



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 3

10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a busy and exciting fortnight at school, filled with learning, celebrations, and achievements!

Highlights include our **Harvest Festival**, where we were joined by **Rev. Peaty** for a special assembly. A big **thank you** to everyone who donated so generously — your support is greatly appreciated.

We're also proud to be celebrating **Black History Month**, with children across the school learning about inspirational figures and their contributions to society.

In sport, our **Year 3 and 4 netball team** and both **girls' and boys' football teams** have been representing our school with fantastic energy and teamwork — turn to **page 4** for full match results and photos!

We marked **National Poetry Day** with creative writing and performances across the school, and of course, there has been lots of exciting learning taking place in the classrooms.

East Grinstead and District Lions

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the East Grinstead and District Lions for their generous donation and continued support. The donation will directly support child enrichment activities in our school.

Please read through this edition to find out more about what your children have been up to. Remember there are important dates at the end of the newsletter.

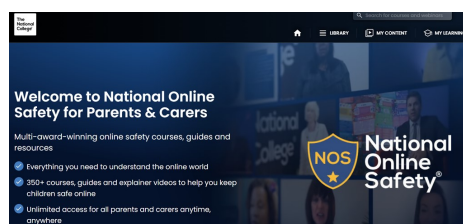
Thank you for your continued support.

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 short videos.

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/#choose-parental-controls-guide



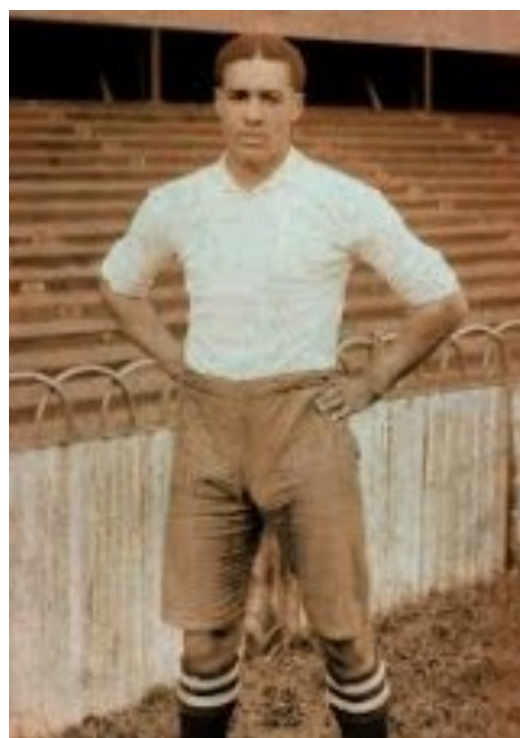
Harvest Festival - Thank you everyone for your donations which were gratefully received.



Black History Month

October marks Black History month in the UK; a chance to learn, understand and celebrate the amazing and important contributions of Black people globally. During assembly, learners listened to the inspirational stories of John Blanke, the first ever recorded Black person in British history and favourite musician to Henry VIII, Mary Prince, who campaigned to end slavery in the 1700's, Lillian Baden, the first Black woman to join the RAF and Walter Tull, one of the first Black professional footballers in England and first Black British Army Officer in the First World War.

Classes will have the opportunity to learn more about these inspirational figures and practice their oracy skills, learning from each other and articulating their own learning and Historical research.



Blackwell Sport

The Year 3 and 4 Blackwell Netball team did a brilliant job. They learnt about positioning on the court, staying with their 'partner' and trying to defend the ball and using all the space available to them on the court to work together to score a goal. They showed respect to the umpire and encouraged their team mates during the matches. Well done!



On Wednesday, we took a girls and boys team to a football tournament where they played against a wide range of local teams. Both teams showed excellent team work skills and respect for all umpire decisions. We had brilliant support from the parents and a huge hank you to Andy Oram, Andy Fitches and Stuart Bell who took time to coach the teams through the tournament. Not only did we achieve great results; the girls came third in the tournament and the boys won their tournament and are now though to a county final in November. But it was a simply marvellous day to be a member of Blackwell school and a great day for sport!





Welcome to Blackwell Book Corner!

We are excited to announce that our new school librarians are: Libby, Harriet, Nathan, Alisha and Oscar. The children introduced themselves in assembly and are excited to take on the responsibilities of librarians such as making book recommendations, helping tidy the library and help Miss Harman plan exciting book related events.

National Poetry Day is a wonderful annual event celebrated across the UK on the **first Thursday of October**, offering primary schools an excellent opportunity to put poetry centre stage and inspire a love of language in children. This year's theme is **play**. In Tuesday's whole school assembly, Miss Harman led the children in a whole school performance of a poem about play. The children used intonation, actions and facial expressions to deliver a terrific performance!

Do you want to be in the next newsletter? Write an acrostic poem using either the word 'play' or 'playing' and return it to Miss Harman.

P _____

L _____

A _____

Y _____

I _____

N _____

G _____

Year R

This week, the children enjoyed a wonderful Autumn walk to Mount Noddy, where they looked for signs of the changing season and gathered a beautiful collection of autumnal objects. Back at school, these treasures were used throughout the week to inspire learning in both maths and art, sparking curiosity and creativity. A big thank you to the adult helpers who joined us on the walk — it was a fantastic experience filled with lots of lovely learning!



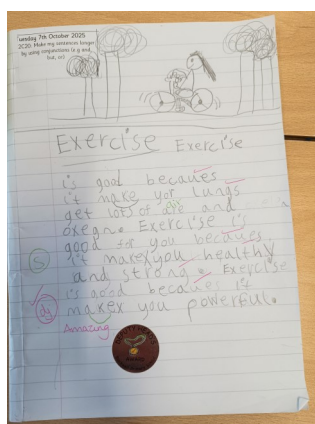
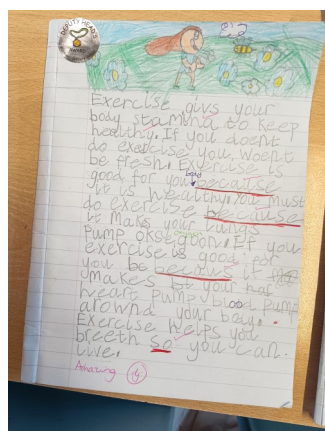
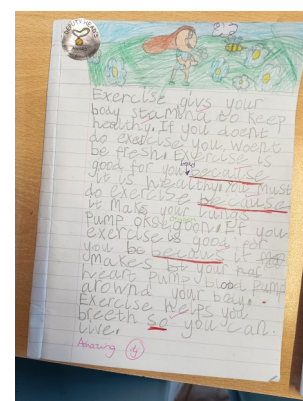
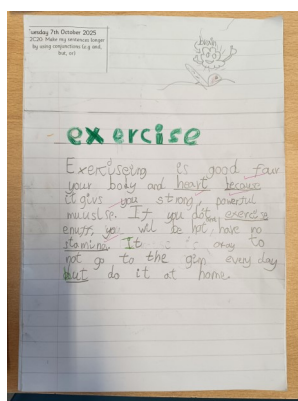
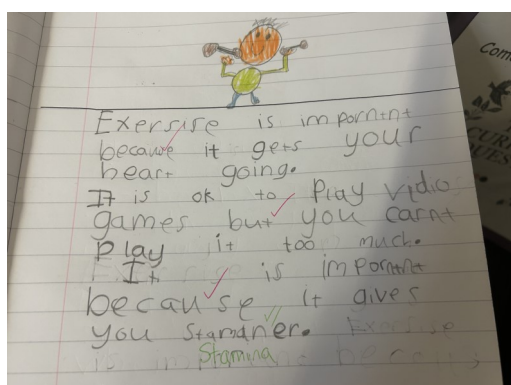
Year 1

Year One have been working hard during Physical Education over the past two weeks. The children have been performing basic gymnastic actions, including travelling, rolling, jumping and stay still. They have also been exploring linking a range of movements and shapes. A wonderful job and great focus by all.



Year 2

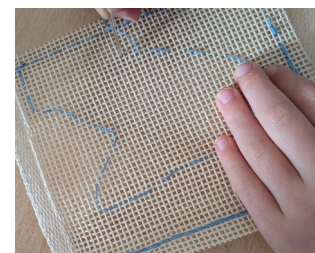
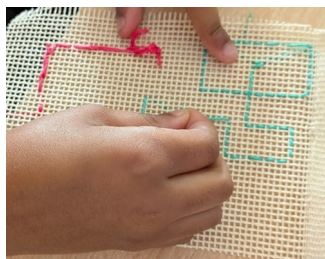
The children enjoyed testing out which party games were good for a 'healthy party' and which games didn't make us so active. We played a number of different games in the hall and then discussed their benefits afterwards. We also wrote about the importance of exercise in our curious quest challenge this week. Our code was 'to make sentences longer by using conjunctions.'



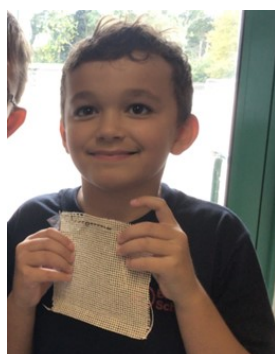
Name of the game	Does it raise heart levels/ get you out of breath?	Is it good for a healthy party?	Reason?
egg and spoon race	No	No	We didn't get tired or out of breath
clapping game	No	Yes - to calm	Good for our brains to still
balloon tennis	Yes	Yes	Fun, exciting and tiring
hot potato	Yes	Yes	Fun, heart rate going + team
musical statues	Yes	Yes	Uses a lot of energy
Conga	Yes/No	No	Just walking not out of breath

Year 3 & 4

Year 3 and 4 have been busy little sewing bees, practising back stitch and running stitch to sharpen our skills for all ready when we make our own eye masks.



In Years 3 and 4, the children have been developing their DT skills. They have explored joining methods using a variety of adhesives such as glue dots, double sided tape and glue. The children decided that sewing would be the best way to join the material together when they make their eye masks. The children then practised running stitch using Binka material. They then wrote a materials list of what they will need which includes: felt, fabric, elastic and thread. The children then made a 'mock-up' of their eye mask using paper which had three layers for the fabric and felt.



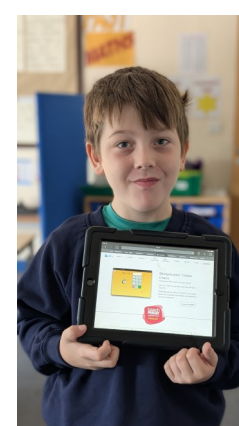
Say hello to these two "Mathletes",
These two are smashing it and we are rightly proud of them. Its only 5 weeks in to the term and they have both got full marks in their MTC test.
Hard work and determination always pays off.
If you want your child to improve, try these resources.
We use these in school and the children love working with them.

<https://urbrainy.com/mtc>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

or this APP for android and Apple

<https://keystagefun.co.uk/ttconnect/>



Year 5

In Science, Year 5 become brilliant chemists as they explored which materials dissolve in water and which do not. Working carefully and recording their results, the children tested sugar, flour, curry powder, vegetable stock, and oil.

They discovered that sugar, salt, and vegetable stock are soluble – they dissolve in water to make a clear solution. However, flour and curry powder are insoluble and remain visible in the water.

The children learned that dissolving happens when a solute, such as sugar, is added to a solvent, such as warm water, and the solute seems to disappear. Everyone enjoyed seeing science in action and understanding how everyday materials behave differently in liquids!



Year 6

Year 6 were totally inspired by the BBC's '500 word competition'. After a live lesson streamed to the nation with Lenny Henry, our writers took to their chrome books and wrote imaginative and varied stories. Stories ranged from fantastical detectives (who also happened to be strawberries in a candy land!) to spooky stories with cliff hangers, funny stories and even biographies on their sporting achievements. With parental permission, those writers who wish their story to be submitted will be sent off with a chance to meet the judge, Sir Lenny Henry and the Queen!



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
15th	Parents’ Forum 8.50-9.50am
16th	Autumn 2025—Prospective Reception Parents Sept 2026 Tour 1.30pm—2.30pm. Sign up via our website Parents’ Evening 4.00pm—7.00pm
17th	Year 2—Healthy eating workshop run by Chartwells
20th	PTA Cupcake sale 3.00pm
21st	Oak class assembly 9.00am parents invited
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 PTA Quiz Night 7.30pm—9.30pm
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
Sun 16th	PTA Table Top Sale 9.00am—12.00pm
18th	Year 6 East Grinstead Museum visit—more details to follow
20th	Autumn 2026—Prospective Reception Parents Sept 20026 Tour 9.30am—10.30am
21st	PTA Frozen Friday
25th	Birch class assembly 9.00am parents invited
27th	Year 2—Fire Service visiting
28th	PTA Frozen Friday

December 2025	
1st	PTA Christmas Wreath Making 7.00pm—9.00pm
5th	PTA Frozen Friday
9th	Nativity — Reception parents invited 9.00am—10.00am
10th	KS1 Nativity — Hares and Honeybees parents invited 9.00am—10.00am
11th	KS1 Nativity — Rabbits and Ladybirds parents invited 9.00am—10.00am
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