



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 5

15th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another exciting and busy couple weeks here at school, filled with learning, creativity, and reflection. This edition includes:

Anti-Bullying Week: 'Power for Good'

This week, our pupils have been taking part in activities linked to the national Anti-Bullying theme 'Power for Good'. We've explored how kindness, respect, and standing up for one another can make a real difference in our school community.

Remembrance Day

The children showed great thoughtfulness as we reflected on the importance of Remembrance Day. They created beautiful artwork and took part in moments of silence to honour those who have served and sacrificed.

Sporting Highlights

Our young athletes have been giving it their all in recent sporting events, where they've shown wonderful teamwork and determination.

Vocabulary and Imagination

Across the school, pupils have been working hard to expand their vocabulary and use new words in creative ways. Story writing and imaginative play have been a big focus—it's been inspiring to see such vivid ideas come to life!

School Visits and Historical Adventures

Classes have been stepping back in time during their recent trips to local castles, bringing history lessons to life. Some even travelled back to *medieval London* through drama and role play—what a fantastic way to learn about the past!

Maths in Action

We've also been sharpening our Maths skills by practising our times tables. Confidence and speed are growing every day—well done, everyone!

Looking Ahead

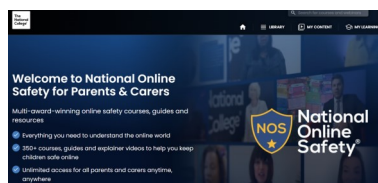
The festive season is fast approaching, and we have plenty of exciting activities planned to celebrate together. Please make sure to check the *important dates at the end* of this newsletter so you don't miss out.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Sarah Martin, Headteacher

[Keep me safe online](#)

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.



Blackwell's Book Corner!

The importance of reading:

Reading at home serves two vital purposes:

1. it cultivates the essential **skill of literacy** and
2. simultaneously nurtures a lifelong **love of reading for pleasure**.

For the beginning learner, dedicated reading time transforms abstract letters and sounds into comprehensible language, allowing them to practice and solidify the mechanics of decoding and comprehension in a relaxed, familiar setting. Crucially, as the child or new learner progresses, this same cosy environment fosters an appreciation for narrative, knowledge, and imagination. Choosing books that genuinely spark curiosity—whether they are picture books, fantasy novels, or non-fiction texts—turns the act of reading from a necessary lesson into an **enjoyable escape**, cementing the understanding that reading is not just a tool for learning, but a deep, personal source of enjoyment and intellectual growth.

What does your child like to read? What stories or texts do you read together? Do you have any fun or special routines for story time? Perhaps you have a bed time story that you are taking it in turns to read? Perhaps you are reading a more challenging text to your child to extend their understanding of vocabulary? Perhaps you have a specific blanket or den that you like to read in together.



Blackwell Sport



Two weeks ago, this amazing group of athletes competed in a Sports Hall Athletics competition at Sackville school. The competition includes relays, an obstacle course, speed jump, triple jump, high jump, long jump and throwing the javelin and chest push with a weighted ball. There were 9 schools from the local area taking part and Blackwell came first!! We are now through to the Mid Sussex finals, where the competition will be harder, but we are ready!! A huge well done to the team so far!

Remembrance Day

We held a special assembly for Armistice Day. The children reflected on questions such as:

- Who are we honouring during Remembrance?
- Why do we see lots of poppies around?

We know that Remembrance Day is an important time and taking part in the acts of Remembrance is a way of showing respect for those who have sacrificed and have fought for our freedom, in the past and today.

Our Head Students read the poem, Flanders Fields.

Importantly, Lenny Year 5, proudly wearing his Grandad's War medals on Remembrance Day.



PTA Halloween Cake Sale

Thank you to all of you who baked for our PTA Halloween Cake Sale before half term. We had so many wonderful cakes which I know you enjoyed buying and eating. Thank you.

The cakes were judged and well done to:

KS1

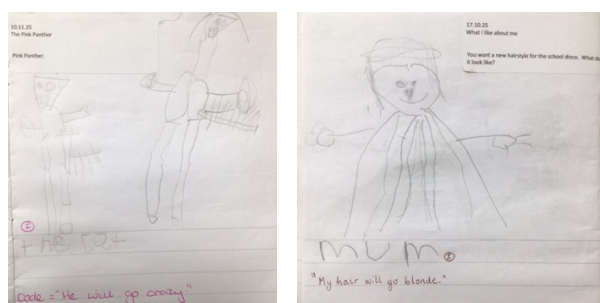
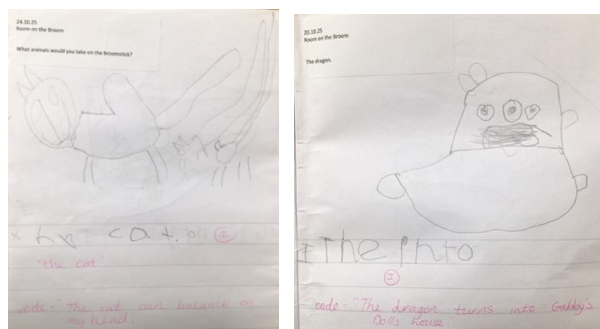
First Place - Max
Second Place - Luca

KS2

First Place - Mylee J
Second Place - Tobias

Year R

The children in Squirrels Class have been absolutely *loving* their Drawing Club sessions! Each week, they learn eight exciting new high-level words, complete with fun actions to help them remember. Using their imaginations, they then draw and write their own wonderful ideas, bringing a little bit of magic to every lesson. We have already seen a great amount of progress in the children's drawings and writing. It's been amazing to see their creativity shine — their drawings and ideas are full of adventure and imagination!



Year 1

We have had a stunning start learning all about castles. Ladybirds and Honeybees have been very busy thinking of questions; what would they would like to know about castles? They have been enjoying making castles, playing with toy castles and exploring castle books during learning through play.



We have all enjoyed our Year 1 trip to Tonbridge Castle. The children were all extremely well behaved demonstrating our school values throughout the trip. They enjoyed a tour of the castle including going down into a dingy dungeon! The children embraced the activities including, dressing up, firing a catapult, building an archway, designing a shield and rubbing drawings.



Year 2

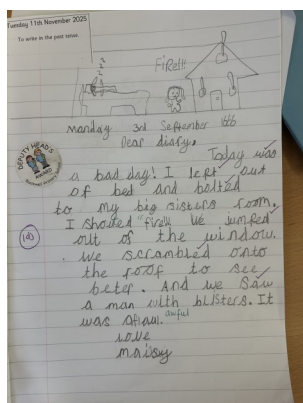
As part of our awe and wonder we teleported back in time over 350 years ago to medieval London in the Year 1666. The children looked at paintings, artefacts and a video to help understand what London was like all those years ago. They then took on the roles of different people living in London on 1st September 1666, the day before The Great fire of London started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. We had lots of fun and everyone is really enjoying this topic.



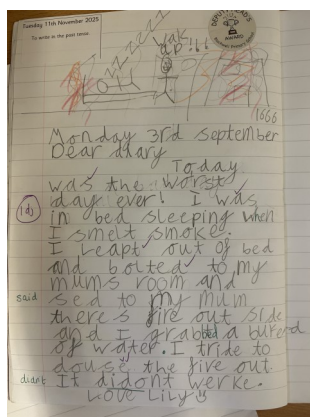
Year 2



The children have been enjoying learning about diary writing and reading some of Samuel Pepy's diary. We even got sent a diary in the portal from Professor Klunk. Based on our learning, we imagined that we went back in time to the Great Fire and wrote our own diaries based on what we had seen and how we felt



Charity



Chloe



Elsie

Year 3 & 4

Multiplication Master

Look at this group of amazing pupils. They have absolutely smashed their MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) scores – and we couldn't be prouder!

Learning times tables is no easy task, but these children have shown what hard work, determination, and a positive attitude can achieve. They've practiced, persevered, and now they've reached the top.

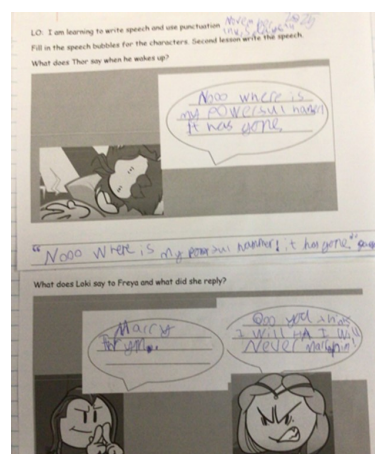
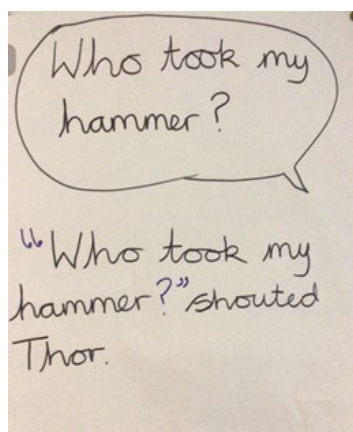
So let's give a huge round of applause to our multiplication champions! Keep aiming high, keep challenging yourselves, and remember – every big success starts with small steps.



We have been very busy in Years 3 and 4. We have been learning about fronted adverbials and have used King Fu Punctuation to help us remember the correct punctuation. We physically acted out the punctuation as well as used word cards to create a fronted adverbial before we wrote our own:



We have also been learning how to write speech in speech marks but then also transform this into written speech using inverted commas and correct punctuation.

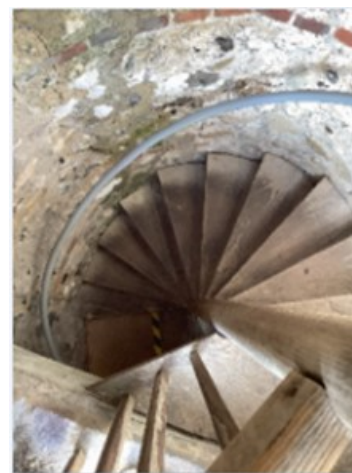


Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful trip to the medieval market town of Lewes on Wednesday 12th November. The children took part in a fascinating guided tour of Lewes Castle, spotting features they had learnt about in History and guided reading lessons. They identified arrow slits (known as 'loops'), murder holes and impressive Norman arches.

The classes also explored the museum, which houses artefacts from the Stone Age and Roman periods, and watched an informative film about the history of the town. One exciting new fact we discovered was that the Barbican at Lewes Castle once had a portcullis — a heavy, iron gate that would have been dropped down to defend against attackers. The children even spotted the marks in the stone where the ropes would have been!

After climbing 114 steps up to the castle keep, the children were rewarded with stunning panoramic views on a glorious sunny day across the town of Lewes. Lewes Castle, an excellent example of a Motte and Bailey structure, gave everyone a real sense of medieval life.



We would like to thank all the parents for their support in making this trip possible. It was a truly memorable experience for all the children!

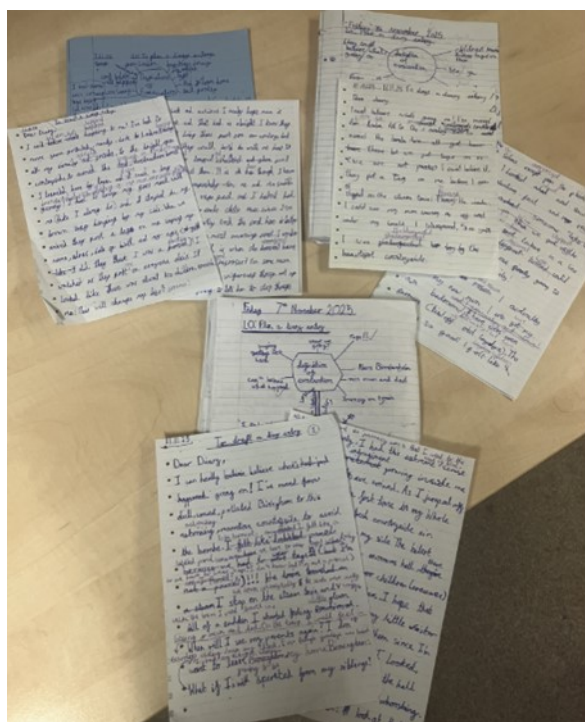


Year 6

Year 6 have been busy writing diary entries pretending that they were evacuees during the Second World War. Following our writing cycle of creating a 'toolkit' where we focus on vocabulary, audience and purpose, we created plans and have begun drafting.

For some writers, they have chosen to write about positive experiences of moving to the countryside, whilst others wrote about home-sickness and worries about their home cities and towns.

All children brought in their historical learning to add authenticity to their writing and used grammatical devices such as fronted adverbials and parenthesis to add in extra detail.



November 2025	
16th	PTA Table Top Sale—Cancelled due to low numbers
18th	Year 6 East Grinstead Museum visit
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
26th	Squirrels class—Lidl trip 9.00am—11.30am Parents Forum 8.50am—9.50am
27th	Year 2—Fire Service visiting
28th	Dress down day—Gifts for PTA Christmas Fair 6th December 2025 PTA Frozen Friday
December 2025	
1st	PTA Christmas Wreath Making 7.00pm—9.00pm
5th	PTA Frozen Friday
6th	PTA Christmas Fair 10.00am—1.00pm
9th	Nativity — Squirrels/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
15th	KS2 (Yrs 3-6) Carol Service—St. Swithuns Church 10.00am—11.30am
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
14th	Parents Forum—8.50am—9.50am
20th	Robins class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
22nd	Year 6 Parents and Carers SATs meeting 6.00pm—7.00pm—more details to follow
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
March 2026	
4th	Parents Forum 8.50am—9.50am
10th	Rabbits class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
12th	Year 6 Ashdown Forest—9.00am—3.00pm—more details to follow
16th-20th	Year 6 Bikeability—more details to follow
17th	Puffins class assembly 9.00am parents invited
19th	Year 3 & 4 Amberley Museum trip—more details to follow
24th	Ladybirds class assembly 9.00am parents invited
26th	Rocksteady Concert—9.00am—9.30am parents invited