

HOMEWORK: Keeping it simple for everyone

All KS1 and KS2 children should read every night and practice their times tables and spellings at least three times per week. Occasionally there may be a project set, e.g. for World Book Week.

Children will have a log in and password for TT Rock Stars (times tables), Numbots (KS1) and Spelling Shed.

If you have any problems with passwords please let us know.

If you wish to challenge your children further with writing, the most helpful way is to encourage the building of sentences using their current spellings.



Classes:

CLOVER	Year 5/6	Mrs Batey
FIG	Year 4/5	Mrs Geraghty
WILLOW	Year 3/4	Mrs Fernandez
IVY	Year 1/2	Mrs Newbury Mrs Briscoe & Mrs Brown
OLIVE	Reception/Y1	Mrs Holt

Governing Body:

Chair: Mr James Parman
Mrs Curtis, Mr Briscoe, Mr Lloyd,, Mrs Thornalley, Mr Verran, Mrs Newbury, Mr Rollett, Mrs George, Mrs Addleshaw & Mr Duke

TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM:

Please follow us on Twitter and Instagram for regular updates on the children's learning: Twitter and Instagram: [@BcL2U](#). You are very welcome to join us.

If you wish to discuss any concerns you have about your child's education, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We try to return any call or email as soon as we can.

Mr Duke



Blyton cum Laughton Church of England

Primary School

Newsletter: 26.4.24 BcL Christian value: **COMPASSION**



Biblical Quote: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

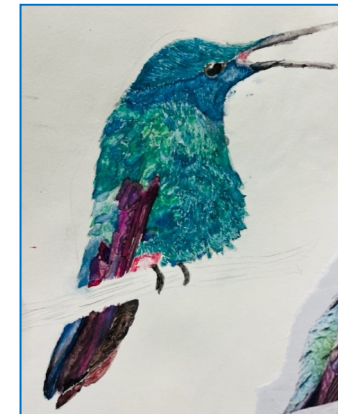
"More like a school that happens to be in a library." Author, Shane Hegarty

Hello everyone—

We are now in the busiest term of the year and for some children it is their final term at BcL. Time really does fly! Talking of flying, look at the beautiful piece of art below created by Isla in Year 6.

It is also the term of Sports Day and hopefully (weather permitting!) more time outside. After half-term, BcL500 Words—our annual school writing competition—will be the focus. This year, our Writer in Residence Beth Walker will be creating the inspiration for the competition.

Mr Duke



Blyton cum Laughton Church of England Primary School



Our BcL Mission Statement:

To be HAPPY - To be CARING - To ACHIEVE
HAPPY - CARING - ACHIEVING
Caring for our school...caring for each other

Our BcL Vision:

At Blyton cum Laughton Church of England Primary School, our Christian Vision aspires for all members of the school family to 'be happy, to care and to achieve' by:

- being a figure of faith, following in the footsteps of Christ through communication, prayer and friendship
- taking the lead to be the best trusted version of ourselves
- being courageous when faced with or exploring challenge and adversity
- being thankful for our innovative and imaginative problem solving
- Being compassionate and caring global citizens
- providing hope through our creations

Our BcL Aims:

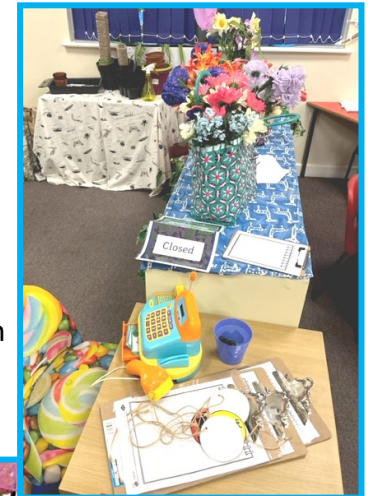
At BcL, we aim to encourage everyone in our school community:

- to be respectful, tolerant and walk in the light of Christ
- to take ownership of their actions, excel as individuals and have a positive impact as citizens in the 21st century
- to explore and be inquisitive, showing a thirst for learning
- to persevere, be resilient learners, to find solutions and have high aspirations for the future
- to show compassion, empathy and care for others
- to be creative

TAKE A WALK AROUND THE SCHOOL...



Ivy children are inspired by the book The Island of St Kilda and have created super pastel drawings of the creatures in the book.



Olive have the opportunity to visit a garden centre. Thank you Mrs Toward and the team for creating such a purposeful area.



DIARY DATES for 2023/24: (other dates may be added)

MAY (KS1 & KS2 SATS take place this month)

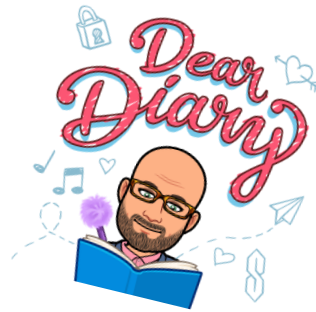
Mon 6th May: Bank Holiday

Mon 13th -16th May: KS2 SATS

Tues 21st May: FIG trip to GO APE

Fri 24th May: Let's Talk Rubbish Workshop KS1

Term 5 ends



JUNE:

Mon 3rd June: Term 6 starts

Mon 3rd—7th June: BCL500 Words writing competition

Mon 17th—Thurs 20th June: Y5 Bikeability

Tues 18th June: KS1 Sports Day

Wed 19th June: New intake parents event

Wed 26th June: KS2 Sports Day

Thurs 22nd June: New Intake Parents Eve

Fri 28th June: Parents/carers informed of new classes for 2024/25

JULY

Thurs 4th July : BcL500 Words Celebration Evening (Blyton Church)

Mon 8th July: Move-up Day & New Olive children visit

Wed 10th July: De Aston transition day

Fri 12th July: Reports to Parents/Carers

Mon 15th to Wed 17th July: YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

Fri 19th July: 1.30 Leaver's Celebration & End of academic year

Our BcL Christian Values:

Friendship

***'Make your light shine so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.'* Matthew 5:16**

Trust

***'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye.'* Psalm 32:8**

Courage

***'Be strong and courageous for the Lord will be with you wherever you go.'* Joshua 1:9**

Thankfulness

***'He has made everything beautiful in his time.'* Ecclesiastes 3:11**

Compassion

***'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'* Ephesians 4:32**

Hope

***'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'* Genesis 1:1**

CELEBRATION WORSHIP:

We hand out certificates from the categories below in Celebration Worship most weeks of the year: **3.10 at Loughton (Thurs)** and **2.45 at Blyton (Fri)**.

SHINING LIGHT (our Figure of Faith) - linked to our Christian Value of Friendship

CARER—linked to our Christian Value of Compassion

LEADER—linked to our Christian Value of Trust

CREATOR—linked to our Christian Value of Hope

INNOVATOR—linked to our Christian Value of Thankfulness

EXPLORER—linked to our Christian Value of Courage



Children may also earn our BcL Values badges throughout the year too for displaying our values. These will be nominated by adults and children.

GREAT GUITAR DESIGNERS!:

The children in Fig are having a brilliant time constructing their guitars, inspired by the book *Guitar Genius: Les Paul. Design Technology* can sometimes be just about the design or the process but for this project, the children have the opportunity to see their design come to fruition. Look at their amazing work!



HOMEWORK:

The number of children using *Spelling Shed* and *TTRockStars* at home has decreased over the last year. For instance, only 9 children used the apps last week in *Clover* class and they are preparing for *SATs*. Reading everyday is the priority but please support your child/ren in practising their spellings and times tables at home. We recognise the demands of home life, which is why our homework is organised in this way.

BCL ATTENDANCE 2023/24:

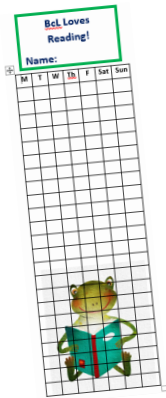
We continue to monitor attendance figures. The lower class attendances are influenced by families whose children are persistent absentees and/or take term-time holidays. However, we also recognise how illness has impacted so many families (and staff) since the turn of the year.

Below is the table reminding you how absence impacts on a child's education. Children attending less than 75% are also at risk of severe absenteeism (attending less than 50%).

	Year so far
REC/YR 1	94.9%+
YEAR 1/2	95.6%+
YEAR 3/4	94.1%+
YEAR 4/5	93.8%-
YEAR 5/6	93%-
TOTAL	94.3%-

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days Absent	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks Absent
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	2 Weeks
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	4 Weeks
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	6 Weeks
80%	38 Days	72 Sessions	8 Weeks

At BcL, children attending less than 90% of the time do not achieve close to the standard of their peers who are attending 95%+.



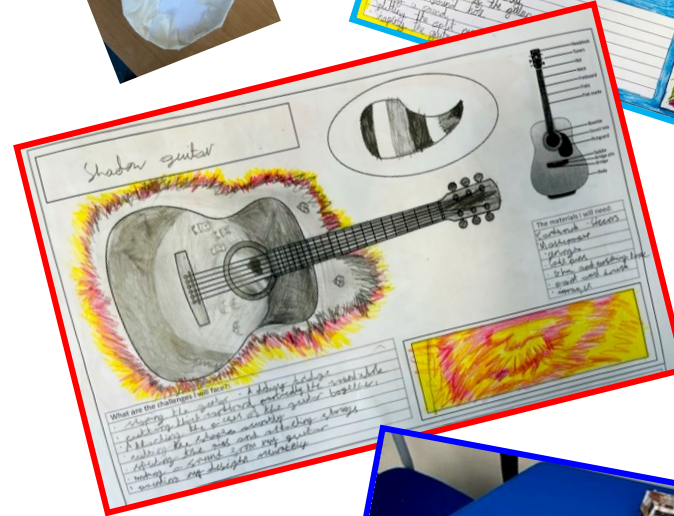
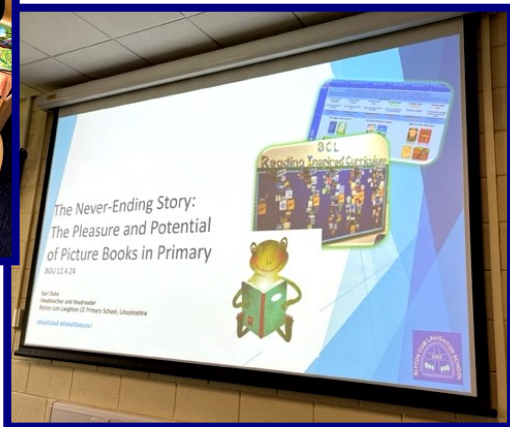
READING NEWS: Bcl Loves Reading!

First of all, thank you again to you as a school community for continuing to donate books to us. The selection below from one family this week was gratefully received. We have received thousands of books since I arrived here (shhh...8 years ago!) and they really do help to refresh libraries and classroom shelves.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS:

Thanks to our reading-inspired curriculum, I am often asked to visit schools and talk to trainee teachers about how picture books can be used in school and how reading can inspire learning. During the Easter holiday, I visited Bishop Grosseteste to talk to students about the BCL journey and shared ideas with them. I'm already booked in for next year which is really exciting.



The children are now at the constructing stage, using papier-mâché to provide the strength. Next, they'll paint a white undercoat before painting their design.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: GAMING, APPS and ONLINE SAFETY

In school, part of our role is to provide guidance and support for children regarding online safety. This has become more challenging due to the number of children accessing phones, online content, gaming and a wide variety of apps. Technology is incredible, but we are also fully aware of the dangers.

Many children in school have access to phones and to apps, games and websites which are meant for children aged 13+: TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram are some that fall into this category. However, we know many children aged 6+ who are using them. Over recent years, I have seen and heard, through examples shared with me, an increasing number of cases of appalling language that children are using in chatrooms, when texting and during gaming activities. We are not here to police what happens at home, but, when disagreements during gaming and through chat apps are being brought into school this is not acceptable and we need to make you aware. The language and messages are unkind, sometimes threatening and have the potential to develop into online bullying, especially when a group of children target an individual.

As a parent, I know how difficult it is to try and find a balance. Children should be able to access age-appropriate technology but many are under significant peer pressure to follow the trend *or the friend* when they may be 3, 4 and 5+ years younger than the guidance suggests. All safer online advice emphasises the need to regularly monitor what your child is accessing:

Do you really know what your child is looking at online or the messages they are receiving and/or sending? We are aware of so many worrying conversations.

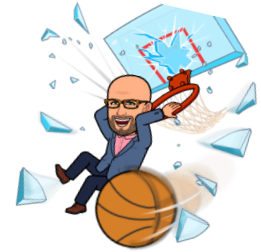
We will continue to help children understand their online responsibility *and* vulnerability in the hope that the incredible world they have at their fingertips is used appropriately, respectfully and safely, impacting positively on their education, friendships and well-being.

POLITE REMINDERS:

SWIMMING DATES 2023/24

Fig: 29th April 2024.

Year 1: 13th, 20th May, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June 2024.



PE KIT:

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct PE kit. We continue to see many outfits which do not follow the expected uniform and are not appropriate for PE.

The expected uniform is:

- blue/black shorts (or joggers/leggings in colder months)
- blue/white t-shirt
- trainers/plimsolls

Football shirts/alternative colours are not allowed.

PE DAYS:

Olive (Mrs Holt) —Thursday

Ivy (Mrs Briscoe, Mrs Newbury and Mrs Brown) - Wednesday

Willow (Mrs Fernandez) - Wednesday

Fig (Mrs Geraghty) - Friday

Clover (Mrs Batey) - Friday

CLASS DOJO:

If your child is ill or off school please call the school office to inform us. If you want to contact your child's teacher about their learning or have information to share, please do so via Class Dojo. Messages sent after 8.35am will not be read by the class teacher until after 3.30. Teachers are not expected to read Dojo messages after 4.30pm.