.
Work as a TEAM


Talk


Explore


Agree


Manage

Talk about staying safe online.

T E A M

Explore their online world together.

T E A M

Agree rules about what's ok and what's not.

T E A M

Manage your family's settings and controls

T E A M

Minimum recommended age



Snapchat

[Live streaming](#) | [Photo / video sharing](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Location sharing](#) | [Content sharing](#) | [Online relationships](#)

13+

Minimum age according to Snapchat
This is Snapchat's minimum age. What do you think is the right age for this app? [Share your thoughts](#)▼



YouTube

[Photo / video sharing](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Live streaming](#)

13+

Minimum age according to YouTube
This is YouTube's minimum age. What do you think is the right age for this network? [Share your thoughts](#)▼



Facebook & Messenger

[Messaging](#) | [Photo / video sharing](#) | [Audio / video calling](#) | [Content sharing](#) | [Live streaming](#) | [Location sharing](#) | [Gaming](#)

13+

Minimum age according to Facebook & Messenger
This is Facebook and Messenger's minimum age. What do you think is the right age for this network? [Share your thoughts](#)▼



Instagram

[Photo / video sharing](#) | [Content sharing](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Live streaming](#) | [Location sharing](#) | [Online relationships](#)

13+

Minimum age according to Instagram
This is Instagram's minimum age. What do you think is the right age for this app? [Share your thoughts](#)▼



WhatsApp

[Messaging](#) | [Audio / video calling](#) | [Photo / video sharing](#) | [Content sharing](#) | [Location sharing](#) | [Online relationships](#)

16+

Minimum age according to WhatsApp
This is WhatsApp's minimum age. What do you think is the right age for this app? [Share your thoughts](#)▼



Fortnite

Recommended minimum

12+

Whether you want to set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks, experts from the free O2 & NSPCC helpline are here to help. Tel: 0808 800 5002



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ATTENDANCE

Infants & Junior

Infants: Week Ending: 25/01/2019

Best Class (Year to date): RH & 2M - 97.2%

Whole school (year to date): 96.5%

Juniors:

Best Class (Year to date): 5B & 6W - 98%

Whole school (year to date): 97.27%

We are driving forward with aiming for a whole school figure of 97% this year - and we want to reach it!!



WWW.OASISBALEKNHALEINFANTS.ORG

WWW.OASISBALEKNHALEJUNIOR.ORG

Nursery NEWS

WELCOME!

It has been another busy start to the year for our fantastic Nursery children. We have welcomed lots of new children who have settled in amazingly. **Thank you** all for your support with this.



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

This term our topic is 'Food'. The children have been learning all about where food comes from. We have been tasting lots of different foods, making fruit kebabs and mini pizzas. The children have had so much fun and are looking forward to our future creations!



HANDWRITING

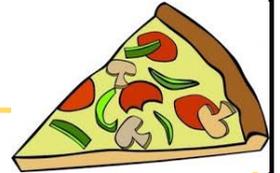
The Nursery children have been working hard on their name writing this half term. Please continue to support them with this at home. At the end of this half term we will be focusing on scissor control therefore please practise this at home with your child.



Please remember: Wellies – Please send your child with a pair of wellies, in a named bag, everyday

PE kits on Thursday – Please send your child to Nursery in their PE kit every Thursday.

Reception NEWS

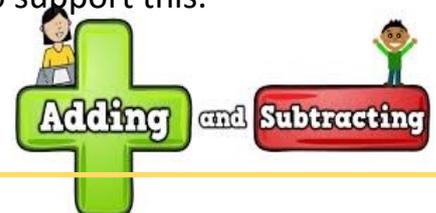


We have an exciting half term planned around our topic on Food. We will be looking at the features of non-fiction books and reading a variety of stories from around the world. The children will have the opportunity to cook and taste food from a variety of countries.

In PE the children are going to be dancing so watch out for them on the dance floor at the next party they go to or even dancing around the living room to the radio.



In Literacy we will be moving onto Phase 3 phonics and focusing on using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops when writing. In Maths we will be introducing addition and subtraction with the children and will be offering a workshop so that you can work with your child to make resources to take home to support this.



THANK YOU! for you for all your support last term, we look forward to continuing working alongside you this half term.

YEAR 1 NEWS



This half term we are learning about famous people from the past. So

far we have learnt about Edward Jenner and how he discovered the vaccine for Smallpox, and Florence Nightingale and her role in the Crimean war. Ask your child about these people and they should be able to tell you all about them! The classrooms were transformed into the hospital where Florence worked and the children had a lot of fun role-playing what she did to help the injured Soldiers. They have written some fabulous diary entries as Florence too!



We will also be learning about Amadeus Mozart and different musical instruments of the orchestra. We are even going to attempt our own version of Vincent Van-Gogh's famous Sunflowers painting!

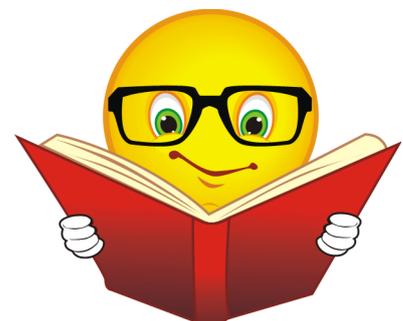


If you would like to learn more about what your child has been learning this half term then we would like to invite you to our parent showcase on **11th February at 2pm**. Come along and spend some quality time with your child!



HOME READERS

Please can you read with your child at home every night and sign their record book. It is important that children get lots of opportunities to read as this supports them in all areas of learning.



YEAR 2 NEWS

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 1ST APRIL 2019 -

Trip to Botanical Gardens. **Cost £13.00** deadline for payments **18th March 2019**.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2019 - Dance Performance

Dance performance for parents. This will take place on the last Friday of this half term. More information to follow....

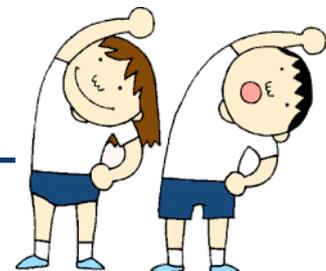
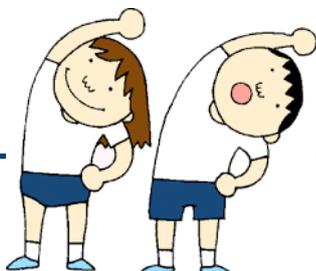
Parents Evening: Thank you to parents who attended. If you could not attend your appointment please can you let a member of staff know, and we will arrange for a day and time that is more suitable for you.

HOMework

Thank you to those who complete and bring back homework books and reading books weekly. We will be monitoring.



PE KIT: Please can you ensure your child has the correct P.E kit and a water bottle in school everyday.



Did You Know.....

We were lucky enough to get a donation from B&Q to help us to make our outdoor space more fun, inviting and purposeful!

They donated trellises, water cans, flower bulbs, a bug and bird house and so much more.

We cannot wait for the weather to improve so we can get outside and get our hands muddy.

We hope to have a small opening so all parents can come in and look at the hard work the staff and children have put in for EVERYONE to enjoy. Look out for your invites!



THE HUB... EVERY THURSDAY @ 9.00am. Fox Hollies Children's Centre are ruining the Henry Project, on healthy eating specifically aimed at Early Years children. Sessions will include: how to give your child a balanced diet, physical activity and sleep, healthy family routines and more

From 1.30 - 2.30pm Fox Hollies will also be running the Freedom Programme.

For more information on the activities please contact Suzanne Moore at The Hub

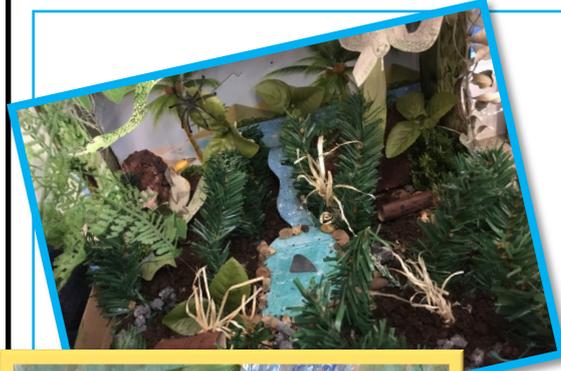
We look forward to seeing you there!



YEAR 3 NEWS

WELL DONE!

Well done to all our Year 3s who are taking their learning outside of the classroom. We have had a much more positive response with homework after the first few weeks back, children are reading at home, learning their spellings and doing some fantastic extra-curricular work. Check out our incredible rainforest displays!



SAVING THE RAINFOREST CONTINUES...

This term, the children are learning all about how to save the rainforests of the world. So far, they have been learning how to write emotive letters of complaint to protest against the destructive deforestation of these beautiful environments. Ask your children of the many reasons why deforestation must cease and they are sure to give you a passionate response! At the moment, the children are writing persuasive speeches sure to move and inspire you! We cannot wait to share the end results with you all.

How can you help your children at home in this topic? Discuss with them the products that come from the rainforest. Do they go shopping with you? Could they identify which fruits and other foods are sourced from tropical climates? What about the products around the home, such as hair and skin products? Do your children understand the impact that throwing away paper and cardboard packaging has upon the environment?

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, YEAR 3!

YEAR 4 News



This term Year 4 are looking at countries and cities all around the world.

We are covering the continents Africa, Europe and North and South America and looking at how their lives are different to ours.



Think Tank Birmingham Museum visited the Academy, to provide an impressive inflatable planetarium. This is where children got the opportunity to really understand the earth and beyond. The children are already showing a great interest in the topic and have produced some excellent pieces of work!



PE KIT REMINDER

Please ensure your child has their PE Kit in school on **Monday** and **Wednesday**
EVERY WEEK!

Please read with your child for at least ten minutes every day. It really does help them to make the best possible progress.



YEAR 5 NEWS



In Year 5 next term, we will be learning about the Ancient Romans and Greeks!

We will be having visitors from Ancient Rome come to Blakenhale to tell us all about Roman life! In our curriculum lessons, we will be learning about the Roman Empire (and its fall), the Roman invasion of Britain, Athens and Sparta, The Parthenon and famous

faces in history such as Boudicca and Alexander the Great! At the same time, we will be reading Beowulf in our English lessons as our 'myth and legend' book of the year. The children will have to imagine themselves as both hero and monster as we try to defeat the evil Grendel!



Next half term in Maths, Year 5 will be looking at FDP (Fractions, Decimals and Percentages).

The children have already been looking at equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions, converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and will use this knowledge to help them understand the relationship between decimals and percentages. Test your own knowledge:

Can YOU fill this table in?

PERCENTAGE	FRACTION	DECIMAL
50%		
	1/4	
		0.75
		0.1



On Your Doorstep

ST THOMAS' CHURCH - New this year, St Thomas' are starting a new **Youth Club!** **WHEN?** Every Monday evening for children in Year 6. **TIME?** After school until 5.00pm. Come along and join in the fun!



St Thomas Youth Club

Games Console
Table Tennis
Craft time
Games
Pool

3.15pm - 5pm

Mondays

At St Thomas Church Hall Garretts Green Lane

Ages 11+

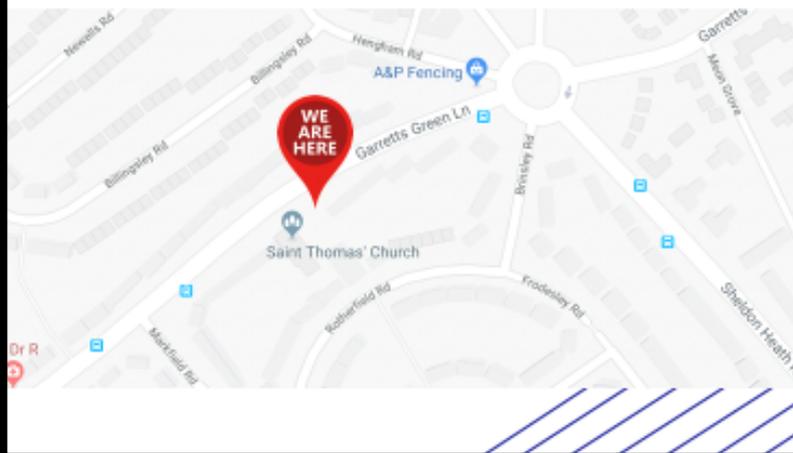
more info contact
stthomas@zen.co.uk

Cost £1

St Thomas Youth Club



This youth club for young people aged 11+
It will be open every Monday after School for young people
To drop in between 3.15pm and 5pm
It will cost £1 per person
It will be in St Thomas Church Hall, Garretts Green Lane
There will be a variety of games, crafts and activities each week where young people will be challenged, have fun and make friends.
For more information please contact Adam on 07814377455 or st.thomas@zen.co.uk
Do feel free to turn up at 3.15pm on a Monday to join the group. You will need a consent form filled in by an adult so bring an adult with you or be prepared to return home and get it completed



We would like to remind parents that our bi-weekly arithmetic booster sessions have begun on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings**.

Children should gather promptly from 8am onwards at the Breakfast Club. For just 50p, a nutritious breakfast can be purchased. This will be a reduced selection menu and will include a drink and a breakfast item.

We appreciate that, due to the early nature of the club, not all children will be able to access this additional provision; those we think especially need extra support will have the opportunity to attend a lunchtime session. This will be considered mandatory for children who are not routinely completing homework revision tasks or require additional support to reach their potential. More precise revision is available via printed sheets sent home with your child and a range of online resources can be accessed on SPAG.com and MATHLETICS.

YEAR 6 NEWS



Should you feel your child

requires further support in the run-up to the SATS examinations, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Willacy or your class teacher.

As you are probably aware, your child's final SATS preparations have been well underway as part of their curriculum experience since September. This last week, the children have been applying their knowledge to complete a 'Mock SATS' which will help form the final stage of their revision strategies.

It is worth repeating that May's examinations are an 'End of Key-stage 2' test and a percentage of marks are aimed at skills gathered in Years 3 through 5; the support given in their final year is a consolidation of all your child has achieved at Oasis Academy Blakenhale and the homework and revision completed out of school time.

The mock examinations have provided many useful insights especially in highlighting the benefits of daily and challenging reading and the necessity of small, focused revision. Those children who read often and revise regularly are found to perform better on average compared with their peers who aren't encouraged to do so.

Regardless of upcoming tests, each child should be reading for at least 30 minutes to an hour per day (smaller chunks are fine, but extended reading allows for us to really get lost in a book). Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in a classroom and in the school. It is taught in specific reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

PARENT SUPPORT - Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children. 'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'.

The report also offers six tips for reading with your child at home, including:

1. Make time to read- even ten minutes a day
2. Choose different types of books
3. Take turns to read
4. Talk about the book- asking your child questions
5. Pay attention to the language
6. Enjoy reading



Get Healthy



DID YOU KNOW.....All of the dairy products used in school meals are ORGANIC. All meals are prepared fresh on site daily. What more can you ask for? If you have any suggestions please feel free to drop us an email - info@oasisblakenhaleinfants.org/
info@oasisblakenhalejunior.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Cheese Scones:

225g self raising flour
Pinch salt
Pinch cayenne pepper
1 tsp baking powder
55g butter
100g cheddar cheese

80-90 ml milk, plus extra for glazing
Extra cheese for topping the scones Preheat oven with the baking tray inside to 200.C (slightly less for fan ovens). In a medium-large bowl sift together the flour, salt, cayenne pepper and baking powder. Sift again to make sure the ingredients are thoroughly combined.

Cut the butter into cubes, place in the bowl and then mix with your fingertips to make breadcrumbs. Sprinkle the grated cheese into the breadcrumb mixture and rub in until the cheese is evenly distributed. Try not to mix too much as the heat from your hands may start to melt the cheese.

Make a well in the centre of the mixture and pour in enough milk to give a fairly soft but firm dough. Do not pour in all the milk at once as you may not need it all to get the right consistency.

Lightly flour a surface and roll out the dough to approximately 2cm thick. Cut out the scones with a medium cutter and then place on the hot oven tray. Glaze the tops with the extra milk and sprinkle a little cheese on the top of each scone before putting in the oven.

Bake in the oven for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through.



Apple Crumble:

575 g bramley apples peeled, cored and sliced
2 tbsp golden caster sugar
175g plain flour
110g golden caster sugar
110g cold butter

Optional topping
1 tbsp rolled oats
1 tbsp demerara sugar



Heat the oven to 190C/170 fan/gas 5.

Toss 575g peeled, cored and sliced Bramley apples with 2
tbsp golden caster sugar and put in a 23cm round baking
dish at least 5cm deep, or a 20cm square dish. Flatten
down with your hand to prevent too much crumble
falling through.

Put 175g plain flour and 110g golden caster sugar in
a bowl with a good pinch of salt.

Slice in 110g cold butter and rub it in with your fingertips
until the mixture looks like moist breadcrumbs. Shake
the bowl and any big bits will come to the surface - rub
them in. Alternatively, pulse in a processor until sandy
(don't over-process).

Pour the crumb mix over the apples to form a pile in the
centre, then use a fork to even out.

Gently press the surface with the back of the fork so the
crumble holds together and goes crisp, then lightly drag
the fork over the top for a decorative finish.

Sprinkle 1 tbsp rolled oats and 1 tbsp demerara sugar over
evenly, if you wish.

Set on a baking tray and put in the preheated oven for 35-
40 minutes, until the top is golden and the apples feel
very soft when you insert a small, sharp knife. Leave to
cool for 10 minutes before serving.