



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 12

13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last fortnight, our primary pupils have enjoyed a wealth of learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, creativity and determination across the school community. This newsletter shares some of the highlights.

Sporting Success

Our children have been very active recently, taking part in a number of sporting events. The netball and football teams represented the school brilliantly in their recent matches, demonstrating teamwork, resilience and great sportsmanship.

We are also delighted to celebrate a fantastic victory in the swimming gala, where our swimmers performed exceptionally well and brought home first place.

In addition, several pupils took part in a cross-country race, showing incredible determination and stamina. We are especially proud of those who qualified to represent Mid Sussex in the next stage of the competition—an outstanding achievement.

Art Club Creations

Our Art Club has been busy designing and creating some wonderful pieces. The pupils have explored new techniques and materials, and we are excited to share some of their imaginative designs with you. Their creativity and attention to detail have been truly impressive.

People Who Help Us – Early Years

Our youngest learners have had an exciting series of visits from “People Who Help Us.” These visits have helped children understand the important roles people play in our community. The children have enjoyed asking questions, learning about different jobs and seeing how these helpers make a difference in everyday life.

World Book Day Celebrations

The school came alive with stories and characters as we celebrated World Book Day. Pupils and staff shared their love of reading through a variety of activities, including dressing up as favourite characters, sharing books together and exploring new stories. It was a joyful celebration of imagination and reading.

Parents Evaluating Learning

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined us recently to evaluate their child’s learning. These opportunities to share work and discuss progress are incredibly valuable, and we appreciate the strong partnership we have with our families in supporting every child’s development.

All Aboard – New Learning Begins

Many classes have also begun an exciting new topic titled “All Aboard.” This theme will inspire learning across several subjects and encourage pupils to explore ideas, ask questions and develop their understanding in creative ways. We look forward to seeing where this journey of learning will take them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more of our pupils’ achievements and experiences in the next newsletter.

Sarah Martin, Headteacher

St. Swithun's Church Easter Holiday Club: Tues 31st March. Wed 1st April and Thursday 2nd April 10am-12.30pm each day.
£2 a day.

For full details please follow the link on our Website or click below.

[Easter Holiday Club \(31-Mar-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

BLACKWELL SPORT

On Wednesday 4th March, the Blackwell netball teams took to the court for their final games of the season. Blackwell A took on Halsford Park in a tightly contested match. Despite their efforts, Blackwell narrowly missed out on the win, finishing with a 6–4 loss.

Blackwell B ended their season on a high, delivering an impressive display and coming away with a 5–0 victory against Ashurst Wood.

Well done to both teams for their commitment and hard work throughout the season.



Victory at the Primary Schools Swimming Gala

On Monday, 2nd March, seven talented athletes from Years 3–6 represented the school at the **Primary Schools Swimming Gala** held at the Kings Centre.

Our swimmers displayed outstanding form in their individual races and demonstrated superb teamwork during the high-pressure relay events.

Cameron, Layla, and Leo, all successfully qualified for the freestyle finals after swimming so well in their heats. Cameron delivered a stellar performance in his final to secure a silver medal!

Samuel and Oren also delivered strong individual performances, both securing impressive second-place finishes in their respective heats. Freddie was instrumental to the team's relay success, with the team consistently finishing in either first or second place. Meanwhile, Jessica showed resilience and strength during her debut gala, performing well in the 25m freestyle. After her early race, she remained a vital part of the squad, providing enthusiastic support and encouragement to her teammates for the rest of the evening.

The competition reached a fever pitch at the halfway mark, with Blackwell in the lead! Despite the physical toll of the first half, the team dug deep and continued to swim with grit and determination through the final events.

Their perseverance paid off when **Blackwell were announced as the winners of the 2026 Primary Schools Swimming Gala!** A huge congratulations to our champions for their hard work and sportsmanship.

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support our swimmers! A special mention goes to Jessica in Year 5, who came to support her school friends. Thank you!



BLACKWELL SPORT

Cross Country Finals – 26th February 2026

On **26th February**, three of our Year 5 boys competed in the Primary Schools Cross Country Finals after successfully qualifying in the previous round.

The boys demonstrated impressive resilience and courage as they tackled the challenging, undulating course at East Court. All three performed exceptionally well against a very high standard of competition.

Congratulations to Freddie and Oren, who both placed in the top 15. This achievement means they have qualified to represent Mid Sussex at the Sussex 2026 Cross Country Finals on Thursday, 26th March.

Well done to **Freddie, Oren, and Harrison**! We are incredibly proud of your hard work and sportsmanship.



Wednesday 4th February

On Wednesday 4th February, the girls' football team took to the pitch at East Grinstead Sports Club for two league fixtures. In a closely contested opening match, they were narrowly defeated by The Meads. The second game proved more challenging, resulting in a heavy loss to Halsford Park. Despite the tough outcomes, the team should be commended for playing a player down and showing determination and resilience throughout the afternoon. The Boys' B team also featured in two fixtures. Their opening match against St Mary's ended in an impressive 6–0 victory. Their second game, against Estcots, was a much tighter contest and finished in a 1–1 draw. Well done to everyone involved.

Wednesday 25th Feb

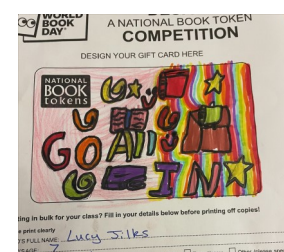
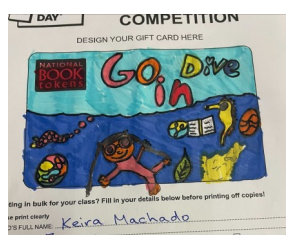
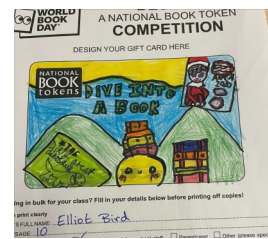
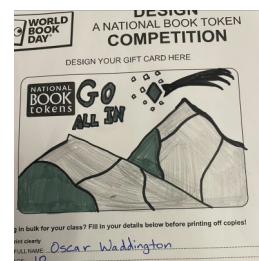
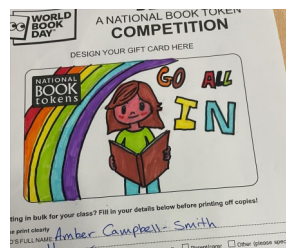
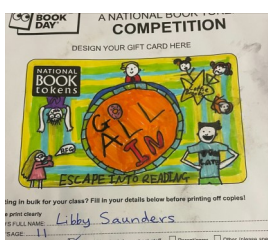
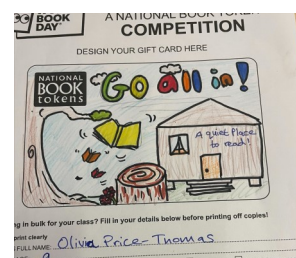
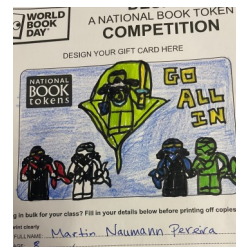
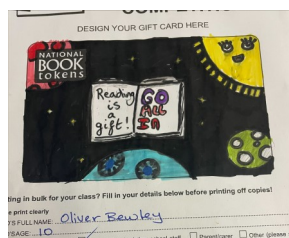
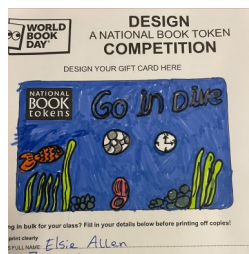
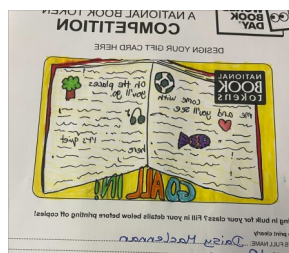
On Wednesday 25th February, the boys' A and B teams played a series of fixtures. The A team began with a close match against St Peter's, securing a 1–0 victory. Their second game, against St Mary's, resulted in a 1–1 draw. They finished the afternoon with a strong performance against Ashurst Wood, earning an impressive 6–1 win.

The B team also took to the pitch, opening with a tough fixture against Copthorne that ended in a 5–1 loss. They bounced back with a determined display, as Blackwell drew 1–1 with West Hoathly. In their final match, the team showed great resilience and came away with a 4–3 victory over Crawley Down. Well done to everyone involved.



ART CLUB

In our Talent art club this week, we entered the World Book Day competition to design the book voucher for next year. The theme is 'Go All In.' We looked at book vouchers and last year's winners. We then used the book voucher template to create our own designs to submit to the competition. I think you'll agree that they are all fantastic designs from our talented artists whether they are chosen as winners or not! To Blackwell, they are all winners.



Year R

People Who Help Us

As part of our theme “**People Who Help Us**,” the children have been enjoying a series of special visits from members of our local community. These visits give the children a wonderful opportunity to learn about the important roles different professionals play in keeping us safe, healthy, and supported. So far, we have welcomed visitors from the **East Grinstead Fire Brigade, Sussex Police**, and a **dentist from East Grinstead Dental Practice**. The children were very excited to meet our visitors and ask lots of thoughtful questions.

During these visits, the children learned about how firefighters help keep people safe in emergencies, how the police help protect our communities, and how dentists help us look after our teeth. The dentist also spoke to parents during our **Find Out Friday** session, sharing helpful advice about how to keep our teeth healthy.

Over the next few weeks, we are also looking forward to welcoming **nurses** from Queen Victoria Hospital and members of the **RNLI**, who will help us learn even more about the different ways people help and care for others in our community. These experiences help bring our learning to life and allow the children to see how the people in our community help us every day, as well as inspiring them for future career choices.



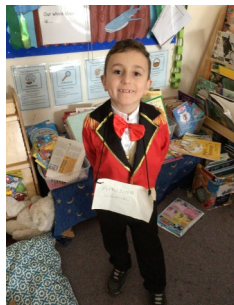
Year 1

This week in maths the children have been learning to order events using the terminology ‘first’, ‘next’ and ‘then’. They have discussed what they need to plant a seed and enjoyed putting the correct order of events into practical practice using their own words as they go.

We have also continued exploring the artist Yoyoi Kusama using a variety of tools to create different size dots.



Year 2



The children really enjoyed world book day. It was great fun to dress up and learn some new high level vocabulary words in the process. We also enjoyed having some time to read for pleasure with our friends. Sharing books and stories with friends is one of life's great joys.

Year 3 & 4

Our exciting "Should we stop eating chocolate?" journey transformed us into master chocolatiers. We tracked the cacao bean from tropical harvests to the factory, then engineered our own signature bars and professional packaging.

After writing persuasive adverts to launch our brands, we hosted a grand evaluation for our parents. Acting as expert critics, they sampled our creations and reviewed our hard work, bringing our delicious project to a triumphant close. Despite our research, we still couldn't quite decide whether to stop eating chocolate or not— our homemade chocolate bars are delicious, but we did learn something important: we can make choices that support cacao farmers and workers, helping to make chocolate fairer for everyone.



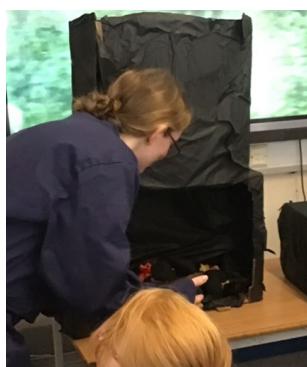
Year 3 & 4

All Aboard! For our 'hook' into our new learning journey, Years 3 and 4 boarded their classroom train and headed off on a steam train journey through the countryside.

The journey started with a talk about safety on a train platform, followed by the children receiving their return pass to Brighton. The children met the conductor and engine driver who gave instructions on how to board the train.



We imagined that we were sitting in the famous 'Flying Scotsman' steam train as we sat in our dedicated carriages and interacted with our fellow passengers. The crew on the train worked hard to feed coal to the fire (real coal!!) so that we kept a good speed up.



When we reached Brighton, we had time to surf, swim, sunbathe and build sandcastles on Brighton Beach (with seagull and wave noises to help with the atmosphere). We then returned to the train (minding the gap) and chugged our way back to East Grinstead Station.

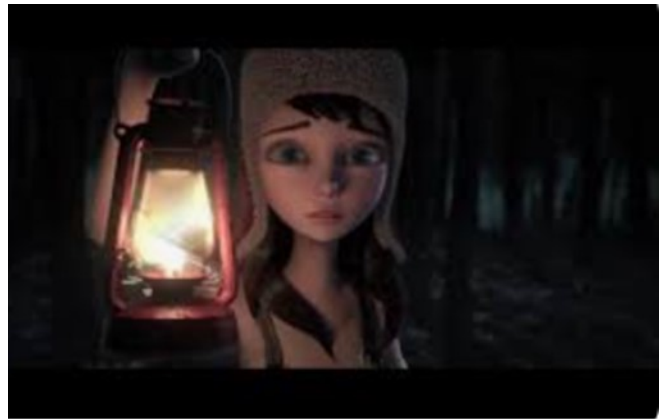
Year 5

Oak Class have been thoroughly enjoying their recent gymnastics sessions with our coach. Throughout these lessons, the children have been developing their skills and confidence while learning a range of different rolls, including forward and backward rolls. They have been focusing on controlling their movements, maintaining good body shape, and performing each roll safely and smoothly. As their skills have progressed, the pupils have also begun creating their own short gymnastics sequences. They have been thinking carefully about how to link different movements together and have practised making smooth transitions between each action. This has encouraged them to be creative while also improving their balance, coordination, and control. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm, determination, and teamwork shown by Oak Class during these sessions. We look forward to seeing their sequences continue to develop!



Year 6

Year 6 have been working hard on their writing this week, drafting narratives full of suspense! We based our writing around a short film from the Literacy Shed before planning and drafting and then revising and editing. We plan to share our best paragraph with our neighbouring Year 6 class and get them judged on our "spookometre". (Ms Ridgers and Ms McKnight will have to sleep with the lights on for the next week as they are so suspenseful!)



As Year 6 SAT's get nearer, we wanted to share with you an excellent website with the low-down on SAT's. As well as exam techniques and help for specific papers, it tells how you as parents and carers can best support your child.

Please find the link below.

<https://primary.lbq.org/hub/ks2-sats-guide-parents>

How am I going to get through it?

Healthy habits to keep beans in check and get the best from yourself.

You're going to snooze right through it!

We kid you not. One of the best things you can do for your brain and prepare yourself is get some really good sleep—at least 8-10 hours every night. Give yourself some cozy wind-down time before bed and no screens at least an hour before snoozing.

You're going to eat your way through it!

It's important to eat healthy food. Drink plenty of water and eat nutritious food. Chicken nuggets alone will not get you there!

You're going to dance/swim/dog-walk your way through it!

Exercise keeps your body and your mind healthy. However you like to move your body, find time every day and break up study time.

You're going to talk through it!

One of the most helpful ways to keep your beans under control is to share them with others. Talk about what's filling up your head with your favourite people—the ones who listen to you and seem like they might understand.



The best way through it, is your way through it.

When it comes to a challenge, it's sometimes tempting to copy what your friends are doing and compare your results with theirs. But we are all different and unique. Find techniques that work for you and embrace them.

Prepare and practice.

As we've said before, nothing scary happens after SATs, so your goal is simply to do your best. It's normal to be a bit nervous. It's even helpful to have a few butterflies because it means you're ready for a challenge. Preparing with some extra homework and practice will help you feel confident on the day. And looking after yourself will keep those beans in check.

What if I'm really, really worried?

If even after all this preparation and self care, you're still feeling overwhelmed it might be helpful to speak to your parents or teacher about some extra help.

Are you ready?
Our teacher friend, Miss Bartlett,
will tell you all you need to know.

Human beans

We are all human beans-beings. Being a human means that we have lots of big feelings... anger, sadness, love, joy and also anxiety.

When these feelings get too big, it can be hard to have enough space in our heads to think. Our heads are too full up with feelings.

But a bit of anxiety can be your friend: to get you into **your thinking zone**. It can make you feel more alert and more able to think, which is very helpful for SATs.

When we are **too** anxious it is very hard to think clearly. It is also hard to think if we are too chilled out. Like Goldilocks' porridge, it needs to be just right, not too hot and not too cold. Or her beans: not too many, not too few.



Watch the video to find out
more about anxiety

or visit togetherness.co.uk/anxiety/



Your thinking zones explained...



When your head is too full of feelings, it can be hard to sit and think. Your thoughts feel crowded and busy.

You're outside your thinking zone.



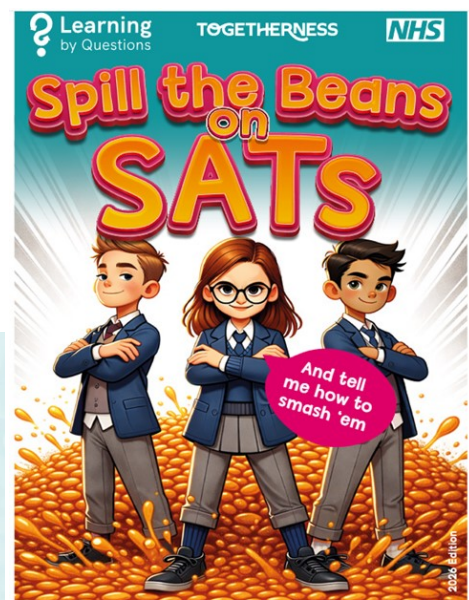
When your feelings aren't very switched on, it can be hard to think. You might feel a bit too chilled out to focus.

You're outside your thinking zone.



When your feelings are just right for you, your brain is ready. You can focus, think and do your best.

Congratulations, you're in the thinking zone!



A guide for year 6 kids...
and their parents who always have a million questions!

March 2026	
13th	PTA Quiz Night 7.30pm start— Cancelled PTA Flower Sale—3.00pm outside School office
16th-20th	Year 6 Bikeability
17th	Puffins class assembly 9.00am parents invited Nurses visiting Squirrels class
20th	Comic Relief—more details to follow PTA Spring Disco - Reception 2.10—2.50pm, Years 1, 2,3—3.30—4.30pm, Years 4,5, 6—4.45—5.45pm
23rd	RNLI visiting
24th	Ladybirds class assembly 9.00am parents invited
26th	Rocksteady Concert—9.00am—9.30am parents invited
30th March — 10th April	Easter Holidays —School closed to children

April 2026	
13th	Children return to school
21st	Goldfinches class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
22nd	Squirrels class trip to Herstmonceux Observatory—more details to follow Year 2—Owls visiting
26th	Family Quiz and Bingo afternoon 11.00am—2.00pm—more details to follow

May 2026

4th	Bank Holiday—children not in school
5th	Children return to school Honeybees class assembly—parents invited
6th	EYFS Transition Evening
7th	Polling Day—school open as normal
11th—14th	KS2 SATS
18th	PTA Cake sale 8.00—9.00am and 3.00—4.00pm Class photos
20th	Parents' Forum 8.50am—9.50am
25th	Bank Holiday—children not in school
26th—29th	Half Term Holidays—children not in school

June 2026

1st	Children return to school
5th	PTA Summer Fair—more details to follow
10th	Year 2 trip to Ovingdean Beach
17th	Parents' Forum 8.50am—9.50am

July 2026

7th	Squirrels class assembly—parents invited
22nd	Last day of term
23rd -	Summer Holidays—School closed to children