



Blackawton Primary School

Frequently Asked Questions

The Jargon Buster

Article 28 (right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.



What are INSET days?

INSET stands for In Service Training. All schools in England have five INSET days every year when they are closed to pupils to allow for staff training. They are an important part of staff training and development, ensuring that staff stay up to date with latest developments and so education in our school remains 'cutting edge'.

What is the Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage is Nursery and Reception (age 2-5).

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum?

The Early Years Foundation Stage or EYFS is the curriculum that all nursery and reception children follow. To find out more <https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/0778-What-to-Expect-When-2018.pdf>

What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journey scrapbook used as a way to record the special moments of our Foundation Stage children; each entry forming a thread in the warp and weft of the tapestry that is a child's life. These scrapbooks are used in conjunction with the EYFS developmental stages to assess more formally how children are progressing. They are also key to keeping parents involved in a partnership with us at school.

<https://tapestryjournal.com/s/Blackawton-primary-school>

What are Key Stage 1 and 2 (KS1 and KS2)?

Key Stage 1 is Years 1 and 2 (age 5-7).

Key Stage 2 is Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (age 7- 11).

What is the National Curriculum?

The National Curriculum outlines what all children should be taught in each Key Stage. To find out more go to <http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/>

How are class allocations decided?

Our primary objective is to ensure that all children are happy in school, and work towards the age-related expectations (ARE) set out in the statutory National Curriculum. As we have vertically streamed (mixed year group) classes, we plan and teach to cover 2 year groups*.

Staff all meet at the beginning of the summer term to discuss classes for the following year. As well as attainment; we look closely at the children's social and emotional well-being and where friendships support learning; as well as the number and mix of pupils available within each year group.

Primary education is predominantly about building solid foundations in reading, writing and numeracy – the analogy we use with the children is that of a Jenga tower, if there are gaps lower down then we have a very wobbly tower to move forward with. Once the tower is strong enough, children are ready for the many years of learning ahead, at secondary school and beyond.

Using the end of the spring term assessments, we carefully consider whether your child would benefit from revisiting some elements of the curriculum.

The mix of year groups within each class may also change due to fluctuation in numbers of children entering and leaving the school. Taking all these factors into account we allocate classes on a need by need basis.

** A small number of children will require a significantly differentiated curriculum, regardless of their chronological age, that we deliver through a SEND plan which parents are invited to be a part of.*

How and when will we be informed of classes prior to transition?

The final decision is usually made by the end of June, when we have all the data regarding new entry pupils. Parents will be e-mailed individually. We cannot send out whole class lists due to recent GDPR requirements. Once parents have been informed, children will then be notified and will have a transition period with their new class and teacher.

What is SEND?

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disability. We have a SEND Co-Ordinator who works across the four primary schools in the south hub: Blackawton, East Allington, Stoke Fleming.

What is a provision map?

A **provision map** is a management tool providing an 'at a glance' way of documenting and showing the range of **provision**, additional staffing and support that a school makes available to its pupils. **Provision** can then be planned to meet those needs and track pupil progress so as to improve learning outcomes.

What are SATs?

They are Statutory Assessment Tasks. These are national tasks / tests which are used to assess all children at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6). The SAT results give a 'snapshot' of children's attainment; in other words how they achieved in particular tasks or tests taken on a specific day / week.

What is Teacher Assessment?

This is the teachers' judgement about the progress and attainment of a child. This judgement will be made based on evidence gathered over a period of time and from a range of pieces of work, together with test results. It is usually a more reliable judgement of a child's attainment than a test result alone.

What is a TA?

A TA is a Teaching Assistant. This is somebody who supports the teacher to support learning in the classroom. Sometimes they will work with individual children, at other times they may work with a group or with the whole class. We are very fortunate to have highly skilled TAs at Blackawton who we value greatly.

What is PPA time?

This is Planning, Preparation and Assessment time; all teachers are entitled to PPA time.

What is a Celebration Assembly?

These assemblies happen most Friday afternoons and they are an opportunity to recognise and reward children's particular. Other achievements, such as sporting successes and achievements outside school are shared and celebrated too.

When do we get a school report for our children?

School reports are issued to all the children at the end of the Summer Term.

How do I give feedback about my child to teachers?

The start of the school day is often very busy for staff as they are preparing materials, interventions and activities to get the children settled. If it is an important message, which may affect your child's behaviours or learning, and the teacher is unavailable, then please leave a message at the school office. In classes 4&5 we are encouraging children to talk directly to the class teacher about minor concerns. If you'd like to talk for a bit longer, then ask your child's teacher if you can arrange a time that is convenient for you both. You can do this at any time of the year.

How frequently are Parents' Evenings?

Parents' Evenings are held twice a year. The first are in the autumn and the second in the spring.

What is a Parents' Forum?

Parents' Forums are an opportunity for parents to meet with other parents and member of the school staffing team to discuss current issues and developments in the school. Parents have the opportunities to ask questions, put forward ideas and find out about daily life at Blackawton Primary School.

How do I contact the Headteacher?

You can do one of a number of things:

- 1) Call in to the school office and make an appointment
- 2) Email school on parent@blackawtonprimary.org.uk or
- 3) Write a letter. As our Headteacher is also a class teacher they may not be able to respond immediately

When can my child learn a musical instrument?

We have a number of peripatetic music teachers who provide instrument tuition during the school week. Times, costs and starting ages vary. Many children start learning an instrument in Year 1, a few when they are in Reception and some start when they are older. Please contact the school office for more information.

Do the children have swimming lessons?

All children have at least 1 timetabled swimming session per week in the summer term. We try and use the pool for as long as possible in the autumn term, but obviously stop the sessions when the weather is too inclement!

Why don't we have a school uniform?

Consultations with parents and children have overwhelmingly shown that most people don't want one! The majority of children enjoy being able to wear what they want to school. We do ask that children come suitably dressed for an active and practical education. This means they should wear clothes they can move comfortably in and which can withstand water, paint and mud splashes. Clothes should be suitable for the time of year; warmer layers in winter, cooler materials in

summer. We ask children not to wear sandals or shoes without back steps (eg flip flops) and not to wear strappy vest tops

What is Forest School kit and when should it be in school?

Forest school kit consists of: Waterproof trousers and coat, wellies and extra layers through the winter. In the summer sun-hats are essential. We also need for all children who have long hair to have a hair-bobble so that they can tie it back. Forest school clothes should be in school every day in order that we can safely take our learning outdoors at any time.

When do my children sit their SATS?

SATS are taken towards the end of Year 2 (the times are variable, during April and May) and at the end of Year 6 (a specific SAT week is set nationally every year, usually the second or third week of May).

Is PE kit compulsory?

Yes. This is for health and safety reasons in. Our PE kit consists of a white T-shirt, black shorts or track-suit bottoms and a change of shoes (trainers or black/white gym shoes). For PE in the hall when children are using the apparatus, shorts must be worn. For other PE activities, the children can choose if they wear shorts or track-suit bottoms. Sweatshirts can be worn for outdoor PE. No jewellery or watches can be worn and long hair needs to be tied back.

Where is the lost property kept?

We do not have a central lost-property box as we want children to take responsibility for looking after their belongings. Please help us to help the children by labelling all clothing clearly with your child's name.

Am I allowed to take my child out of school for a holiday or day off?

What happens if I do?

Regular attendance at school is essential. Only **exceptional** circumstances will be authorized. Holidays in term time are no longer able to be authorized. If 5 days are taken for holidays within a 6 month period then a fine will be issued, these do not have to be consecutive. If you do wish to take your child out of school then you should fill in a request form and submit it to the office.

What are the expectations for Home Learning?

Home Learning is an opportunity for parents to engage with their child's learning, for children to rehearse and consolidate areas of the curriculum taught that week, as well as developing skills in self-organisation and becoming advocates for their own learning. Class teachers will send a letter home at the beginning of the year outlining when it will be given and collected in.

How about what is accelerated reading and what is a ZPD?

Accelerated Reader is a computer-based program that schools use to monitor **reading** practice and progress. It helps teachers guide children to books that are on children's individual **reading levels**.

Children take short quizzes after **reading** a book to check if they've understood it.

Zone of Proximal Development is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

What is PSHE?

PSHE stands for Personal, Social and Health Education. It is taught discreetly as well being a part of everything we do during the school day. RSE, which stands for Relationships and Sex Education is part of this and is covered at KS2 and focuses on healthy relationships and development. Parents are informed of the detail of and time at which these sessions will be covered before they commence each year.

Residential Visits

Residential visits are an exciting and valuable part of the curriculum we offer at Blackawton. These opportunities take place in Years 4, 5 and 6. The visits on offer vary from year to year.