



Spring 2023 Newsletter



**Bleasdale
School**

Learning Together / Achieving Together

Here are some of the highlights of this term!

Lower School

This term, Lower Phase have been exploring the sensory text, On the Farm. We have enjoyed exploring different farm animals through touch and sound, we have even been dressing up as farmers in our new role play area.



We invited our parents to come in and share our learning. They came and joined in our music session. We explored different musical instruments and then together created our own drums.



We are continuing to share different toys and areas with our peers. We have some exciting new role play equipment to explore.



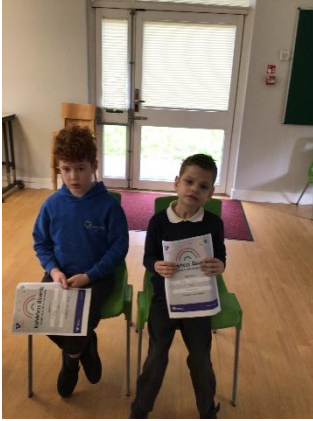
Middle School

Middle Phase have continued to have lots of fun exploring and learning new skills in the Spring Term. We have welcomed our parents to join us with a smoothie session, aquatic learning and expression through art.



We continue to develop our friendship with peers from Silverdale School as we have used instruments to make high and low notes.

We have enjoyed using lot of new resources to develop our learning. We all have a special favourite some of the new resources include: sound beam, switch adapted toys, microphones, puzzles, Cosmo and the Orba.



Well done to Bradley and Bobby who were awarded a friendship award from Vision Education as they will now share favourite books together. We are very proud of you.

Upper School

This term the pupils in Upper School have been very busy accessing different activities in the community. Some of us have visited Network Wheels at Salt Ayre each week to develop our cycling skills using the many adapted trikes on offer, whilst another group of pupils have been enjoying music sessions at More Music led by Boogie Bill. They've had a great time playing the different instruments and watching live performances.



In school, the pupils have enjoyed having their Functional Skills lessons enhanced by visiting Saxophonist Arran. He plays along as the pupils play number games. The music adds to the sense of anticipation the pupils feel as they watch their friends take their turn and wait to see who will win.

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.

Music Programme in School

The pupils are really enjoying our bespoke music programme. Every Tuesday we are joined by Arran Kent who is a professional saxophonist. Arran plays his saxophone within lessons to enhance our learning and the lesson. In Lower School he plays a variety of animal sounds to complement the work they are doing on the farm. In Middle School he plays different music for different colours as pupils use art to express themselves and sort happy and sad images. In Upper School he plays different music to support the art lesson.



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.

After School Clubs



We have continued to run three After School Clubs each week for different age groups. On Mondays students from Upper School have been practising their physical skills in the PE Hall. This term they have been doing yoga and working on repeating skills alongside their peers. As the weather improves, they will be going outside



to work on the bikes and trikes and our Physios will be coming to watch and assess them. 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 for a small contribution.

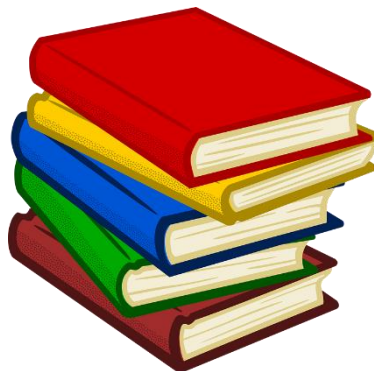
Transitions Event

On the 23rd March, we hosted our first Transitions Event in school, with lots of different providers coming in to share information with our parents about what's available once their young people leave school. Everyone really enjoyed the event and we had lots of positive feedback. Some of our pupils who work in Bleasdale Brews even visited to make all our stallholders cups of tea and coffee. We can't wait to invite everyone back and see what other exciting opportunities we can find to share with you next year.



World Book Day

For World Book Day this year we all studied the book "You must wear a hat". School bought hats for every pupil to decorate as part of their homework. On the day itself, they followed a sensory trail through school while wearing their hats.



Red Nose Day

For this year's Red Nose Day we used the theme of the Little Mr Men and Little Misses and, using Mr Jelly, we held a "Jellyathon" taking part in all things linked to jelly. We used Mr Bounce and Little Miss Somersault to take part in a sponsored bounce. Mr Tickle was used to make everyone laugh and Mr Bump to practice our first aid skills. At the time of writing we had raised £420.50 so thank you to everyone for their generosity and support!



Focus on Aquatic Learning – Sally Gardner, Aquatic Learning Co-ordinator

At Bleasdale we use the Swimming pool as another classroom - simply a water-based classroom used for Aquatic learning.

In the pool pupils have targets to work towards just like they would in class that are linked to either their classroom targets or of those of accredited swimming bodies learning the pre-requisites of swimming and water safety. The targets are set after a discussion between teachers and the aquatic coordinator to ensure that all learning environments are in sync and the safety and progression of each pupil is paramount.

With the pool being warm it can allow pupils to relax their muscles and often then they can do things such as lower their arms, move their legs which they couldn't do on dry land. There are many benefits to aquatic learning including improved coordination and balance, reduced pain to tight muscles or increases flexibility in joints. It has also allowed those to practise weight bearing when they can't normally.

The water allows the freedom to float and move without any restrictions which is a rare experience in everyday life. With this freedom pupils can become more confident at communicating in whichever way they prefer, whether this be using vocalisations to ask for more or showing very clearly whether they like something or they don't.

Aquatic learning is very diverse in that you can change the environment from the sea to the rainforest by changing the lights, music and activities. We can also make the session a very calm and relaxing session to support the relaxation on the body or make it very lively and busy to promote independent movement or team work.





Communication Workshop

The Communication Group organised a workshop for parents around the subject of objects of reference and introducing them into home routines. We have recently introduced some new objects of reference within school, such as a mortar board for Kirsty's office and a multi coloured pen for the main school office. We challenged parents to have a go at guessing what each item represented. If you would like more information, please contact the Communication Team via the usual number (01524 701217).



Staff News

Amelia Wilson and Nicola French, who have both worked at Bleasdale as TAs for some time, are now working as Teachers in Upper Phase and Lower Phase respectively. Both are fully qualified teachers. We have the following supply staff working with us this term: Emily Heathcote, Emma Haddow, Lauren Ismay, Georgia Iveson-Wilkinson, Bambi Armeler and Nicola Slinger. Billie Elliot, Assistant Head at Applebee Wood School near Preston, has also been supporting the Senior Leadership Team this term.

Governor's Perspective – Barbara Wignall

A little bit about me:

I live in the local area and have 40 years of experience working in early years education and family support. I am now retired and am lucky enough to have the time and energy to share my skills and experience as a volunteer.

Why am I a governor ?

- I have been a co-opted member of Bleasdale Governing body since 2017, and it gives me the chance to use the skills developed in my own working life to support our school when and where needed. I have the time and some expertise, and it's great to be part of a strong, committed team all making sure that children/young people achieve their own full potential.

So, what do I do?

- *I attend the termly full governing body meetings and have responsibility for reporting on governor training.

- *I am a member of the finance committee ensuring that funding is clearly focused on improving teaching and learning.

- *I am member of the curriculum committee and really enjoy termly input from school staff to keep us updated on curriculum areas, along with visits to see the curriculum in action.

- *I sit on interview panels and I am involved from shortlisting through to appointment and I am safer recruitment trained.

- *I am the link governor for early years and the creative curriculum.... my areas of expertise and particular interest.

- *I am a link governor for safeguarding. Because we place the highest of priorities on safeguarding, Bleasdale currently has 2 link governors and we both attend regular training, are up to date re policies and procedures and support the work of the designated safeguarding lead.

Finally, being a Bleasdale governor is both challenging and rewarding in equal measure and I look forward to continuing the journey!

New Headteacher

The Governing Body are happy to announce that they have appointed Sefton Booth as Bleasdale's new permanent Head. Sefton has many years' experience in special education and has most recently been the Acting Deputy Head at Astley Park School in Chorley. Sefton should be starting work

towards the end of April and Kirsty Ashton will be reverting to her substantive post of Deputy Head.

Baby News

Alex (our Sports Co-ordinator) and his partner Lottie welcomed their first daughter, Ottilie, over half term. She is a sister for Freddie and Luca. A couple of weeks later, Anna Hodgkinson (TA in Lower Phase) and her husband Lee celebrated the birth of their second son Thomas, little brother for William. Everyone is doing really well.

Term Dates

School opens on Monday 17th April, 2023 at 9.00 am

Friday 28th April, 2023 – School closed (Staff Development Day)

Monday 1st May, 2023 – School closed (May Day Bank Holiday)

Monday 8th May, 2023 – School closed (King's Coronation)

Half Term Holiday – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June, 2023

School opens on Monday 5th June, 2023 at 9.00 am

Friday 30th June, 2023 – School closed (Staff Development Day)

School closes for Summer Holidays Friday 21st July, 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 have a wonderful Easter holiday and are able to enjoy some quality family time.

