



BLJS Newsletter



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The Spring 1 Newsletter

By BLJS Staff & Pupils

Welcome to our half termly newsletter. In it you'll find everything from messages from staff and celebrations of the children's work to key dates and important information. Any links on here will be live just click on them to visit the page!



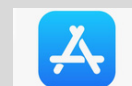
Keep in touch



Click the image to follow us on Twitter



Download the school jotter app from Google Play or Apple App Store



Message from Mrs Duynstee

Dear Parents and carers,
Well, we made it to half term!

For those families completing schoolwork at home, thank you for the wonderful work that you have been completing. We are very grateful to parents and carers for the support that is being given to the children. Many of you are juggling jobs and schooling, which we know from having our own children at home, is not easy. Most of you now seem to be in a routine and managing to be creative with timings.

For those pupils still in school – well done. It is all very strange, but you are continuing with great resilience and have been a great support to staff who are running two jobs at present – thank you. This term we have been able to provide tutors in school and laptops and devices for pupils working at home. We continue to prioritise our Catch Up curriculum and hope soon to be in receipt of some maths resources (textbooks/ workbooks) which Mrs Hunter has secured from a maths grant. These we hope will help boost the children when they all return to full schooling.

The staff at BLJS have remained creative, with Device Free Friday bringing everyone a welcome change from the current way of schooling, which has been unavoidable. Next term we had plans for art and design focused projects, which we will hopefully still be able to deliver after the planned return on March 8th.

Parents' evening is fast approaching. It will run in the same style as last term, with staff sending out our Interim Reports with targets for the remainder of the term. Parents can then arrange to communicate with teachers through DOJO on the night. Staff will be available between 5pm and 7pm on March 25th, however if you have any issues before hand, please get in touch with staff now as they are all happy to help.

Some good news to finish, in case you've missed it: Mrs Hemma Vaghela is joining us after half term to lead maths – so we welcome her to the team. Mr Gordon and Mr Sawyer are stepping up to lead science during Mrs Pollard's maternity leave – so good luck to them both.

Please do have a restful half term.

Mrs Duynstee,
Headteacher

The Thrive Approach @ BLJS



Mindfulness Minutes

We take regular opportunities at BLJS to enable children to be mindful and to take a few minutes out from the busy school day. Above is a taster of some the activities we provide.

By just setting aside short, yet regular slots of time this helps them to:

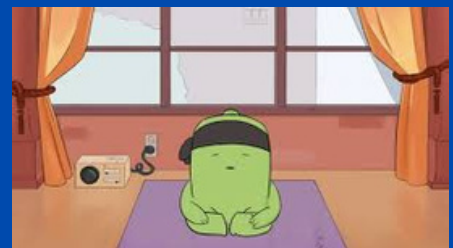
Increase positive moods

Lower anxiety and stress

Make better decisions

Improve emotional regulation skills

Here are some links we use in school that you could try out at home too:



COMING SOON.....When all of the children are able to safely return, we will be launching our BLJS Thrive daily activity menu. At the start of everyday, children will be greeted with calming mindfulness time followed by a fun play-based, creative task to ease them into their classroom environment. They will complete a feelings check-in and time to talk will be given to any pupils who need it. We recognise this has been a very difficult year for many which is why we are making the mental health and wellbeing of every pupil, every member of staff and every member of our school community, one of our main priorities.

Parliament & Forest School

It may seem a strange combination Forest School and School Parliament but, despite the lockdown, our Parliament members are still busy working at improving our school!

Mr Trezise has co-opted parliament members as 'Eco Warriors'. Their mission is to improve the school by lowering our carbon footprint! They will be working alongside Mr T to advise the school management as to what steps need to be taken.

Mr T is also in the process of developing the Forest School area further and has some exciting plans that hopefully we'll be able to report on in next half term's edition of the newsletter.

He has signed the school up for the RSPB Awards system which rewards members for encouraging birds and other wildlife. He has invested in a remote wildlife camera and has caught hedgehogs, foxes and other wild creatures (not the children) roaming our fabulous Forest School. Below are some images he has caught and he is still trying to get shots of the red kites that also visit the area - although he is slightly worried they may try and predate on his camera!



Green Woodpecker which we believe is nesting on site



Coal Tit



Buzzard with second Buzzard just coming in to land on left.



Tuesday 26th January - Thursday 28th January
WALT: Write a diary (in role)

WILE:

- Write informally and in first person
- Write in the past tense - a diary reflects back on the day's events and your thoughts and feelings
- Select language that will have an effect on the reader
- Discuss the characters thoughts, feelings and actions.
- Vary sentence structure, using conjunctions and fronted adverbials (simple, compound and complex sentences).

Dear Diary,

I woke up gasping for breath, my heart was pounding. The wolves. There were cuts on my clamped hands where my nails dug into my skin, and cold sweat clung to my brow. I felt a searing pain come from the back of my head and reached up onto the **monstrous** bookcase which **flanked** my bed in the claustrophobic room. Warily picking it up by the **mud-spotted** laces, I pulled out one of my cousin's trainers, covered in grime and god knows what they picked up from the trail that surrounded the lake. Glowing back at me, Robby mumbled something inaudible from the opposite side of the room - something rude knowing Robby. Rolling his eyes, he pulled the duvet over his head and embraced a good night's sleep - unlike me. Ever since the accident. Wolves. Pearley white teeth snarling; silver fur reflecting the moonlight. While infinite butterflies **prowled** in my stomach, I sighed and sunk into the incommensurate mattress and threw the duvet which amazingly caught itself on a shelf on the towering bookcase, to free me from heat's wrath.

The uncomfortable mattress had never stopped me from sleeping before but tonight must have been a first. I tossed and turned, **willing my body to sleep** until when Robby started his incessant snoring. I **finally** realised I had no hope of getting back to sleep. I was tempted to throw his trainer back at him, but I had already woken Robby up once tonight. I wouldn't want to risk a second try. Unfolding the fabric curtains of the bedroom, I heard two voices come through the other side of the wall - my aunt and uncle. They were arguing. Loudly. I pressed my good ear up against the wall and could just make out the mumbling of an argument breaking loose. It was about my house - mum's and my house. They wanted to sell it. My hands clenched together as well as my teeth. I **felt burning tears rise** in my eyes. My body tensed up with anger. Mum had only been gone for 3 months! Did they only care about money? At least Aunt Jenny was standing against it. Anyways the argument eventually subsided and I was left in silence.

My tongue felt like sandpaper, I couldn't get the thought of my house to **run** my mind. The house. The mismatched objects strewn around, the constant smell of apple pie in the kitchen. Even the thought of it tugged **sewards** on the sides of my mouth. And my room, no Robby or uncomfortable mattresses, it was mine. It was home. I remembered the scattered books **spontaneously placed** around the house and the sense of relief when I crashed onto my bed at the end of another school day. The sense of mystery and excitement when mum called me down to the kitchen and I smelt a hint of something sweet other than the usual apple pie aroma. The sense of happiness when I was around my mum. My mum. Gone now. Never to come back. Gone forever. No. Surely not forever. This is why I never went back to the house, every bit reminded me of her. The banister was a twist of a branch tamed by the carpenter's hand reminded me of her firm but nurturing touch, the foundation the house was built upon was her love for me - strong. Even if I did manage to get past this variety of hurtful memories of her, the kitchen would be the worst. The post-it notes on the fridge in her cursive handwriting reminding me where the bread was or what was for dinner made my heart a punchbag for sadness.

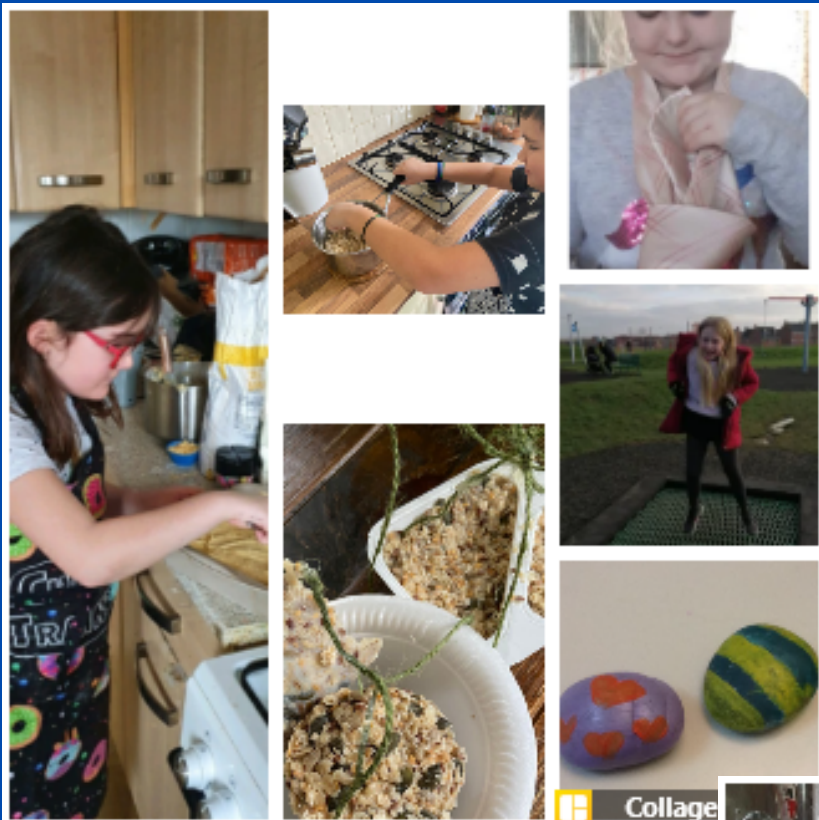
[Click to see full document](#)

Year 6



Wow! What a strange half term it has been for Y6 and we are immensely proud of all of the children for how they have adapted to the situation we find ourselves in. Having had 6 weeks to master online learning, Year 6 are now proficient in Google Classrooms and are enjoying using this to access their learning. As a year group, we've also managed to use Google Meets, which has allowed us to see those familiar faces we've been missing and catch up with each other. As a year group, we've been reading Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick and have completed lots of English work around this text. Children have written some fantastic diaries and have a great understanding of the story too - Ferne, from 6T commented, "It's a great book and the characters are interesting." In Maths, children have covered a range of curriculum areas and have continued to develop their knowledge! All children have been engaging well with their Maths learning and they continue to impress us daily with their efforts. It feels like we've had lots of snow during this half term, so to enjoy this weather we collapsed our curriculum for the day and moved our learning into the snow. Children designed creatures, they measured them, doubled their sizes when challenged, and generally enjoyed their day! Screen Free Friday has also been a big hit for both children and parents, who are all appreciating the range of activities available that mean that everyone is away from the screens! We've seen some lovely pictures of den's people have build, art created and baking. This is a regular feature now each Friday and we'd love for you to share what you've been up to!

Year 5

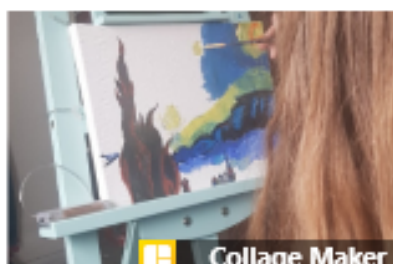
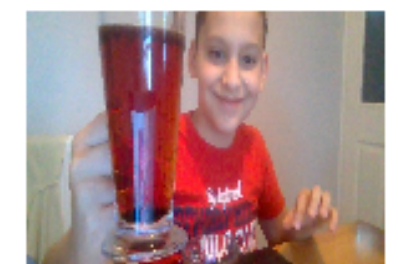
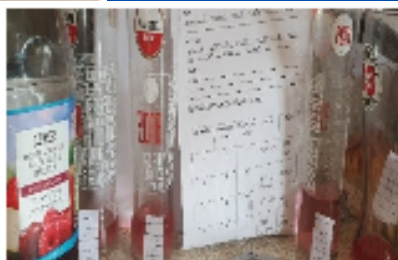


Collage

Year 5 have been extremely creative and productive, both at school and at home. The children have been writing persuasive letters to the Education Secretary, using a protractor to measure angles in Maths, learning about Anglo-Saxons in history, understanding materials and their properties through a variety of experiments in Science, researching famous artists and experimenting with paint in Art, understanding how ingredients are grown and all about Anglo-Saxon food in DT, cooking at home, keeping active and taking part in set challenges and Screen Break Fridays.

Children, we are extremely proud of you and your potential!

Happy half term everyone! Stay safe!



Collage Maker

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

WALT: Write a persuasive letter.

Rugby
Warwickshire
CV23 0JR

10 Downing Street
London

02/02/21

Dear Education Secretary,

I am Eleanor Barber and I have education at Boughton Leigh junior School. I have noticed that some schools (not including mine) don't wear a school uniform. I am writing to you so that you make it compulsory that children in England must wear a school uniform.

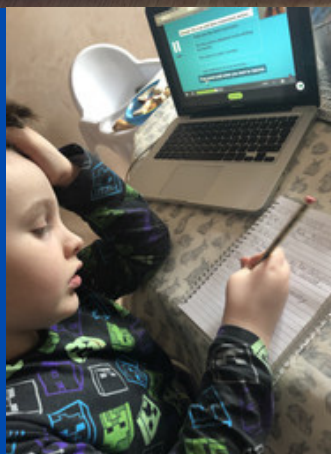
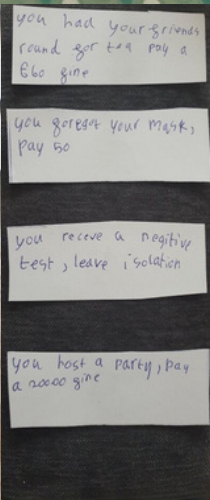
I believe that children across the UK will benefit in school if pupils wear a uniform as I think people will concentrate more if wearing a uniform and there won't be certain kids looking like they aren't 100% ready to learn and that would ruin the meaning of a school but, I know you are very wise and you will take my advice.

It won't make lots of adults go shopping for expensive clothes so kids show off and make pupils feel bad that they don't have enough money to buy new clothes but, with a uniform for about £5 children all wear the same clothes and there will be no competition of the coolest t-shirt or the nicest jeans or even the prettiest headband. Also, the money that parents save can be used to buy books to improve reading, money for a tutor and healthy food like fruit, vegetables, bread, meat instead of cheap pizzas, chocolate and sweets.

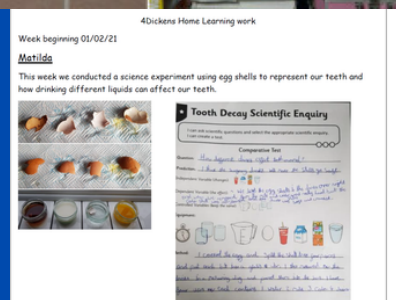
Yours sincerely,
Eleanor



Year 4



Daisy (4 Nimmo)



Click on image above to see work

Here at Boughton Leigh junior school we are doing our very best to keep up with corona virus. It isn't easy but as a school we will work together to beat this pandemic we are in. Our school has been doing lots of fun team meetings with the children that can't come into school. When we do the calls we do general knowledge quizzes which are fun (and test our learning!) all the children love doing them so much.

This term has been a huge challenge for pupils in and out of school and for the teachers managing school and remote learning.

All the children appreciate what the teachers are doing to help us learn. A big thank you to the staff at Boughton Leigh junior school for doing your best ever to help the school stay safe.

This week an air ambulance landed on the infant school field it was amazing all the children loved it. But we were also worried and hope the person they came to see is OK. We were surprised to hear that the Air Ambulance and Children's Air Ambulance are funded only by donations. If you want to help them out then click the link and donate or visit the Children's Air Ambulance where you can become part of their 'Crew' and help keep them flying.

Keep safe and have a peaceful half term break.



Year 3

All of the staff in year 3 are exceptionally proud of how hard the children have been working, both at home and in school. They have all impressed us with their hard work, determination, perseverance and dedication to their learning. We are all very proud of you, year 3!



**School opens
after half term
break
22nd Feb**

**Virtual Parents
evening
25th March**

KEY DATES

**Red Nose
Day
19th
March**

**World Book
Day
4th
March**

**School Closes
for Easter
break
Thurs 1st April**

Half term Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021
Ends Thursday 1 April 2021
Spring (Easter) holiday Friday 2 April 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021

Summer Term Starts Monday 19 April 2021
Half term Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021
Ends Wednesday 21 July 2021

Notes from the Office

During this current lockdown the office has been busy dealing with inquiries and doing what we can to support the whole school community! Thank you for being patient and understanding if there have be delays in our responses.

We have recently been made aware of a number of 'Scam' phone calls that people in our community have been receiving. From people alleging to be from the NHS to others masquerading as representatives of the Mathletics computer program all have have had one thing in common, they need your bank/card details! Please be vigilant. The Mathletics one is currently going around the country but rest assured the company do not have your contact details and would never phone! A polite reminder that if your child has issues with another child in school do not confront them yourselves. Please contact the school and we will deal with the issue appropriately!

A big thank you to all those who have completed questionnaires for us recently. We will publish the data and actions that will be taken from the feedback shortly!

Covid symptoms – parents will need to contact us via admin2590 for positive track and trace up until midnight on Sunday. After that they do not need to inform school.

Test results be emailed into admin2590@welearn365.com

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The Office Ladies!



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

4 MARCH 2021

Your challenge is to design a potato book character.

Use a potato and be as creative as you like to turn it into a book character of your choice.

You may use any materials you like. Use whatever you have at home. If you prefer, you can make a poster of your favourite character instead.



IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!





Safer
Internet
Day 2021

Tuesday
9 February

Together for a better internet

www.saferinternetday.org



European
Commission

INHOPE

insafe

internet
matters.org

SAFETY

Online safety guide

6 – 10 years

As internet use grows learn about the steps you can make to establish positive behaviour and how you can teach your child to stay safe. Click above to download.

This week contained safer internet day! They always have a specific theme and this year's was particularly suitable 'working together for a better internet. An internet we can trust'.

The links (images) above will take you to both the Safer Internet Day site and also the Internet Matters site both of which have a host of guidance to help us help our children make good decisions with their internet use and teaching to identify things like 'Fake News' and 'Social Media Safety'.

Ultimately most social media sites have a minimum age for membership of 13 therefore if your children are accessing sites such as TikTok it is vital that you are aware of what they are viewing and posting and they are aware of the inappropriate material they are likely to see and how they can keep themselves safer!



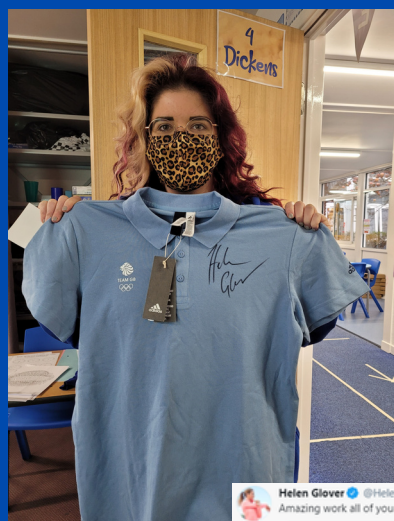
PE NEWS!

It's been a bit of a strange half term for PE, but I still have some great updates to share! Before Christmas, I was notified that our school have won a signed piece of Team GB kit from Helen Glover, which was so exciting. This fabulous piece of kit arrived this half term, and it looks far more fabulous than I ever thought it would, the children who have seen the signed kit were just as excited as I was! We will be getting this kit framed and put up, on display in school for all to see.

Whilst we are in lockdown, it is so important to keep active where possible. I am getting regular updates and links to a range of different resources which are available for you to access. These are being uploaded onto the website regularly, so please take a look.

It has been great seeing the children at school keeping active in a range of different ways such as the daily mile, Year 6 have recently been enjoying the bleep test - why not have a go at completing it at home?

You can access this through YouTube.



*Miss Hobnob's
PE Page*

Click above to visit our activities webpage

We tweeted the news and got a response from Helen Glover! It's made our week! Follow the school's twitter page by clicking the image



OTHER NEWS



Mrs Hadley has had one of her nature photographs selected to be part of the Holton Outdoor Photo Exhibition! More details about the exhibition will follow but for now a big 'Well done!' to her!



Please click the image above to find a PE activity booklet for your children to complete. There is a game board and a diary for the students to plan out the different activities they would like to do. If your children complete any of the activities, please could you take photos and send them to your class teacher who can send them to me, so I can add them to my PE display. I hope you enjoy the pack and I look forward to seeing lots of wonderful photos! Miss Hobday



Click on the CGP logo for information about a great deal we have on their support books for all year groups!

Thank you!