

St Thomas á Becket Church of England Federation

Blackboys CE Primary School
School Lane
Blackboys
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5LL



Framfield CE Primary School
The Street
Framfield
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5NR

04th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Back

A warm welcome back from the Summer break. We hope that you have all enjoyed family time and some good weather. It has been lovely to see the children return refreshed and eager to learn. We are particularly impressed with how smart they look. We welcome not only our Year R starters but also 7 new 'in year' transfer pupils. We know the School community will ensure all are welcomed to our happy thriving School.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Framfield Interim Headteacher Mrs Claire Roberts. With close Federation working we are sure that Mrs Roberts will be spending some time at Blackboys. Previous Framfield Headteacher Mr Bradbeer left the School at the end of the Summer term.

On Friday we shall be welcoming 'The Skipping Workshop' to work with each class individually throughout the day. Skipping is a great way to exercise, not only for health but also improving coordination and can be done both indoors and outdoors, space allowing! This opportunity will enable the children to try a new skill and to practice our Christian value of the term, Perseverance.

At the end of the day the skipping workshop leaders will be offering ropes for sale to enable those who wish to carry on their skipping learning to do so at home. Ropes can also be purchased through their website. <http://www.skipping-workshops.co.uk/shop/> Infant and junior ropes cost £5 each; infant & junior solar ropes are £6 and adult ropes are £7. Please note that ropes sales are 'cash only' on the day.

School Office

The School Office is open daily. We encourage Parents/Carers to either email office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk or call 01825 890 423 should you require Office assistance or have any queries. Mrs Sheffield works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 7.45-3.30pm and Mrs Doherty Thursday and Friday 8.30-3.30pm. There is also a window of opportunity to speak to Office staff at drop off and pick up.

September 2024, Attendance & Punctuality

A reminder! As you may have read in the press the Government has recently recommended a school week of 32 1/2 hours. At Blackboys our start time is 8.40am when the gate opens and a finish of 3:15pm each day.

We very much expect children to be in the playground by 8.50am when the bell is rung, the children enter the School and the register is taken.

Should your child arrive at School after the register has been taken in class a 'late' mark will be applied. Please note that an excessive amount of 'late' marks may lead to an attendance review meeting being arranged.

Can we additionally remind parents that we expect pupils to attend school **every day**. On the rare occasion that children are far too poorly to attend school, then they must naturally stay home (for example for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea) but otherwise we would expect attendance. Our high level of attendance will be helped further by families taking holidays only in School Holiday time. There are 13 weeks school holiday a year, which together with weekends, is when we would expect holidays, day trips and outings to

take place. Unless the absence is for a wedding, funeral or christening (as we are a church school, 1 day absence for these events will be authorised) all other absences will be unauthorised and penalty notices issued. Absence forms are available from the school office so everything can be recorded and accounted for. Attending school daily is the number one thing a parent can do to help their child succeed.

School Dinners

The cost of our daily School lunches is now £2.97. Meals for all KS1 pupils are fully subsidised via the governments' UIFSM (universal infants free schools meals) initiative. Pupils within KS2 can pay daily/weekly by ParentPay. **Should Parents of Year 3 pupils require an activation code for their child's account, please contact the School Office.** Please can we remind you to regularly check your ParentPay account and 'top up' as necessary. We will be regularly sending out reminders to Parents/Carers who have built up a debt.

Our School lunches have improved massively in terms of quality and quantity since June when we welcomed Laura our new cook and Laura our new general kitchen assistant. I have been very impressed with what I have seen and tasted. If your child hasn't tried a school meal recently, I can recommend them.

Year 6 Bikeability Course

Year 6 will shortly be taking part in the annual Bikeability course. Please refer to the letter sent at the end of July with regards to equipment required in School for the duration of the course. If you haven't already done so, please return both the School and East Sussex completed consent slips to enable your child to take part.

Class Planning Meetings

We like parents to receive an overview of the curriculum and classroom routines for the term ahead. These will be taking place from week commencing Monday 09th September, as below;

Monday 09th September @2.45pm - Class 1 Parents/Carers in Class 1 Classroom

Tuesday 10th September @2.45pm - Class 2 Parents/Carers in Class 2 Classroom

Wednesday 11th September @2.45pm - Class 3 Parents/Carers in Class 3 Classroom

For all Parents/Carers of pupils within Classes 4 and 5 a class newsletter will be distributed to you via ParentMail email towards the end of the w/c 09/09/24.

Classes 1, 2 and 3 will also be sent a class newsletter summarising what was spoken about at the planning meetings.

Our fortnightly school newsletter will be distributed from Friday 20th September via Parentmail email.

Reading

All children, by the end of the week, will have had a reading record book in their book bag, together with a book from school. The book from school will naturally be changed more often in Key Stage 1 classes, as older children tend to pick longer novels that may take them a couple of weeks to finish.

If at any stage your child is without a reading book or reading record book, please contact their classteacher in the first instance. When a child has completed their reading record book, they will be rewarded with a certificate and issued with a new record.

Reading record books are best stored in book bags or school bags.

Diary Dates

Keeping up with all the things that go on in school couldn't be simpler and we urge you to regularly keep updated in order that nothing is missed! We produce a fortnightly newsletter which is sent to all Parents via ParentMail. Please contact the School Office if you would like a paper copy put in your child's bag. Our first newsletter of the academic year will be distributed on Friday 20th September. You can also always access our school diary via the website, <http://www.blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk/>

Already set for Autumn term are;

Date	Event
Friday 27 th September	Phonics Parental Session - more information to follow shortly!
Tuesday 01st October	Harvest Festival - please see more information later on in the letter about this.
Wednesday 18 th October	Maths Parental Sessions - more information to follow!
Monday 21 st October 3.30-6.00pm	Autumn term Parent Consultations
Wednesday 23 rd October 5.00-7.30pm	Autumn term Parent Consultations

Breakfast Club & After School Wrap Around Care

We are delighted to be able to offer our daily Breakfast and After School wrap around care. Our fabulous Breakfast Club is run by TA, Mrs Harper, daily 7.45-8.45am with our After School Club being run by TA's, Mrs Pomfret and Mrs Mylon.

Booking is essential and should you need to make a cancellation (even if your child starts a new after school club) please inform the School Office to avoid a charge being made. When signing up for a after school club and your child normally attends wrap around after school care, please ensure you have cancelled their place at wrap around care.

Please see below the costings for each club.

BREAKFAST CLUB 7.45-8.40AM £5.00 BREAKFAST & CHILDCARE £4.00 CHILDCARE ONLY WITH A REDUCTION FOR SIBLINGS ATTENDING OF: £4.00 BREAKFAST & CHILDCARE £3.00 CHILDCARE ONLY)	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB 3.15-4.15PM CHARGED AT £5.00	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB 4.15-5.30PM INCLUDING LIGHT TEA CHARGED AT £6.50
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PLEASE CAN WE ASK THAT AT LEAST 24 HOURS NOTICE IS GIVEN WHEN BOOKING EITHER SERVICE TO ENABLE CORRECT RATIOS.

In the first instance please email office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk

Payment terms: 14 days after invoices are received. We reserve the right to refuse bookings for any child who is not up to date with their payments

New School Counsellor

We welcome to a new role of School Counsellor, Mrs Lydia Godfrey. Mrs Godfrey will be familiar to a lot of you as our Forest School lead. Having recently qualified as a child therapist we are delighted to share with you that she will be working with us for Term 1 in the hope that this provision continues throughout the academic year.

Forest School

During Autumn term Class 3 will be partaking in weekly Forest School on a Thursday, starting Thursday 12th September. Mrs Godfrey, our Forest School leader, is solely reliant upon Parent Volunteers to enable the children to enjoy Forest School down at the woods. Please can we urge you to volunteer for a session. Class 3 Forest School dates and rotas have been distributed via ParentMail and bookbags. Please contact the School Office who will be able to pop your name down next to a date. Should we not have enough offers of assistance, Forest School will remain in School.

Class 1 Forest School will continue all year round on a Monday afternoon, using the School grounds. This will start from Monday 09th September.

Rota's for both Class 3 and 1 have been distributed via ParentMail email.

School Uniform

All uniform orders to be placed directly with our supplier SinoSaurus. There is a direct link to their bespoke Blackboys School ordering pages via the School website www.blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk/. We strive to keep our high expectation of uniform and neatness. We do hold a small amount of uniform in School, in the event of an emergency, it is worth checking with the School Office to see if we are able to source quickly. Please remember that we expect children to wear black, traditional school shoes, no boots or trainers.

Contact with teachers

Should you wish to make contact with your child's teacher, please can we ask that in the first instance you email them. All staff will happily communicate through email during working hours. Please see below contact email addresses for our teaching staff and other key School contacts.

Class 1, Mrs Booth	sbooth@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
Class 1, Mrs Nobes	jnobes@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
Class 2, Mrs Sullivan	hsullivan@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
Class 3, Miss Rietdyk	crietdyk@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
Class 4, Miss Mayhew	damayhew@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
Class 5, Mr Boorman	rboorman@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
Mr Sullivan, Headteacher	head@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
School Office	office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk

Class Assemblies and Thursday Act of Worship

Weekly on a Thursday and starting from Thursday 05^h September, we welcome Parents/Carers to share our Thursday Act of Worship weekly with us. Please come to the hall for a 9.05am start throughout the term. Please see below table for notable Acts of Worship. Please keep an eye on the diary and forthcoming whole school newsletters for other class assemblies taking place during term 2.

EVENT	WHEN	DETAILS
FATHER JAMES	THURSDAY 19 TH SEPTEMBER 9.05AM AND THURSDAY 10 TH OCTOBER 9.05AM	SCHOOL HALL
UCKFIELD FOODBANK	THURSDAY 12 TH SEPTEMBER 9.05AM	SCHOOL HALL
CLASS 2 LED ACT OF WORSHIP	THURSDAY 17 TH OCTOBER 9.05AM	SCHOOL HALL
CLASS 5 LED ACT OF WORSHIP	THURSDAY 24 TH OCTOBER 9.05AM	SCHOOL HALL

If you are able to send your child into School with a couple of pennies each Thursday, they will then be given the opportunity to offer their contribution during the assembly. All monies collected go towards a charity each term which is decided by the School Council.

Annual Whole School Harvest Festival

Our annual Whole School Harvest Festival will take place on Tuesday 01st October, starting promptly at 9.05am. Children can be dropped off directly to the Church, St Thomas á Becket, Framfield from 8.30am. All Parents/Carers are welcome to attend.

Our KS1 pupils will be returning to School via a Coach (paid for by the School). Should you wish your child not to return on the coach, please inform us via the office email address.

Pupils within KS2 will be taking their traditional hike back to School and will require a change of clothes in a bag (rucksack) with suitable walking/weather clothing/footwear and a packed lunch with drink required. A plastic bag or similar would be beneficial to sit on.

There will be NO breakfast Club taking place on this day.

Parental Contact Details

In case of emergencies, School holds contact details for all parents (and other family members which you have given as a contact) for each pupil. It really is **very important** that should you have moved house, jobs or wish to add another contact number please can you make sure that you inform the School Office of this. If in doubt you are welcome to check with the office what numbers etc. are held.

ParentMail

As a school we use ParentMail to communicate things like fortnightly school newsletters, uniform orders etc. with Parents. Please ensure that you update your contact details on this to ensure that you are kept up to date with all news The school office is unable to amend any parents details who have 'connected' via ParentMail.

Medicine and Illness

Please can we remind all parents that we are only able to administer medicines prescribed by a Doctor in School. You will need to complete a medicine consent form when you first bring the medicine to the School Office.

In the event of your child being sick or having an upset tummy, we ask that you keep your child away from school for 48 hours from the last bout of illness. This is to hopefully help with the reduction of keeping illnesses away from school.

PTA

Our PTA worked hard last year to put on some very profitable and enjoyable events. These events cannot go ahead without the support and engagement of the whole school community. We urge you to join our current PTA group, on the evening of Thursday 26th September at 7pm in the School Hall where the PTA Annual General Meeting will take place. We look forward to seeing you there.

In addition to the AGM our PTA warmly invite all Parents/Carers to an informal coffee morning meet up next Friday 13th September 9am in the School Hall. Come and socialise over a cup of coffee or tea, enjoy a biscuit and get to know our wider School community. Please see attached poster sent with the ParentMail email.

Social Media

Following feedback in our 2024 Parent survey, we now have a School Instagram account to support our 'X' (formally Twitter) feed. Our aim is to promote the School and showcase our achievements. Parents who have previously not consented to their child appearing on 'X' can be assured that the same ruling will apply to Instagram. Later this term we will be re-issuing our 'GDPR' photo consent form in case changes wish to be made. You can access our Instagram account by searching for @blackboyysschool.

Clubs - Autumn Terms 1&2 24/25

Attached are the lunchtime and after school club options for the term. We are delighted to be able to offer a large number of choices for clubs this term.

You will note there are limited clubs available for the new Reception pupils. This is a deliberate decision to allow the pupils time to adjust to the school environment and routine.

Please fill in the clubs form, attached and return it to the School Office, for ease we encourage you to also return the form completed, scanned to the School Office via email. If the club has a maximum number of attendee's a Parentmail email will be sent out informing you of your child's allocation of place or not, as the case may be. Please do ensure your contact details are up to date.

If there is no maximum number stated, please be assured your child can attend.

Where payment is due for a club please arrange payment (noting who made payable to dependent on which club!) to be brought in alongside the club choice slip or as directed on the club return form.

We are also asking that should you put your name down for a club, that attendance is required for the duration of the club.

As mentioned previously, can we remind those of you who use Wrap Around After School Care and your child takes up a club it is important that you notify the office of your wish to remove your child from the relevant session of the After School session to prevent a charge being made.

Yours sincerely

G Sullivan

Mr G Sullivan
Headteacher

Club Authorisation:

Please return this slip to the School Office. You can also return via a scan and email to office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk

I would like my child/ren _____

DAY	CLUB	WHO CAN ATTEND	PAYMENT REQUIRED/REMINDER INFO	PLEASE TICK IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND
MONDAY	SCHOOL LEARNING COUNCIL	TWO REPRESENTATIVES PER CLASS	VOTED FOR IN CLASS	
	BOOK CLUB	YEARS 1-4		
	GUITAR CLUB	OPEN TO ALL PUPILS	PLEASE ALSO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH RBMS https://rbmsmusic.com/join/	
	KS2 FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATING GIRLS' FOOTBALL	KEY STAGE 2 (YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6) CHILDREN ONLY	NO CLUB 21 ST OCTOBER 2024	
TUESDAY	CHOIR CLUB	OPEN TO ALL PUPILS		
	GUITAR CLUB	OPEN TO ALL PUPILS	PLEASE ALSO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH RBMS https://rbmsmusic.com/join/	
	ART CLUB	YEARS 2-4	SPACES LIMITED TO 15. A PARENTMAIL EMAIL WILL BE SENT INFORMING OF SUCCESS OR NOT IN GAINING A PLACE	
	AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUB (INCORPORATING BASKETBALL CLUB)	KEY STAGE 2 (YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6)	£28.00 FOR TERM 1 - PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE VIA CASH OR PARENTPAY, PLEASE ASK FOR THIS TO BE DEBITED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.	
WEDNESDAY	KS1 FOOTBALL SESSIONS	KEY STAGE 1 ONLY (YEARS R, 1 & 2)	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION FOR DIRECT TO CLUB SIGN UP	
THURSDAY	CHESS CLUB	YEARS 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	SPACES LIMITED TO 20. A PARENTMAIL EMAIL WILL BE SENT INFORMING OF SUCCESS OR NOT IN GAINING A PLACE	
	NETBALL	KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6) CHILDREN ONLY		
FRIDAY	GUITAR CLUB	OPEN TO ALL PUPILS	PLEASE ALSO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH RBMS https://rbmsmusic.com/join/	
EVERY DAY!	READING CLUB	OPEN TO ALL PUPILS		
NO SIGN UP REQUIRED!	LUNCHTIME WHEELIE WEDNESDAY	BY YEAR GROUP ON A ROTA BASIS		

Further information if required: