



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 13

27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final day of the Spring term, it has certainly been a busy and exciting time across the school, with many memorable events and opportunities for our pupils. Our children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Hockey Festival, demonstrating great teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship. It was wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved and representing the school so positively.

The School Council have also been hard at work promoting the new role of our Friendship Buddies. These pupils are helping to support positive playtimes and ensure that everyone feels included and valued—an initiative we are very proud of.

We were pleased to welcome visitors from the RNLI, who delivered important sessions on Water Safety. The children learned valuable, potentially life-saving information in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

In addition, we would like to thank Reverend Peaty for leading our Easter assembly. This was a thoughtful and reflective opportunity for pupils to learn about the meaning of Easter.

There is so much more to read and celebrate in this edition of our newsletter, and we hope you enjoy sharing in the many achievements and experiences of our school community.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and restful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming the children back for the Summer term.

Sarah Martin, Headteacher

Staffing Update

Mrs Hoskins is leaving Blackwell, due to personal circumstances. Mrs Hoskins has been a valued member of our school community for many years, and she has made a significant contribution to the life of the school. She will be greatly missed by both staff and children. I am sure you will join us in thanking her for her hard work and dedication during her time at Blackwell Primary School, and in wishing her all the very best for the future.

Miss Crouch is starting her maternity leave, which is very exciting news! We will be sure to keep you updated with any announcements in the near future. In the meantime, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Bull, who has joined the Blackwell team and is already feeling very much part of our school community.

Easter

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](#)

On Good Friday 10am Children act the Easter Story in church
Everyone welcome.

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.

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

BLACKWELL SPORT

On the morning of Wednesday 18th March, eight pupils from Years 3 and 4 attended the annual Hockey Festival at East Grinstead Sports Club. The weather was perfect, creating ideal conditions for a fantastic morning of activities.

The children took part in a carousel of engaging sessions, each focusing on developing different hockey skills. Throughout the event, they demonstrated great enthusiasm, teamwork, and a strong commitment to the school's core values.

In the afternoon, it was the turn of the five Year 6 pupils to compete in the hockey tournament. The team played eight matches against schools from across West Sussex. Although the results did not go in Blackwell's favour, the pupils showed great determination and resilience, developing their skills and understanding of tactics throughout the competition.

FRIENDSHIP BUDDIES

This half term School Council has been busy developing the new role of 'Friendship Buddies' at Blackwell. Back in the Autumn term, during Parliament week, the children and staff at school voted for Friendship Buddies in our whole school vote. This term, School Council met to discuss how this role would work and then lead an assembly to inform the staff and children. The role of a 'Friendship buddy' is to support children on the playground to feel happy, safe and included. Friendship Buddies will wear high vis vests so they can be easily seen. If a child would like a friendship support, they can sit on the 'Buddy Bench' and a 'Friendship Buddy' will approach them and ask them if they would like to play. So far, the children have really enjoyed their new roles.



RNLI Visit

Water Safety

'The children had a visit from a member of the RNLI this week. He talked about how to have fun but also stay safe when near water. The children were given leaflets to help them remember the 4 rules of water safety.'



Reverend Peaty's Visit



Reverend Peaty led a special whole-school assembly where Year 5 children acted out the Easter story and reflected on the meaning of giving and receiving Easter eggs, bringing it to life with costumes and props. The children learned about the key events of the Easter story.

Year R

After reading the traditional tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the children were inspired to begin their own growing adventure. Each child planted a bean, and these have now been taken home to care for. The children have been doing a wonderful job making sure their plants receive plenty of water and sunlight to help them grow strong and healthy.

We are delighted to share that many of the beanstalks have grown so well that they have already needed to be re-potted into larger pots! It has been fantastic to see the children taking such pride and responsibility in looking after their plants, and the progress so far has been impressive.

We are now hoping that the plants will continue to thrive and begin to produce bean pods. This will allow the children to observe and understand the full life cycle of a bean—from seed to plant to food—bringing their learning to life in a meaningful and memorable way.

A big thank you goes to parents Clare and John Bradford at Orchard Nursery Plant Centre for their generous donation of beans, pots for each child, and a bag of compost. Their support at Blackwell is always so valued.



Year 1

This week our classrooms have been transformed into a gallery of dots! Year 1 has been exploring the world of the contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama. The children have worked hard using precision of the "pointillism" style to press lightly with dots of paint rather than using long brushstrokes. Many of our young artists have been experimenting with colour mixing, learning how to blend primary colours to create the exact shades desired.



Year 2

In Year 2 we have been studying Laurel Burch in our art learning journey and her fascinating cat art creations. We analysed her work then used this to explore our own symbols, patterns and colours to apply our learning to our own final pieces which will proudly be displayed in our school corridor for all to enjoy!



Year 2

'The children have enjoyed using rulers, metre sticks and trundle wheels to measure objects in the classroom and beyond in either centimetres or metres. It was fun to go into the playground and see how many metres wide it was.'



Year 3 and 4

View from a window landscape art

In our Art lessons recently we have been inspired by the works of David Hockney and Anna Todd. We began by discussing the techniques, effects and our opinions using correct artistic terminology. We investigated different techniques with oil pastels such as finger blending, oil blending, stippling, and different line patterns. We considered which techniques would be effective for different parts of a landscape picture. After planning our composition we put those techniques into practise in our final piece. To complete the task we placed a railway 'window frame' over the image to create a 'view from a window'.



Year 3 & 4

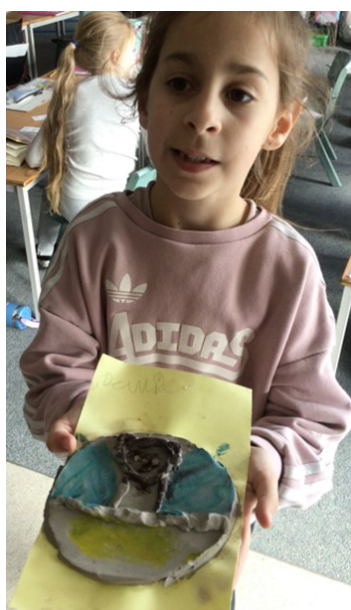
Puffins, Robins and Goldfinches had a wonderful day at Amberley Museum, exploring how transport, communication, and industry have changed over time. The children enjoyed seeing the working print shop, trying old style telephones, and learning how messages were sent in the past. A ride on the little train was a definite highlight, giving everyone a fun tour of the site. And the vintage bus ride was such fun.

The children showed great curiosity throughout the visit and represented the school beautifully. Thank you to all staff and helpers who made the trip possible.



This term, Goldfinch Class has truly embraced the great outdoors! They've spent some wonderful mornings immersed in our woodland area, exploring the sights, sounds, and textures of nature.

A highlight has been a special nature-based sculpture project. Using clay, the children designed and sculpted unique pieces inspired by the flora and fauna around them. To add a final touch of magic, they even brought their creations to life with paint within their woodland sessions. The finished sculptures are a wonderful reflection of their connection to the environment.



Year 5

This week, Year 5 explored forces by making and testing paper helicopters – launched safely from the balcony!

The children built their helicopters, then dropped them at height and timed how long they took to reach the ground.

They learnt that:

- **Gravity** pulls objects down
- **Air resistance** slows them down

They then designed improved helicopters to help them fall more slowly.

A fun, hands-on way to learn science – feel free to try at home!



Year 6

Year 6 had a great day out on the forest on Thursday. As part of our science learning on animal fauna and flora adaptations, we saw first-hand how birds and plants had evolved over time for the different habitats. We enjoyed a range of activities, including: dressing up as a night-jar bird, canopy gazing, beetle safari, hand-lense hunt and making clay creatures.

"It really helped make our learning come alive," said Stephaney.

"I enjoyed learning how to spot the rarer plants we have on our doorstep," said Ryley.

Thanks to all the Year 6 parents and carers for organising transport so we can keep this a free trip and huge thanks to Ashdown Forest rangers for leading us and to the parents and carers who helped us on the trip!



March 2026

30th March — 10th April	Easter Holidays —School closed to children
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April 2026

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

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
22nd	INSET Day—School Closed to children.
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
29th	Sports Day—more details to follow

July 2026

7th	Squirrels class assembly—parents invited
13th	Reserve Sports Day
22nd	Last day of term
23rd -	Summer Holidays—School closed to children

September 2026

1st	INSET Day School closed to children
2nd	Children back to school