



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

Inside this issue:

BBC 500 Words	2
Blackwell Sport	3
Year R 1	4
Year 2	5
Year 3 & 4	6
Year 5	7
Year 6	8
Diary Dates	9 & 10

Blackwell News

Issue 2

25th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had another exciting and enriching two weeks at school, with a wonderful mix of creativity, learning, and leadership on display across all year groups.



BBC 500 Words Creative Writing Competition

Our young writers have been firing up their imaginations as they prepare entries for the BBC 500 Words competition. It's been fantastic to see such passion for storytelling — we can't wait to see where their creativity takes them!



Rugby Tournament Success

A huge well done to our rugby team who took part in a recent tournament. Their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship were a credit to the school.



Reception Adventures in Phonics

Our Reception children have been confidently practising their new letter sounds and beginning to form their letters with growing independence — an exciting start to their literacy journey!



Artistic Inspiration from Leonardo da Vinci

In Art, children have been exploring the work of Leonardo da Vinci, taking inspiration from the *Mona Lisa* for their own portrait work. The results are both thoughtful and impressive.



Learning About Healthy Eating

Classes have been learning about different food groups and the importance of a balanced diet — developing important knowledge about healthy choices.



How Do I See? How Do I Hear?

Our science curriculum has sparked curiosity as children deepen their understanding of how the human body works — especially the senses of sight and hearing.



Writing Inspired by 'Itch'

Older pupils have been inspired by the novel *Itch* in their writing, exploring adventurous and scientific themes through character and setting.



Congratulations to Our New Head Students!

We're thrilled to announce our new Head Students: **Cameron** and **Stephanie** — both elected by the school community for their leadership and dedication.



We're also proud of all our Year 6 pupils who have taken on important roles this year, including **Lead Learners**, **Librarians**, and **Computing Leads**. These responsibilities help them develop valuable skills and make a real impact on school life.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sarah Martin
Headteacher



In classes we have launched the BBC 500 words competition. The **500 Words Competition** is a popular creative writing contest for children in the UK. It gives children a chance to write and share their own short stories.

Key Information for Parents

The competition encourages children to use their imaginations and express themselves through storytelling. Here's what you need to know:

- **Who can enter?** The contest is open to children aged 5 to 13 who live in the UK.
- **What do they have to do?** They must write a **short story** of up to 500 words on any topic they like. This word limit is strict, so encourage your child to count their words carefully!
- **How are the stories judged?** The stories are judged anonymously by a team of readers and judges, including well-known authors and figures from the literary world. They look for creativity, originality, and the "wow" factor, not perfect spelling or grammar.
- **What are the prizes?** The winners receive some fantastic prizes, including books, literary fame, and the chance to have their story read aloud by a celebrity on live radio!

Why Should Your Child Enter?

Participating in the 500 Words Competition offers a wealth of benefits beyond just winning. It's an excellent way to:

- **Boost creativity and imagination:** It gives children a creative outlet to explore new ideas and build their own worlds.
- **Improve writing skills:** The process of planning, writing, and editing a story, even a short one, helps them develop their literacy skills in a fun and engaging way.
- **Build confidence:** Finishing a story and entering it into a national competition can be a huge confidence booster, showing them what they're capable of.

Encourage reading for pleasure: Often, the competition inspires children to read more, as they see how stories are crafted and what makes them captivating.

Information on the competition can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

The BBC Teach logo, featuring the letters 'BBC' in white inside a purple square, with the word 'TEACH' in white below it.

500 Words - BBC

BBC's 500 Words, the UK's largest children's writing competition for children aged 5-11, opens for entries Tuesday 23 September - Friday 7 November at 9pm.
www.bbc.co.uk

Blackwell Sport

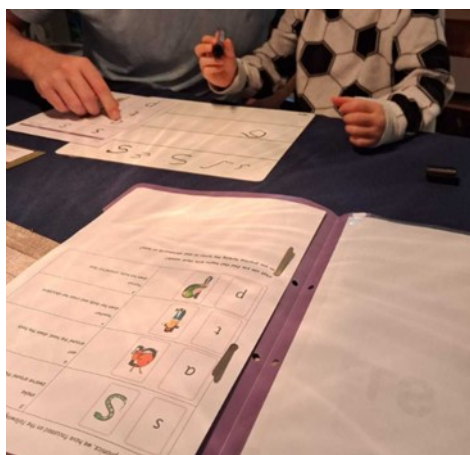
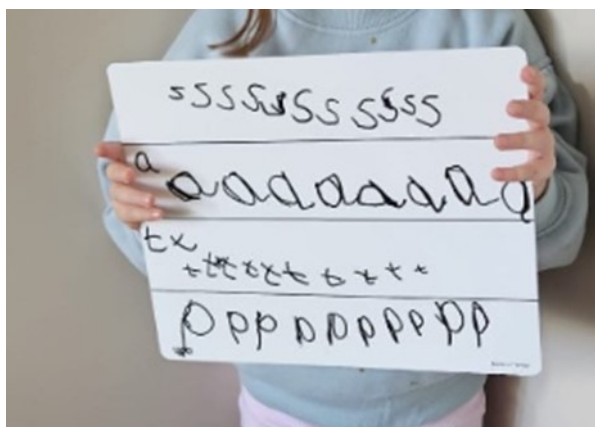
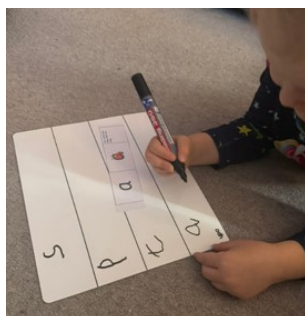
Rugby Tournament Success!

Year 3, 4, 5, and 6 did a brilliant job representing Blackwell at the recent rugby tournament. Years 3 and 4 learnt the important lesson of running forward while passing backwards – a key skill in rugby! Both Year 5 and 6 squads went undefeated, showing fantastic teamwork and determination. All the children demonstrated our core values throughout the event and showed great respect to the umpires. Well done to everyone involved!



Year R

We've been so impressed with the amazing home learning taking place in Reception! The children have been using their whiteboards and pens to confidently practise writing our new letter sounds. They've also been getting creative with their flashcards, playing games to help reinforce their phonics skills in a fun and memorable way. It's been wonderful to see them proudly sharing their photos and videos on Tapestry — a great way to stay connected and celebrate each other's learning!

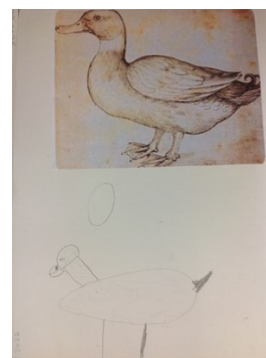


Year 1

Last week in Art, we were learning about Leonardo Da Vinci. We looked at the Mona Lisa painting and discussed the style and media used (oil and wood). We have created some of our own lovely painting on wood. We also discussed how it feels different to paint on wood rather than paper.



This week we have been looking at the line drawings by Leonardo Da Vinci. We have copied some of his sketches using tonal shading. Here are some examples of our work.

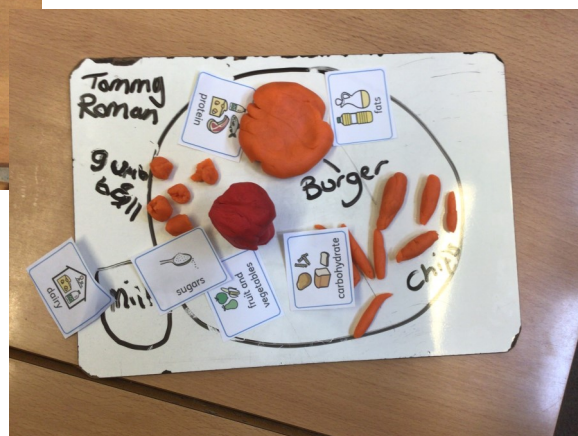
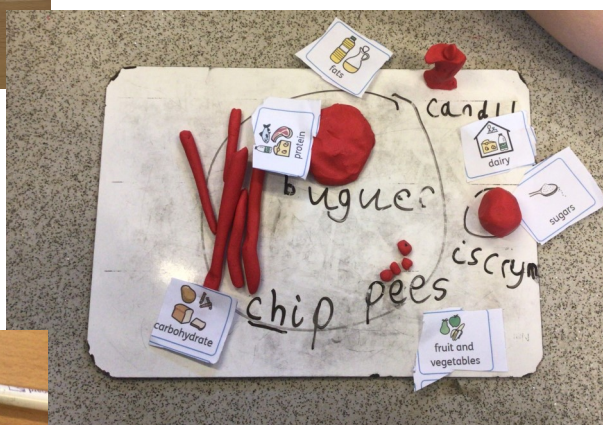
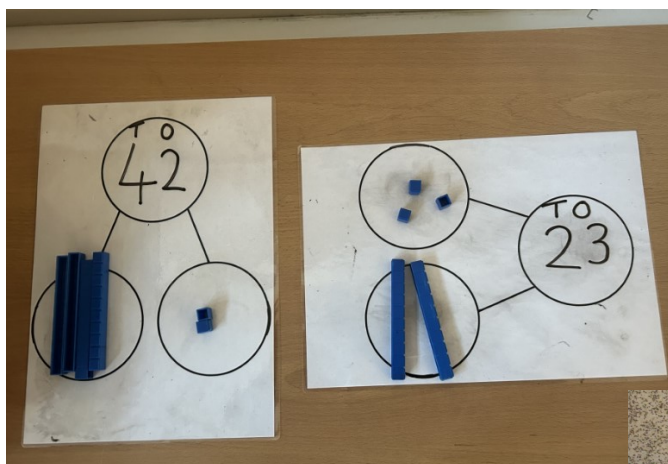


Another fabulous two weeks in Year 1, well done everyone.

Year 2

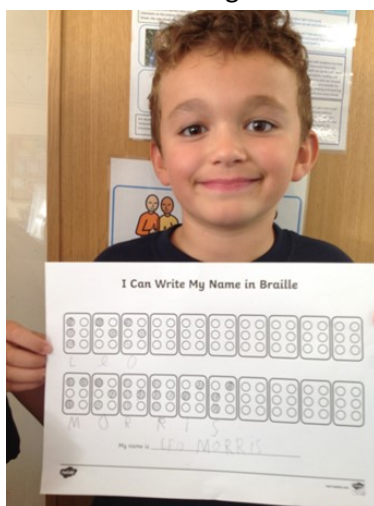
The children have enjoyed learning about different food groups and planning their own healthy meals that include a balance of different types of food. They planned their own meals using playdough or plasticine.

We've also enjoyed using dienes to help us partition numbers in different ways in maths. The dienes have been a great way to understand the value of each digit.

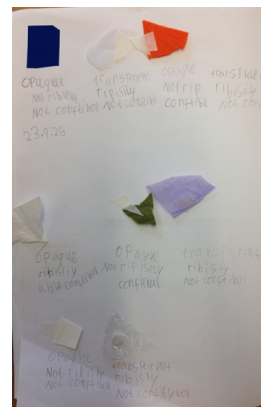
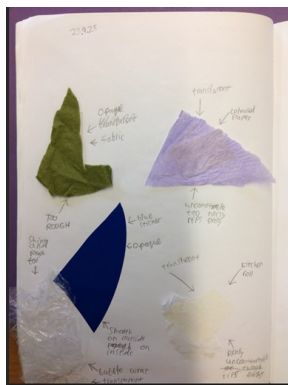


Year 3 & 4

Year 3 and 4 have deepened our understanding of our key question 'How do I see? How do I hear?' by starting to explore Braille. We have learned to read the 'code' of braille and have written our names and solved decoding challenges using braille. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning a new skill and will use it to read a braille book in the coming weeks!



In Design Technology we have been exploring materials so as to decide which might be most appropriate for when we make our own sleep masks. We tested materials to decide if they were opaque, translucent or transparent and those that were opaque we also tested their softness and comfort factors.

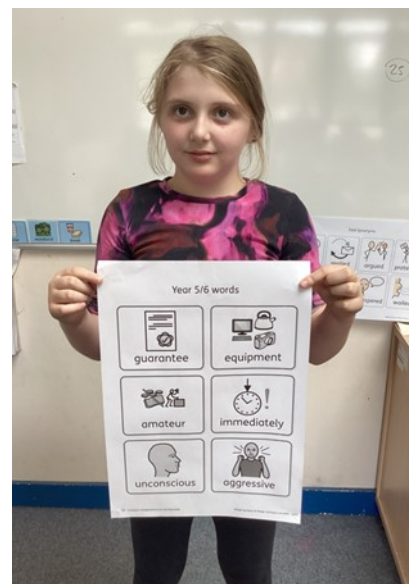
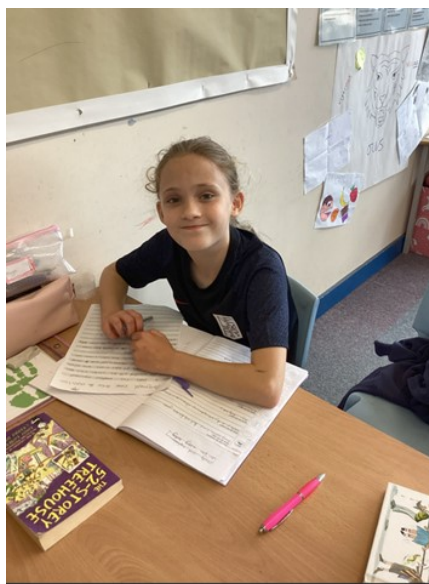
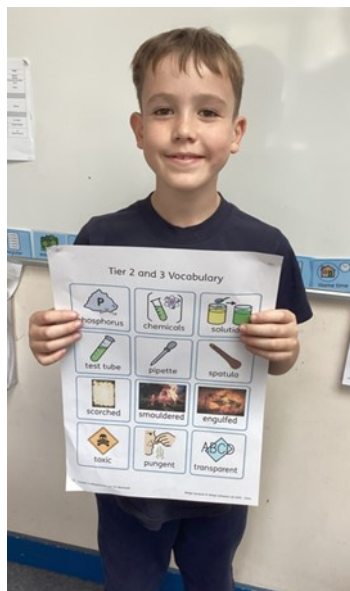


This is a great start. Children in Year 4 are smashing the MTC times table scores. These three are fast of fact and super motivated. It's not easy getting 25/25 in the test, but these mathletes have done it 9 months early. Boom



Year 5

In year 5 we have begun the process of drafting and editing our setting descriptions of Itch's bedroom before and after the explosion he caused. The children have carefully included expanded noun phrases, exciting vocabulary as well as some words from the statutory word list for year 5/6. Well done Year 5.



Oak Class are thoroughly enjoying their weekly library sessions. It has been wonderful to see the children exploring a wide range of books, discovering new authors, and sharing recommendations with their friends. These sessions are not only helping develop a love of reading but also building confidence and independence as the children choose texts that inspire and challenge them.



Year 6

**Head Students & Democracy**

What a jam-packed fortnight! Our Year 6 students kicked things off with **head student speeches**. This was a fantastic opportunity for the whole school to learn about **democracy** first hand as everyone cast their votes. All the candidates displayed great **courage and resilience**, standing in front of the entire school to deliver their inspiring speeches.

'Cosmic' & Informal Letters

We've been hard at work learning how to write **informal letters**, inspired by our amazing class text, '**Cosmic**'. The book has provided a great creative spark for our writing!

**Earth, Sun, & Moon Movements**

Things got a little dizzy in our science lesson as we **role-played the movements of the Earth, Sun, and Moon** relative to each other. It was a fun, interactive way to understand their orbits.

Gymnastics Skills 7

In PE, we're having a blast **honing our gymnastics skills**. We're focusing on **balances, traveling, and leaping**, and have even started performing some mini routines together.



September 2025	
30th	Harvest Festival

October 2025	
2nd	PGL Parents Meeting 6.00pm—7.00pm
6th	Individual and sibling photographs
7th	Autumn 2026—Prospective Reception Parents Sept 2026 Tour 9.30am—10.30am. Sign up via our website
9th	Reception parents — ‘4 weeks in’ meeting 9.00am—10.00am
14th	Year 6—NHS Healthy Programme check Parents’ Evening 3.30pm—6.30pm
16th	Autumn 2025—Prospective Reception Parents Sept 2026 Tour 1.30pm—2.30pm. Sign up via our website Parents’ Evening 4.00pm—7.00pm
22nd-24th	Year 6 Windmill Hill residential
27th—31st	Half-term break—school closed to children
31st	Deadline for Year 6: Secondary School applications — apply here

November 2025	
3rd	INSET Day—School closed to children
4th	Children return to school
7th	Year 1 trip to Tonbridge Castle
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
18th	Year 6 East Grinstead Museum visit—more details to follow
20th	Autumn 2026—Prospective Reception Parents Sept 20026 Tour 9.30am—10.30am
25th	Birch class assembly 9.00am parents invited

December 2025

22nd - 2nd January	Christmas Holidays—School closed to children
-------------------------------	---

January 2026

5th	INSET Day—School closed to children
6th	Children return to school
13th	Ash class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
20th	Robins class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
27th	Hares class assembly 9.00am parents invited

February 2026

16th—20th	Half term—School closed to children
23rd	INSET Day—School closed to children
24th	Children return to school