# Blackawton Primary School NEWSLETTER

Creative - Confident - Caring



#### Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of our 'full' second week back, I have been reflecting on how much has already been achieved in such a short space of time. It has certainly been busy, but it has also been wonderful to see so much learning taking place, both in classrooms and outdoors. The children have really thrown themselves back into school life with enthusiasm, and it has been a joy to see their curiosity and energy shine through across so many areas of the curriculum.

Attendance to date		
Class 1	97%	
Class 2	96%	
Class 3	97%	
Class 4	95%	
Class 5	82%	
National expectation	96%	

Hopefully, you have now received our 'Dates for the Diary' for the year ahead. We know how important it is for families to have notice of key events so you can plan around work, childcare and other

commitments. While we have shared as much as possible at this stage, there will always be things that come up throughout the year, and we will make sure the current term's dates are kept fully up to date in the weekly newsletter. This way you'll always have the latest version in one place, should anything be added or changed. As with last year, we will continue to keep you updated about upcoming events through our weekly newsletters, the school website, our Facebook page and class lists. You'll receive updates and reminders via Bromcom.

If you haven't yet joined our Facebook page, we would really encourage you to do so—it's a quick and easy way to see reminders, useful links, and our weekly community news posters, which highlight what is happening in and around our community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working together makes such a difference to the

experiences we can offer your children, and we are really excited about the year ahead. We wish you a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes,

Liam Fielding and Charlotte Buckle

Headteacher Deputy Head



We educate children so they can lead great lives





Wednesday 24 September 2025	SEND Parent Forum, 2-2:30pm
Friday 26 September 2025	European day of languages
Thursday 2 October 2025	Mini first aid at school
Friday 3 October 2025	Library visit to present 'summer reading challenge' awards
Monday 6 October 2025	Tempest whole school photos
Thursday 9 October 2025	Phonics meeting for Reception parents, School hall at 9am
Wednesday 15 October 2025	Junior Life Skills and swimming gala, Yr6
Friday 24 October 2025	Last day of term
Monday 3 November 2025	Back to school
Thursday 6 November 2025	RNLI water safety visit to school
Friday 7 November 2025	School immunisations, Reception to Yr6
Monday 10 November 2025	NSPCC workshops; Yr2, Yr5 and Yr6
Wednesday 19 November 2025	SEND Parent Forum, 2-2:30pm
Friday 21 November 2025	Children In Need
Friday 19 December 2025	Last day of term
Monday 5 January 2026	Back to school
	Please note—More dates to come.

Further school trips being organised, tbc.

Finer details will be sent closer to events.

unicef @

# CLASS 'SNAPPY' NEWS

### "New skills"

### **Nursery**

We've had a lovely week talking all about our families! The children enjoyed sharing who's in their family, drawing family pictures, and telling us all about the pictures from home. We're learning independence! Children have been practicing pouring their own drinks and even helping to wash up after snack time. It's been wonderful hearing the children chatting about their families, showing how proud and confident they are. We're making new friends, sharing toys, and learning how to take

turns — great big steps in settling into life.



### Class 1

The children have been enjoying playing with new friends and are becoming more and more familiar with all the new routines of Class 1. They have all painted a self portrait for our class display and created a mini clay face. This week we have looked at lovely photos from

home to find out about all things the children like doing with their families - looking after pets, going to the beach, riding, camping, swimming, crabbing, baking, seeing relatives... Wow, they are busy!



### Class 2

This week, Class 2 have been busy exploring their creativity and learning in lots of exciting ways. The children experimented with oil pastels, trying out different techniques to colour in the spirals they designed. In English, we have been diving into our story *Daisy Doodles*, learning the meanings of new words and bringing the story to life through role play, which the children really enjoyed.

In maths, we have been using a variety of

manipulatives to build and understand numbers from 0–20. Our Year 2 children also rose to a new challenge brilliantly, as they used Sparx Maths for the very first time!

### Class 3

This week in Class 3, we have explored electricity – where it comes from and which gadgets use mains power or batteries. In PE, we kicked off our invasion games, practising catching and throwing in Rugby. In Maths, we've been flexibly partitioning numbers to build strong problem-solving skills. In English, our imaginations soared as we learned to care for creatures – even dragons!

### Class 4

Class 4 have had a great week of learning! In science, we explored electricity and found out how to stay safe around it. In geography, we've been learning about informal settlements and what life might be like in them. We've also kept active in PE, working hard to sharpen our football and basketball skills, and the children are showing real progress and teamwork.

### Class 5

What a great week! We have ordered and compared numbers, dealing with numbers to 10,000,000 and all the way down to below zero. In English, we have been learning to improve our grammar within sentences; expanding our noun phrases, adding adverbials and linking with conjunctions. We have been lucky enough to have two visitors this week, so we have enjoyed learning more about biodiversity and also farming. We have started our history learning about World War II and the impact it had on life at that time and afterwards.



# News

As cooler air settles in and the leaves begin to fall, our Forest School has fully Forest School Adventures - Welcoming Autumn embraced the beauty and change that autumn brings. The children have been exploring and talking about the magical transformation of our trees, noticing the golden, red, and orange leaves starting to appear on the forest school floor. This week, we learned all about the difference between deciduous trees, which shed

their leaves in autumn, and evergreen trees, which stay green all year round.

In true Forest School fashion, we got hands - on with nature, creating leaf mobiles, building dens and tarp shelters, and keeping warm while chatting about the changing weather. The children noticed how the breeze is cooler now, and how some days the sky feels just a bit heavier with the promise of rain.

We also shared a heartwarming story about a little fox who tried to catch the falling leaves, hoping to save them from the wind. Though he couldn't stop autumn from arriving, he learned that change can be beautiful – and that letting go is part of nature's rhythm. The story sparked lovely conversations about feelings, change,

Through all these activities, we continue to nurture curiosity, resilience, and a deep love for the natural world. Autumn may mean saying goodbye to summer, but out in and the seasons. the 'forest', it opens the door to wonder, learning, and connection.























### MUSIC

This week has seen class 2 move on with their understanding and application of their skills using chime bars and glockenspiels. The children learned to read a graphic score and play together from it, focussing on dynamics. Class 3 have also progressed with their practical skills and understanding of reading a simple traditional music score and learning what the different markings mean. They then practiced what they had learnt using recorders

Class 4 totally aced ukuleles and glockenspiels this week and put those skills into action. Both strumming patterns and chord changes in both instruments and ocarinas. saw a marked improvement by the end of the lesson.

### Introducing Our Newly Elected School Captains and Vice Captains

This week, our newly elected School Captains and Vice Captains met for the very first time to begin their journey as leaders of our school community. Their first mission is an exciting one: to research and choose a selection of charities – both local and national – that they feel passionate about supporting over the coming year. At the next Family Group meeting, they will present their ideas, explain why each charity is important, and invite everyone to take part in a vote to decide which causes our school will champion together.

Being a School Captain is both an honour and a responsibility. The role involves setting an example for others, representing the school at key events, and giving a voice to the children in our community. Alongside the House Captains, they will also be asked to contribute to Children's Voice, helping to bring about positive changes both within school and in the wider community.

Our Vice Captains will play a vital supporting role, stepping in to lead when needed and working closely with the Captains to ensure that projects run smoothly. They will share responsibility for organising events, encouraging participation across the school, and making sure every voice is heard. Just like the Captains, they are role models for others and will have the opportunity to develop valuable skills in leadership, teamwork, and communication.

Together, the Captains and Vice Captains are eager to make a real difference – not only through fundraising but also by raising awareness of issues that matter. This year promises to be an exciting one, filled with opportunities for them to grow in confidence while making a meaningful contribution to school life and the wider community.

## **ECO News**



Something very exciting has begun at Blackawton School! We have launched a whole-school project to make our school grounds more colourful, wildlife-friendly, and full of biodiversity.

We were joined by Claire Matheson from Little GREEN Change, a brilliant organisation that helps schools and communities across the UK learn about the environment and take action to protect it. Claire spent the day with us, helping everyone get involved in making our own "little green change."

Children in Classes 1, 2 and 3 rolled up their sleeves to plant daffodils and crocuses, which will burst into colour in spring and give hungry bees and pollinators something tasty to enjoy. We also launched our brand-new "no mow" area on the stage field, which will become a safe and beautiful home for wildflowers and insects.

To celebrate the start of this project, our new school captains had the special job of planting two pear trees—something that will grow alongside our school and provide fruit for years to come!

The whole school then came together for an assembly, where Claire taught

us about plants, pollinators, and the simple things we can all do to care for the planet.

This is just the beginning of our journey to make Blackawton School a more nature—friendly place. We can't wait to see our flowers bloom, our pear trees grow, and our wildlife thrive!





### Farmwise visited KS2

Children in Classes 4 and 5 were lucky enough to have a visit from Farmwise on Wednesday. They enjoyed learning about farming in Devon; the magical feeling of getting muddy hands and understanding that milk doesn't just appear in the fridge. All children had the opportunity to milk a cow (sadly not a real one) and churn their own butter. They also learned about cereals before grinding wheat into flour. They had a good go at doing this and the classrooms will never look the same again! Their favourite part of the experience was sampling their homemade butter on a delicious scone at the end of it all.



### Gardening Club's 'Dough and Grow' harvest

When we came back after the long summer holidays, we were so excited to see what had grown in our school garden! All our hard work before the holidays had paid off – the beds were full of crops ready to pick.



We gathered shiny red and brown onions, crunchy beans, juicy tomatoes, tasty apples and even some fresh cucumbers. It was amazing to see how much had grown while we were away.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be turning some of our harvest into yummy chutney. You'll be able to try it at our Christmas events later this year – we can't wait to share it with you!

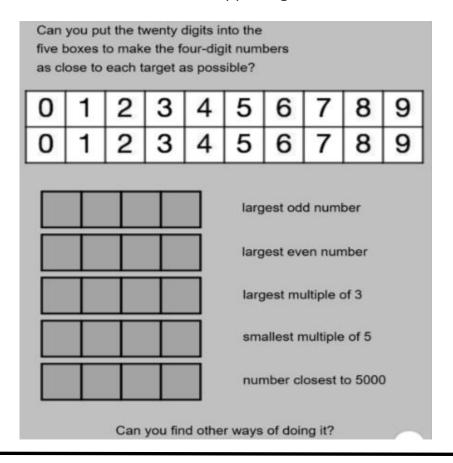
A big thank you to everyone in our community for helping to plant, water and care for the garden. We're already excited to see what we can grow next!

- The Blackawton School Gardening Team



#### Maths Problem of the Week - Family fun!

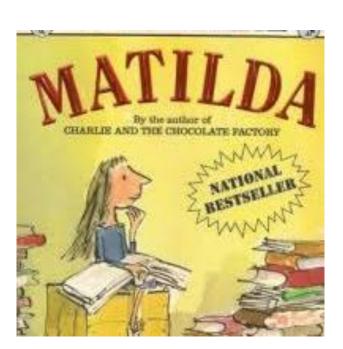
Have a go at this mathematical thinking to get your maths conversations happening at home.



#### Miss Burt's Recommended Read:

Celebrating the wonderful stories of Roald Dahl is always a pleasure, and even more so during Roald Dahl Week! This week's recommended read invites us to enjoy a little bit of mischief as we follow the brilliant Matilda, a girl with an extraordinary love of books, who uses her cleverness and courage to overcome the odds.

A story that celebrates the power of imagination and the importance of standing up for what is right.





**SEND Signpost** 

Sensing to Learn; Learning to Make Sense

# DISCOVER THE FIDGET **PROJECT**



A warm welcome for all parents, carers, and anyone supporting children with SEND/NDV ♥

With Lynne Tarrab-Snooks, exploring SPD and how they affect children's behaviour.

Why do some children struggle with noise, food, or busy spaces? The answer often lies in Sensory Processing Differences (SPD). Join us to learn what SPD are, how they connect to behaviour, and why understanding them can make family life feel easier.

- What are Sensory Processing Differences (SPD)?
- How sensory differences show up in daily life
- Tips and ideas for supporting children at home & school.
  - Wednesday 24th September 2025
- 🕑 2:00pm 3:00pm
  - Blackawton Primary School **Totnes TQ9 7BE**





**TUESDAY MORNINGS** 

FROM 10:00 to 11:00am



### **NURSERY HUT**



at Blackawton Primary School

Playing / Arts & Crafts / Making Friends

A session of fun and educational activities for you and your child(ren).

Led by Jo Mitchell, our Nursery Leader

Refreshments provided for children and adults

£2 per family



#### Available in school!



# Piano lessons with Jess Heywood, available in school

(with option to work towards accredited piano exams)

### Contact: jess\_h\_heywood@yahoo.co.uk

Jess is the Director of the Youth Festival,
Dartmouth Music Festival
and is available for new bookings

Please book your child's place by contacting Jess directly or get in touch with the school office.

## **RAILWAY 200:** CELEBRATING M IN DARTMOUTH

COME AND JOIN US

STEP INTO DARTMOUTH'S STEAM AND RAIL HERITAGE FOR A DAY OF DISCOVERY AND FUN FOR ALL AGES.



MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITS & DEVON STEAM TRAIN COMPANIES



NEWCOMEN ENGINE & HULSE MODELS



KIDS' ACTIVITIES (TRAIN-THEMED CRAFTS AND GAMES)



HISTORICAL TIMELINE TRAIL OF DARTMOUTH



MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES IN ROYAL **AVENUE GARDENS** 



NETWORK RAIL CAREERS



STEAM AND RAIL THEMED TALKS

BRING YOUR FAMILY, EXPLORE THE HISTORY, AND ENJOY A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF STEAM, STORIES, AND ENGINEERING.





SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE

### 27TH SEPTEMBER | 10AM-4PM EE EN

"PARTNERS MAY CHARGE FOR ATTRACTIONS, DONATIONS WELCOME

THE GUILDHALL. DARTMOUTH, TQ6 9RY

ORGANISED: BY DARTMOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & EXPLORE DARTMOUTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DARTMOUTH MUSEUM AND SUPPORTED BY DARTMOUTH TOWN



SPONSORED BY DARTMOUTH STEAM RAILWAY & RIVER BOAT COMPANY WWW.DARTMOUTHRAILRIVER.CO.UK

**BADS** proudly present a



In Blackawton Village Hall
On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025
At 6pm
For All the Family
Tickets Adults £2 / <18 free
(from the Community Shop or on the Door)

If you have a song or other piece of music, or a magic trick or a sketch to put on with a friend or two, please give your name – and encourage others to do the same – to kate.janman@gmail.com or another BADS committee member.

Or just come along and enjoy the show.



Dartmouth Young Farmers

Invite you to our

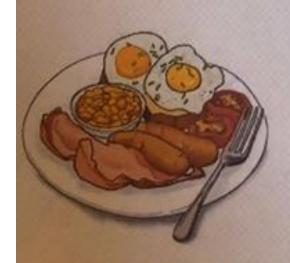
Charity Big Breakfast

Saturday 20th September

9-11am

Moreleigh Village Hall

Raising funds for Devon YFC







# Scouts Prize Bingo!

Saturday 11th October 2025

**Townstal Community Hall** 

Doors open:

6.30pm

Eyes down:

7:30pm

Caller: Linsey Little

Raffle Refreshments

With Cash flyer (must be over 18 to play)



### Shoebox Appeal 2025



A reminder that this year's Shoebox Appeal is coming up just before half-term, this year channelled through cr2ee, (Christian Response to Eastern Europe), operating from Exmouth.

These shoeboxes will be heading to **Moldova** and **Ukraine**. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe, and Ukraine is still in the grips of war. We know every single box will be gratefully received this Christmas!

Please bring any completed shoeboxes, (or contributions to put into boxes), to school by Monday 20th October (later than this will be too late!) So ideally, this date!!

Suggestions for contributions to children's shoeboxes:

Hat	Scarf	Gloves	Socks / tights
Hairbrush	Soap	Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Shower gel	Shampoo	Deodorant	T-shirt
Calculator	Colouring book	Paint Box	Pencils
Felt-tip pens	Wax crayons	Colouring pencils	Exercise books
Cuddly Toy	Tennis ball	Jigsaw Puzzles	Torch
Biscuits	Chocolates	Sweets	Pyjamas
For girls	Tights	Dolls	Beads
Friendship Bracelets	Craft Items	Glow Sticks	
Hair Clips & Slides	Lip Gloss	Purse	Jewellery
For boys	Lego Bricks	Toy Cars	Wallet
Glow Sticks	Airfix Type Models	Magnifying Glass	
Glow Sticks	Airfix Type Models	Magnifying Glass	

<u>Please label each completed box with the approximate age and indicate BOY or GIRL.</u> You are welcome to include photos of your family and a covering letter, but **no address** please. There is **NO COST** for transport or need for a paid barcode!

cr2ee has been sending shoeboxes to Moldova for over 20 years, and those organising the boxes know the poorest families well. Since the outbreak of war, they have also been delivering boxes to children in Ukraine, where normal life for children has been totally destroyed, and so these boxes will make Christmas very special for them.

Bless you and Thank you!







# OPEN EVENTS

Secondary Open Mornings 2025

Monday 15th September Wednesday 1st October 9.30am - 10.30am

To book your place please scan the QR code or visit our website







Tel: 01803 839700

Email: admissions@dartmouthacademy.org.uk www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk - Milton Lane, Dartmouth TQ6 9HW

# The Children's Bookshow

showcases the **best children's books** with authors and illustrators live on stage. **Come and see** 

#### Author, Alom Shaha, & illustrator Sarthak Sinha



Join us for a fun morning exploring Art,
Science and Literature through the book,
How to Find A Rainbow! Author and teacher
Alom Shaha will bring the science of light
to life on stage with some stunning
demonstrations, and he'll read stories too.
Indian illustrator, Sarthak Sinha, will draw for
us live, talk about his process and materials,
and reveal the important role of light when
creating picture books. Don't miss it!

**Venue:** Northcott Theatre, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4QB

Date: Tuesday 11 November

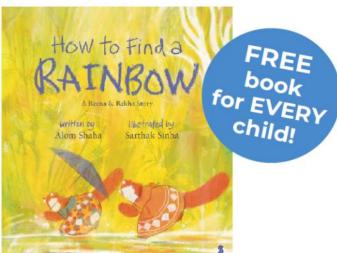
Time: 10.30am

**Duration:** approx. 1 hour

Age: Years 1, 2 and 3

Tickets: £7 (includes free

book for every child)



Four **FREE** in-school workshops with Alom and Sarthak (worth £500) available for schools attending the performance \*



Get in touch with Katy Webster to book tickets for this event: katyw@thechildrensbookshow.com 07904 068084

Find out more and how to book at www.thechildrensbookshow.com/performances



<sup>\*</sup> terms and conditions apply



Disclaimer: We may need to inform someone if we are concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored securely and can only be accessed by other authorised health care professionals who follow the same strict confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to your message within one working day and you should get an immediate message back from us to confirm we have received your text. If you need help before you hear back from us, please contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. In an emergency please dial 999. Unfortunately, our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some number masking' mobile apps). To opt-out of receiving messages from a healthcare professional, please text 'STOP' to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.



The Warmth & Wellbeing Service

### **HOME ENERGY ADVICE**

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a charity working locally to improve your warmth & wellbeing. In a preventative approach, our free helpline provides you with a single point of contact for services, advice and financial support in order to help improve the energy efficiency of your property.

#### BETTER HOUSING BETTER HEALTH CAN HELP WITH:

ENERGY BILL SUPPORT



HOME ENERGY VISITS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER





CALL US FOR FREE

0800 107 0044

OR VISIT: WWW.BHBH.ORG.UK

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### SUPPORTING CHILDREN

(1.5 hour session)

Wednesday 8th October 2025

at 6:30pm - 8:00pm

### Book here:

https://forms.office.com/e/SNCW7Szqqi







rduh.ohesds@nhs.net



01392 405 705



FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER

**VENUE: KEVICC, TOTNES TQ9 5JX** 

£20 | Age 5-14 Years | 10am-3pm



TO BOOK VISIT WWW.shearsoccer.co.uk

(AXO

Contact Adam on 07967 124844 or info@shearsoccer.co.uk

COACHING SESSIONS • SMALL SIDED TOURNAMENTS • FUN COMPETITIONS TROPHIES & PRIZES • CERTIFICATES • PLAYER OF THE COURSE AWARD IMPROVE PERFORMANCE • BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE • MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR BOYS & GIRLS OF ALL ABILITIES • ALL STAFF UEFA/FA & CRB OUALIFIED



# Junior Hockey Years 4 to 9

Tuesday's 5.00pm - 5.50pm

KCC AWP

Girls & Boys

### Starting Tuesday 16th September



You will need to wear trainers, shin pads and a mouth guard. Hockey sticks can be provided. Please bring a drink.

Cost is £25.00 subscription for the year and £30.00 for 12 sessions, from September to December.

If you would like more information, please email Sarah Budgen at slb1.home@outlook.com





Should I keep my

# child off school?



#### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over	
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode	
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19	
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics	
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared	
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started	
Scabies	they've had their first treatment	
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics	
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics	



but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever	
Head lice	Tonsillitis	
Threadworms	Slapped cheek	





Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit https://grco.de/minfec.

## Join our school on Classlist

Classlist is the parent app that brings you into the heart of our school community.

- Get in touch with parents in our school
- Ask questions to the parents in your child's class
- See what's coming up for you and your child
- Find like-minded friends in our community
- Organise meet-ups and birthday parties



It helps me to see who's who at my school and see who lives nearby

I can organise my child's birthday party and see who's coming



I can stay in the loop with important school info & PTA events coming up

Now I know who my child is friends with, I can get in touch with their parents

Round-up emails help me keep up with what's going on even when I'm busy

#### Is Classlist moderated?

Yes! This keeps our community friendly, welcoming and useful.

#### How much information do I need to share?

You're in control! You decide how much information to share and what notifications you want.

#### Is Classlist safe?

Yes! It's fully GDPRcompliant, private and secure.

### Sign up today! It's easy and completely free



Download the Classlist app on iOs or Android



Select our school and sign up



(iii) Classlist Smarter together.

www.classlist.com