



## Start of a New Year!

Welcome back after the Christmas break. I hope you had a lovely break and have managed to keep your resolutions!

We had a load of fun activities towards the end of last term and the school was festive and Christmassy!



## PHSE Day

We recently had our PHSE day looking at Relationships and Friendships. All classes took part in a range of activities on a carousel. The activities encouraged co-operative working, problem solving and reflection.







# Blackfriars Update

## Mayor and Mayoress Visit Blackfriars!

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Newcastle-under-Lyme's Mayor, Barry Panter, and Mayoress, Beatrice Panter, to Blackfriars! They enjoyed a tour of the school with our Headteacher, Mr. Campbell, and took time to answer questions from our fantastic Key Stage 4 students. It was an inspiring and insightful morning for everyone involved.

A huge thank you to the Mayor and Mayoress for taking the time out of their busy schedules to visit us - we truly appreciate it!





# Blackfriars Update



## Curriculum this term

Our focus this term is based around Leaders and Followers. We use this theme as an 'anchor' that brings a shared theme across our three curriculum pathways – Questioning, Immersive and Exploratory. Your class will communicate further how this looks for your child. You can find further information on the website also.

## Attendance

Recently there have been changes in the guidance around school attendance, Please see the information attached that explains our attendance strategy in school. You can also find it on our school website.

## Forthcoming dates:

Friday 14th February	Break up for half term
Monday 24th February	Return from half term
Thursday 27th February	Job Fair (information will go to relevant year group)
Monday 3rd March	PHSE Day – information to follow
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day – details to be confirmed and sent out via Showbie
Friday 11th April	Break up for Easter

Yours Sincerely,

**Jamie Campbell, Headteacher.**



# Blackfriars Update

## Attendance really matters at Blackfriars.

Blackfriars Academy is a thriving school and your child is part of this success. We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of our school community to inspire, learn, enjoy, achieve and have fun.

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education, it is vital that they attend school regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning.

It is very important therefore that you make sure that your child attends regularly. We work with VIP Education to support us with our attendance work.

## Attendance really matters at Blackfriars Academy

100%  
0 days of  
lost learning



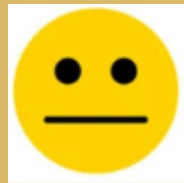
Perfect

97%  
5 days of  
lost learning



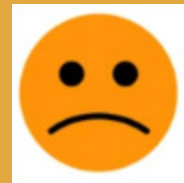
Still can keep  
up progress

95%  
10 days of  
lost learning



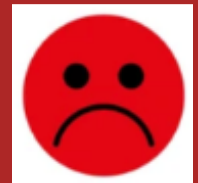
Less chance to  
succeed

90%  
20 days of  
lost learning



Harder to make  
progress

85%  
30 days of  
lost learning



Concerning  
absence

# Blackfriars Update



## Parent's must:

- Ensure children attend school regularly and punctually
- Contact school on each day of absence via the school office (01782 987150) by 09:00 AM.
- Avoid holidays in term time wherever possible and apply in advance in writing via the holiday request form available from reception. Please send this into school.
- Attend meetings in school
- Participation in the home-school agreement and co-operate in support and interventions offered by school or other agencies

## Pupils must:

- Acknowledge behaviour needed out of school e.g. early bedtime.
- Attend school/registration punctually.
- Speak to parents/teacher if issues arise that may have an effect on their school attendance.
- Co-operate and participate in interventions and support offered by the school or other agencies.

### Thinking of submitting a holiday request for your child...?

#### If so, please think carefully...

- There is no automatic entitlement to leave during term time. Therefore, parents must seek the school's permission before taking their child out of school.
- The school will only authorize the absence if there are exceptional reasons for taking leave during term time.
- The school requires parents to fill out a leave request form before booking any time off and may request them to attend a meeting in school.

#### Reasons why you should not take your child out of school during term time:

- Evidence shows that even a small amount of absence from school can affect your child's progress and attainment.
- Your child's education could be disrupted both before and after any leave, making it difficult for them to catch up.
- For every week of school a child misses, they lose valuable learning time that cannot be regained.
- There are regular holiday breaks between terms that can be used for family vacations.