



Autumn 2022



Bleasdale School

Learning Together / Achieving Together

Newsletter

Here are some of the highlights of this term!

Lower School

This term we have welcomed eight new pupils into Lower School – Ahmed, Lexi, Saud, Oscar, Evie, Ava, Kasper and Oliver. They have all settled in really well and we are enjoying getting to know them and their families.



They have all been exploring the different areas of school, such as the Rebound Room, Swimming Pool, outside play areas and Sensory Suite.





Some of our pupils have been going to Yealand School for inclusion sessions with their mainstream peers and joining in with PE lessons.

Earlier on in the year we invited our parents and grandparents into class to help us with some craft activities.



Middle School

One of our highlights was when the fire engine came to visit us as part of our Christmas production filming. It was a lovely surprise and we enjoyed exploring the fire engine, in fact we were sad when it left.



We have been working very hard with Silverdale School in music sessions. Each week they join us for music sessions and we are enjoying making new friends.



For Remembrance Day, we made Poppies and displayed them outside for everyone to see. We explored the bottle tops and sorted them in different ways before using them to create our own poppies. Our whole school collection for the Royal British Legion raised £22.63.



Upper School

Last month some of our students helped members of Carnforth Rotary to dig over our borders and plant crocus bulbs in preparation for Spring.



Bleasdale Brews – our pop up café, run by students as an enterprise project – continues to attract a good turnout each week. Students practice the skills needed for adulthood by greeting customers, taking and preparing their orders and washing up afterwards. The café runs every Wednesday during term time from 10.00 – 11.30 am and everyone is very welcome.

Each Tuesday a group of students have been attending a boxercise class at Cheyette Fitness in Morecambe as part of their community leisure activities.



LPPA Re-accreditation



We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in being recredited for the Leading Parent Partnership award following our recent reassessment. Forming successful effective and positive relationships with parents and working together enables our pupils to achieve great things.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We raised almost £95.00 for Macmillan Cancer Research by holding a coffee morning in school in October.



Music Programme in School

We are extremely proud to announce that we are finalists in Education Today's 'Creative School of the Year Award'. This nomination has come from the work that we do to engage our pupils through live musical soundscapes created by a professional musician. This term we have been joined by Maxine Molin who is a professional harpist.



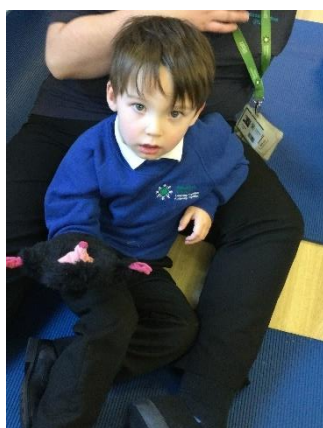
Each Friday she plays for the pupils in the Sensory Suite. You can learn more about Maxine on her website maxinemolin.co.uk

We are also lucky enough to be visited each month by Anna Szuminska. Anna is a specialist music teacher who has developed our music programme across all phases. On the days when she is not in school the pupils follow the programme she has put together in their regular music lessons.



Harvest Celebrations

To celebrate Harvest we invited Emma Holroyd who is the Methodist Minister for Silverdale into school. Emma spent time with the younger children and brought in glove puppets to help explain the story of Harvest. We collected food items which were donated to Morecambe Bay Food Bank to help those less fortunate than ourselves.



Children in Need

On Children in Need Day in November pupils took part in a variety of Pudsey related activities, winning a spot for each one. We played twister and splat the dog, went fishing, made a giant T-shirt, made a place mat and took part in orienteering. The total amount raised by pupils and staff was £247.55 so thank you to everyone for their support!



Christmas Jumper Day

On 8th December pupils and staff wore their best Christmas jumpers, socks, blankets, etc and raised £71.00 for Save the Children.

After School Clubs

This term we have been running three After School Clubs for different age groups. On Mondays students from Upper School have been practising their physical skills in the PE Hall and outside (weather permitting). Lower School pupils have the opportunity to have fun in our warm water pool on Wednesdays and on Thursdays we have been running a food preparation club for pupils from Middle School. We vary the pupils who attend each club over the course of the year to try and make sure that as many as possible have the chance to participate. There is no charge for taking part and, in some circumstances, we are able to offer transport home as well.



Winter Wonderland

During the first weekend in December we held our first ever Winter Wonderland in the Residential Grounds. There was a sensory trail, a snow area, a gingerbread house and the chance to write a letter and post it to Santa. The elves were in their Grotto with a special gift for each child. It was lovely to see so many pupils (including former pupils) there with their families, along with members of the public who gave us some lovely feedback – “Thank you for the photo. It's absolutely beautiful. We really enjoyed visiting your winter wonderland it was so much fun and got us all feeling super festive.” On the Saturday we had a visit from a local ukulele band to add to the festive atmosphere. Plans are already underway for next year's event.



Parents' Group

Our Parents' Group meets every Tuesday between 9.30 and 11.00 am in school. This is a chance for parents to get to know each other in an informal setting over a cuppa and a biscuit and form new friendships and share ideas. It is organised by one of our HLTAs Jo and representatives from our Therapy Team plan to drop in and meet parents during future sessions. Everyone is very welcome and we have a box of toys for younger siblings or grandchildren.

Additional Bank Holiday

Looking a little further ahead the school will be closed on Monday 8th May, 2023 for the bank holiday following the King's Coronation.

Governors' Perspective – Rosemary Dyson

This the first contribution to the school newsletter from one of the school governors; it is planned that you will hear from others in subsequent issues. So here goes....

I have been a governor at Bleasdale for nearly 8 years and most recently it's Chair and that is both a pleasure and a challenge. But more of that later! Firstly it might be useful to set some context.

A governing body has three key roles: setting vision and strategic direction; holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school; overseeing the financial performance and making sure it is money well spent. In practice this means we provide support, and sometimes a different perspective to, the day to day leadership of the school; we always endeavour to consider the longer term. This is done through a series of committees that cover different aspects; membership is shared amongst the governing body according to individual experience and/or interest.

So what does that mean for me? As a governor I attend the Finance and Staffing committees; these happen once a term and, with Kirsty (Acting Head) and Joel (School Business Manager), we review performance to date; consider what is needed in the coming terms plus any immediate issues that need attention. As Chair, I run the Full Governors meeting held towards the end of each term. We hear reports from all aspects of the school for agreement or discussion and as a Lancashire County Council school we consider the latest issues raised by them e.g. policies, government initiatives; the shape of the next school years. In between I keep in touch through visits to the school to observe/walkabout and to meet with Kirsty to discuss progress and development.

Now back to pleasure and challenge. For me it is a pleasure to be a part of a governing body of like minded, enthusiastic and committed people striving to support Kirsty, the Senior Leadership Team and Staff to maintain Bleasdale as an outstanding provision. However it is a continuing challenge to balance the demands of immediate needs with the strategic view of 'what's next?' Most days pleasure wins out!

I hope this short commentary has been useful. Like all the governors, I can be contacted through the school should you have any related questions.

Staff News

This term we have been joined a number of new staff: Lauren Grady (TA); Debbie Frith (MDWA); Honey Champion and Ella Meyfroidt (supply TAs); Adrian Dalton (supply Site Supervisor). Ellie Shepherd has rejoined us to provide supply teaching cover. The following staff have moved on this term: Judith Duncalf and Becky Taylor (TAs).

Term Dates

School opens at 9.00 am on Tuesday 3rd January, 2023

Half Term Holiday Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2023

Staff Training Day Monday 20th February, 2023

School re-opens to pupils at 9.00 am on Tuesday 21st February, 2023

School closes for Easter after school on Friday 31st March, 2023

Ofsted have a section for parents called Parent View. Parents can access this at any time to tell Ofsted what they think of their child's school. Please go to the Ofsted website to register.



We have our own school Facebook page which is updated on a weekly basis. Here you will find lots of photos and details of what the pupils have been doing in class together with useful information for parents and ideas for activities which can be done at home. Please take a look if you have the chance.

The pupils, staff and Governors hope you enjoy the Christmas holidays and look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year.

