

Summer 2023 Newsletter



**Bleasdale
School**

Learning Together / Achieving Together

Here are some of the highlights of this term!

Lower School

During inclusion sessions Lower Phase enjoyed visiting Yealand Primary School to take part in their PE lesson. Pupils were taking part in a session led by Rugby Tots which involved passing balls to peers and completing an obstacle course. We had lots of fun and took part with some staff support.



We have also spent time at Silverdale St John's Primary School taking part in Art activities as well as working on our PSHE skills. We have been using our communication books and enjoyed exploring their classroom and outdoor areas.



Middle School



Middle Phase went to Manjushri Kadampa Meditation centre to visit the temple as part of their PSHE studies exploring different faiths. Everyone stilled and showed respect to the temple as we visited Buddha. We spent time exploring different artefacts in the temple. We all relaxed as we listened to the calming music.

Middle Phase used a fireman counting song to explore functional skills. During the last lesson of the term the firemen came to visit and they let us use their hoses to put out our pretend fires. We had such great fun using the hoses and wearing the firemen's helmets.

Upper School

Pupils in Upper Phase have continued to access parts of their learning within the community this term through weekly visits to Tesco, Network Wheels and More Music. This time, pupils have focused on developing their communication skills and peer interaction during their visits through engaging with members of the public in appropriate ways and sharing resources.

In school, the pupils have been working hard, using adaptive technology to enhance their learning. Skills we were all really excited to show off during the whole school Poetry in the Garden event!



Finally, we have continued to run our pop up cafe Bleasdale Brews. The pupils who work there have regularly seen a good turnout of customers to keep them busy, practising valuable skills for life as well as experiencing the world of work.



Music Programme in School

This term we have been joined by Euan Smith who is a member of the Lancashire Music Service and a guitar teacher. It has been wonderful to see how well our pupils have responded to the different musicians in school but it has also been interesting to hear the viewpoint of the musicians themselves. The performers who have come into school have all heard about this project on a professional forum and have been really excited to have the opportunity to come into Bleasdale and work with our students.

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.

Poetry in the Garden

Recently we held our first poetry in the garden event. Each class performed a poem they have been working on in class. It was wonderful to share our work with our families. After sharing our amazing work we enjoyed a picnic lunch together.



Joint Coronation Event with Silverdale St John's School

To celebrate the King's Coronation we organised a joint celebration event with our friends from Silverdale Primary School in the grounds of our residential building. A group of Silverdale pupils sang for us and Lancaster City Brass Band, conducted by our very own Nicola French (teacher in Lower Phase), entertained us throughout the afternoon. We had lots of activities and games, including a sensory trail, biscuit and stone decoration, a journey through Coronation food, guess the artefact competition and, best of all, an ice cream van.



Dinosaur Day

As part of Dinosaur Week, Lower and Middle School enjoyed a visit from Mark who organised a Baby Dinosaur Workshop for us. We used our hands to explore the sand and feel some fossils. We then met some baby dinosaurs.



Wonderdome Visit



As part of Space Science week Wonder Dome came to school. We all spent time in the dome watching the stars and planets in the Dome. We then spent the week taking part in sensory space activities.



World Music Day

World Music Day took place on Wednesday 21st June but, in true innovative Bleasdale style, we celebrated a day early so that our visiting musician Euan Smith could join us for the day. We were lucky enough to welcome Sian and Bill (Boogie Bill to his friends) from More Music into school as well. Pupils were off timetable for the day and enjoyed a variety of music sessions across the whole school. In Stomp, we explored different items that could be used to make sounds and created our own version. The More Music session was aimed at getting us to engage with our voices. Finally we explored the story Tanka Tanka Skunk and made a lot of noise as we experienced different types of rhythm. Some of us even got the chance to use the school's new sound beam! This is a wonderful piece of technology that uses echo location to respond to pupils' movements to make sounds and images. It responds to students' individual movements and activates different music or images.



Japanese Music Day.

To celebrate the end of our music topics, we held a Japanese day, where we all listened and created Japanese music and created Japanese crafts. We shared with others all the Japanese music we have created. Lower Phase have explored dynamics and made blossom trees. Middle Phase composed loud and quiet sounds and made Carp Kites. Upper Phase have created their own Japanese music and made Shui.



Head's Perspective

Warm greetings to you all as we approach the summer break! It has been an eventful year filled with learning, growth, and resilience. As we bid farewell to the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our achievements and share some important information for the upcoming summer period.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to our amazing pupils for their dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work throughout the year. Your curiosity and eagerness to learn have been truly inspiring. I hope you take this summer as an opportunity to relax, explore new interests, and recharge for the upcoming academic year.

To the parents and guardians, thank you for your continuous support and trust in our school. Your involvement, encouragement, and partnership have been invaluable in creating a nurturing environment for our students. We recognise the crucial role you play in your child's education, care and development.

As we enter the summer break, I would like to emphasise the importance of balance and well-being. While it is essential to enjoy the time off, I encourage students to engage in activities that promote growth and learning. Reading a book to your child, pursuing hobbies, taking up the communication offer (last updated on our Facebook page) and participating in community projects are fantastic ways to stay stimulated during the break.

Moreover, summer is an excellent time to explore the world around us. Nature offers endless wonders and opportunities for outdoor adventures. I encourage families to spend time together in nature, whether it be going for a walk,

camping, or simply enjoying picnics in the park. Remember, the memories created during these moments will be cherished for a lifetime.

While we embrace the joys of summer, it is also crucial to maintain good habits. Physical exercise and a healthy diet play a vital role in maintaining overall well-being. Encourage your child to stay active and make nutritious choices during the break. Healthy habits built during this time will positively impact their overall development.

Lastly, please take note of the important dates for the upcoming academic year. The school will reopen on the 4th of September for pupils. The detailed calendar and other pertinent information will be shared with you closer to the start of the new term. Stay tuned for further updates via our school website and newsletters.

On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a safe, enjoyable, and memorable summer break. May this time be filled with laughter, relaxation, and quality time with loved ones. Thank you for being a part of our school community. We look forward to seeing you all reenergised and ready to embark on new educational adventures in the coming year.

Warm regards, Sefton

Governor's Perspective – Mary Peel, Co-opted Governor

I am a Registered Nurse Mental Handicap (now Learning Disability). I have worked in the care sector for over 25 years, in hospitals, supported living and care homes.

I became aware of Bleasdale School when I was looking for the most suitable school for my daughter Rebecca who has PMLD. Rebecca was at Bleasdale School from the age of 3 up to 19 years old. I became a parent governor in 2003. I have been a co-opted governor since 2018. I wanted to support the school and use my skills when and where needed.

Whilst being a governor I have attended termly staffing committee meetings. I am a safer recruitment trained governor. I sit on interview panels, am involved in short-listing through to the appointment of staff.

I am one of 2 link governors for safeguarding as we regard this as a priority.

We check policies and procedures are up to date and go on regular training updates. We support the designated safeguarding lead as necessary.

I am a member of the finance committee which also incorporates the health and safety committee. I attend full governor termly meetings to discuss any outstanding issues.

I am the link governor for the 14-16 group. Having gone through transition with my daughter I am aware of the some of the issues parents may encounter. I would be happy to talk to parents and pass on my knowledge.

It's been a privilege to be a governor at Bleasdale and watch children achieve their targets and maximise their full potential over the years at school.

Staff News

Kim Buchanan has joined us as a Teacher this term, along with our new Head Sefton Booth. We also have three new permanent TAs – Kelly Sharpe, Roberta Buccelli and Honey Champion. Honey has been with us on supply since earlier in the school year. Gill Blackburn has joined our Domestic Team as a cleaner. From September we will have an additional Teacher – Amanda Allmark-Snow – and a Family Support Worker – Claire Geraghty. This is the first time we have anybody fulfilling this role and we look forward to sharing more of an insight into this post with you in the near future.

Term Dates

School opens Friday 1st September 2023 (Staff Development Day)

Pupils return to School Monday 4th September, 2023 at 9.00 am

Half Term Holiday Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October, 2023 inclusive

Pupils return to School Monday 30th October, 2023 at 9.00 am

School closes to pupils at 1.30 pm on Thursday 21st December, 2023

Staff Development Day Friday 22nd December, 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 Summer holiday and look forward to seeing you again in September.

