



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
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Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 6 Issue 7



Happy New Year: We would like to wish all of our readers a very happy New Year. The new term has started well with a fabulous assembly led by Mrs Rawlinson focusing on 'Relationships.' Through students acting out a Buddhist story, they learnt that 'All Passes' – no matter what our mood, it will pass – a very important message for many of our students who sometimes find it difficult to move on when something has

happened.

Classes then went into their own form rooms to look at this theme in more detail. Bridgewater looked at how we grow and how animals grow, they have even made a visit to 'Pets at Home' to see young animals in the flesh. Wedgwood then went out on their community visit to practise the skills they had learnt about in the morning. Royal Doulton looked at recognising their emotions and how to respond appropriately in different situations. Inspired by the NSPCC PANTS campaign, the students created a washing line for their classroom of pants displaying their understanding of what the acronym PANTS means. They have even decorated the tree in the front foyer with pants!!



Take a look at the PANTS campaign for yourself – it is a really useful resource to help with those tricky teenage conversations!

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/underwear-rule/>

Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire

First Response :
0800 1313 126
Outside office hours:
0845 6042886

Stoke-on-Trent

Advice and Referral Team:
01782 235100
Outside office hours:
01782 234234

Cheshire East

Referral Team :
0300 123 5012 Option 2
Outside office hours:
0300 123 5022

Shropshire

Referral Team:
01743 254 259
Initial Contact Team:
0345 678 9021
Outside office hours:
0345 678 9040

Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

Staffordshire: First Response –
0845 604 2719
Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care –
0800 561 0015

blackfriarsacademy.org.uk

Progress Review Evening - Tuesday 11th February

Online booking system opens soon

Scholars of the week:

Paige in Bridgewater for the outstanding improvements that she has made in all lessons.

11th February - Bendrigg
11th February - Progress Review Evening - Years 7, 11,13 and 14
14th February - Half Term Starts
24th February - School opens

Don't forget that the school calendar is available on our website:
<http://www.blackfriarsacademy.org.uk/>

What a way to begin 2020: The results of the parent questionnaire popped into my inbox just before the start of the new term and I was thrilled to read our best ever responses from parents and carers – we cannot thank you enough. The statistics are very impressive, such as 100% agree or strongly agree that 'My child is happy at school' and 100% would recommend this school to another parent. But I particularly value the time and trouble that parents and carers take to tell us what they really think:



When asked what parents and carers would improve about the school, several people talked about how they would like to see the funding situation improve – not just from the Government but also from the Local Authority. I am afraid that this New Year does not bring good news on this front.

Despite all of the talk that we hear from politicians going into elections and post-election, there is to be **NO** extra funding for our school for the year 2020/21. The Government have decided that there is no need to increase our base funding per child – it has not increased since I started here over 5 years ago. This devastating blow is compounded by the fact that the Local Authority will not be increasing the individual payments that we get for each child dependent upon their needs. We will, of course, continue to do our very best to make every penny count but your cooperation and help in this is always appreciated. Some simple steps that you can take as a parent / carer to support our struggling budget:

- Please do either send in wipes and gloves as well as pads if you have a child who has personal care (the alternative to this is to pay £5 on Parentpay)
- Please settle any outstanding debts for trips, dinner money etc that may sit on your account
- Please check your eligibility for Free School Meals and even if your child does not eat dinners, apply anyway because we can claim pupil premium funding (<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/fsmweb/>)

One area that we have acted upon in response to parents' comments in previous questionnaires is to increase the level of communication between home and school. You wanted to know what was being covered in classes so we now produce an overview for each class.

The 'anchor' to our curriculum this term is 'Celebration' and this formed the focus for our assembly which every class received an invitation to on Monday.

We talked about what we value and want to celebrate, and things that we do not value and should not be celebrated but should be eradicated or improved on. The students loved opening the parcels of symbolic items and deciding what side of the board they should go on

Please share with us any forthcoming celebrations that your child is involved in.

