



Building Bright Futures

Responsibility:
make good choices
because your
actions matter

Respect:
value everyone
and everything in
how you listen,
speak and in what
you do

Compassion:
show care and
understanding for
everyone

Courage:
be brave; believe
you can

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Blackwell News

Issue 1

12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you all to the start of a brand new academic year – and an especially warm welcome to our new families who have recently joined our school community. It's been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into school life, full of energy and curiosity!

Already, the school has been buzzing with activity and learning. This newsletter gives just a snapshot of the exciting things the children have been exploring so far:

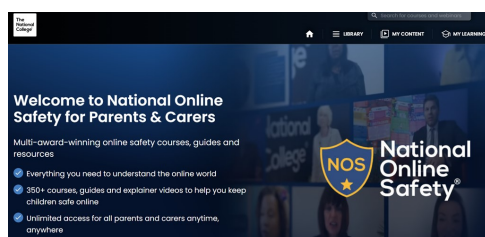
- * **Code Writing in Drawing Club** – Our young authors and illustrators have been combining creativity and early coding concepts in a fun and engaging way.
- * **Curious Quests** – Children have been immersing themselves and successfully crossed the bridge of doom!
- * **Stunning Starts** – Each year group has launched into their new topics with energy and enthusiasm through inspiring 'Stunning Starts' that set the tone for deep learning to come.
- * **Being Scientists** – Questions like "*How do we see?*" and "*How do we hear?*" have sparked hands-on science investigations as children begin to understand the world through exploration and experimentation.
- * **Woodland Classroom Adventures** – As always, our outdoor learning space has been a source of joy and discovery. Being in nature among the trees; the woodland classroom remains a firm favourite.

We're so proud of how our children have begun the year – curious, confident, and ready to learn. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting and enriching year ahead.

Sarah Martin
Headteacher

'Keep me safe online'

As we start the new academic year, we want to help you to keep your child safe online, so please find below a couple of resources to support you. The QR Codes below provide you with easy access. Do take the time to have a quick look as there are step-by-step instructions, as well as



Year R

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome our new Early Years children into Squirrels Class, along with many new families joining our Blackwell community.

The children have had a wonderful start, busily learning our daily routines, sharing their *All About Me* books, and beginning to form new friendships. We're excited for all the learning and adventures that lie ahead in the coming weeks.

Wishing all of our Squirrels the very best of luck as they begin their exciting journey into 'big' school!



Year 1

This week Year 1 have been getting to know their new classrooms and their outside area very well. They have all been settling into a really good routine.



All the children should be proud of their fabulous transition.

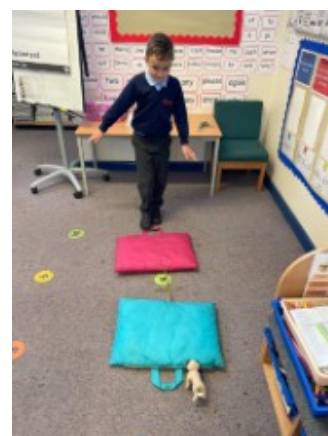
They have continued learning some new sounds in phonics, as well as using their imaginations for wonderful code writing in Drawing Club. For Maths the children have been practicing counting within 10 using physical resources, such as tens frames, counters and shells.



A wonderful start to Year 1.

Year 2

The children have a great start to Year 2s Curious Quest. We have all successfully crossed the bridge of Doom and look forward to reaching the Bridge of Anubix over the course of this year. The children had great fun inventing some of the hazards and exciting obstacles on the bridge. Can you spot the jagged cliffs, the sinking sand and the lava garden?



Year 3 & 4

We have had a fantastic start to Years 3 and 4! The children have settled in well and are becoming familiar with the routines and expectations of Key Stage 2. For our **Stunning Start** we have received a letter asking for our help to support a night shift worker who cannot sleep during the day! She wants us to **explore how to block out the daylight** so that she can get a good days sleep. To help us with this we explored how it would feel if we could not see as part of our **Science 'How do we see; how do we hear?'** Learning journey. The children took it in turns to wear a blindfold (or close their eyes if they preferred) and participated in a range of fun partner activities. The images below show the blindfolded obstacle course where their partner had to use their **oracy** skills to give clear instructions, then they had to build specific multilink structures using their sense of touch as well as being supported by their partner.



Year 5

Our **Stunning Start** to the new topic on materials was a huge success! Year 5 students jumped right in with a hands-on experiment exploring **non-Newtonian fluids**. Using just cornflour and water, they created "oobleck," a substance that acts as both a liquid and a solid. When they squeezed it, it felt firm, but when left alone, it flowed like a liquid. This fun, messy activity was a perfect way to get everyone thinking like scientists and ready for more learning.



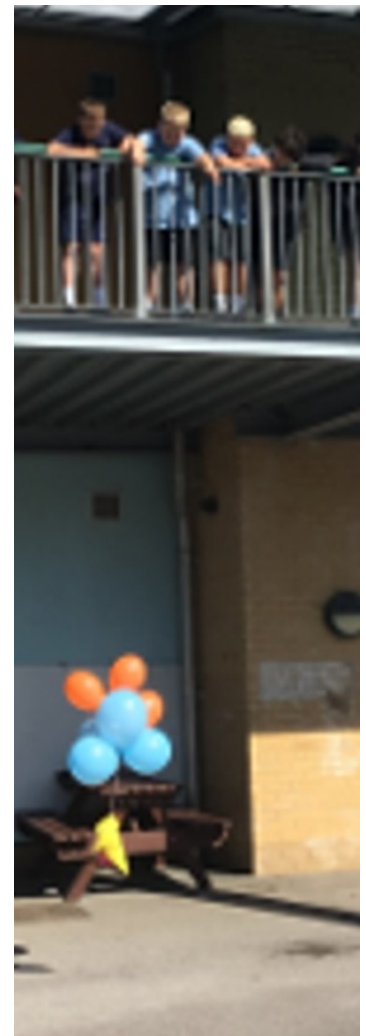
Year 5

Cedar Class were excited to be back in our woodland classroom this week. The lesson begun with the game 'Grassy Bridge', which focuses on the children using their knowledge of the animal kingdom to play the game. Then around the fire circle, the children use their senses to identify the birds they could hear. The lesson ended with an eco warrior theme, as the children used a metal detector to collect in any rubbish that has gathered over the summer, or buried rubbish from under the ground. They were able to find about 20 items of rubbish. Well Done Cedar!



Year 6

Year 6 have 'hit the ground running'; as well as working hard during our baseline assessment week, we have been scientists and engineers during our 'stunning start' to our new topic all about space. Inspired by the rover probes landing on Mars, learners worked in groups to design and create a method of protecting an egg from gravitational impact. We had huge success, only two eggs were harmed in the experiment!



September 2025

15th	PTA AGM—6.30pm
16th	Meet the Teacher meetings: session 1 3.20pm, session 2 at 4.00pm (repeated)
18th	Y5 and Y6 Opening Evening at Sackville School 5.30pm—8.30pm

October 2025

6th	Individual and sibling photographs
7th	Autumn 2026—Prospective Reception Parents Tour 9.30am—10.30am. Sign up via our website
9th	Reception parents — ‘4 weeks in’ meeting 9.00am—10.00am
14th	Parents’ Evening 3.30pm—6.30pm more details to follow
16th	Autumn 2025—Prospective Reception Parents Tour 1.30pm—2.30pm. Sign up via our website Parents’ Evening 4.00pm—7.00pm—more details to follow
22nd-24th	Year 6 Windmill Hill residential
27th—31st	Half-term break—school closed to children
31st	Deadline for Secondary School applications — apply here

November 2025

3rd	INSET Day—School closed to children
4th	Children return to school
10th—14th	Anti-bullying Week, with the theme: Power for Good
11th	Flu vaccine—more details to follow Autumn 2026—Prospective Reception Parents Tour 1.30pm—2.30pm. Sign up via our website
14th	Children in Need Day—more details to follow
20th	Autumn 2026—Prospective Reception Parents Tour 9.30am—10.30am

December 2024

22nd - 2nd
January

Christmas Holidays—School closed to children

January 2025

5th

INSET Day—School closed to children

6th

Children return to school