

# Newsletter

AUTUMN

*If you work really hard and you are always kind, amazing things will happen!*

**THANK YOU!**



As we come to the end of a long term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your continued support. We have had an exciting start to the school year, with numerous events, trips and fun days. We are proud of each and every one of our students for their continued hard work and punctuality!

We have some important information to share with you regarding staff changes and attendance which will be in your best interest.

Finally, E- Act Blackley Academy would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and we will look forward to seeing you in the new year!  
Mr Hughes - Headteacher



**SUCCESS!**



## KEY STAGE 2 NATIONAL TESTS

Last summer our Year 6's sat their SAT's for the first time since the pandemic. We are excited to announce upon receiving the results this term, we have received the best results in the school's history! Our school scored higher on average than school's nationally in Reading, Maths and Writing, implying we are one of highest achieving schools in Manchester. We are extremely proud of each and every child for their hard work and dedication to study! Also, a big well done and thank you to our teachers & teacher assistant's that have worked hard to achieve these results.

The results are a brilliant testament to the fantastic work that goes on in every year group which prepares our children for the next phase of their education.

## MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK!

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether Y4 pupils can recall their multiplication tables fluently (being able to answer times tables questions accurately and quickly, without having to work out the answers). Under the current National Curriculum, primary-school children are expected to know all their times tables up to 12x12 by the end of year 4. On average, our children scored 8% above other schools nationally, implying we have some real amazing mathematicians at our school!



# EVENTS THIS TERM!

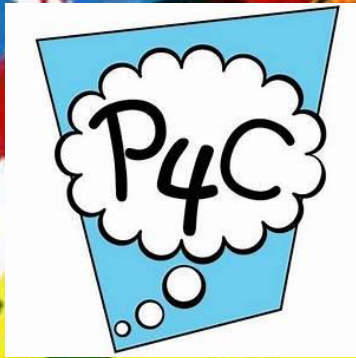


The autumn term has been very busy at E-ACT Blackley Academy. The children have taken part in various after school clubs and drop-down-day events enhancing their skills for their education and personal development.

This year, we introduced **Commando Joe**, our new 'Character Curriculum'. This program allows children and young people to develop life skills, improve attendance, develop a growth mindset and build resilience. The children have enjoyed completing the Commando Joe Missions this term.

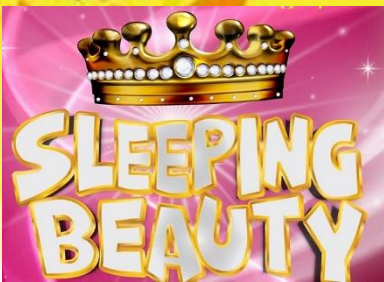


Another initiative we launched this year was **Debate Mate**. Inspirational mentors have been visiting each week to mentor and encourage learning and education. The mentors run after-school debate clubs where children get the chance to develop key 21st century employability skills and positive character attributes. It really is amazing to see our children debating important topics with skill and dexterity.



We would like to extend our thanks to those parents who were able to join us for our **'We Love to Read'** event this term. Parents had the opportunity to tour the school and look behind the scenes at how we teach reading. We shared top tips for supporting children with reading at home and parents had the chance to explore our new library. Off the back of this event, we have decided to run a bi-weekly parent and child reading club in our library, this runs every other Thursday. Do not hesitate to get in touch to come along to this event!

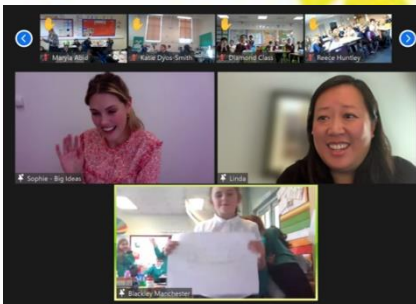
You may have noticed your children coming home each week with a 'Sticky Question'. This is part of our new **Philosophy for Children** curriculum. The new program offers children the chance to explore ordinary but puzzling concepts, improving their thinking to make more sense of the world. Please continue to discuss the 'Sticky Questions' with your children as part of this initiative!



A couple of weeks ago the children were taken to CO-OP Academy for a performance of **Sleeping Beauty**. They had so much fun and it was a real pleasure watching them singing and dancing along to the entertainment.

Earlier this term, some of our children had the chance to meet an inspirational engineer in America, she was part of the team that has designed the new Ford electric car. We spent the afternoon on a Zoom call asking questions regarding STEM careers, being given the opportunity to enter a competition to design their own electric car.

This was a very special experience for each child being given the opportunity to speak to a leading professional, finding out about a career within the field of science and engineering.





## Blackley Community Hub



We are proudly working in Partnership with a number of organisations to provide a place where the community can come for advice and support on a wide range of topics.

Based at St Paul CofE Church, Victoria Avenue, The Blackley Community Hub is a place where the community can receive support and advice regarding different topics. We are extremely proud to be working with a number of organisations and agencies to deliver much needed support that research has shown us has not previously been accessible to the Blackley community.

We have recently introduced **The Bread and Butter Thing at Blackley Community Hub**. This mobile food club gives access to nutritious and affordable food for the whole community. This low-cost weekly shop provides essential produce for families – fresh fruit and veg, fridge favourites and cupboard staples. To gain access to this amazing resource, please get in touch with us or simply turn up to our Hub on a Thursday afternoon.



THE  
BLACKLEY  
COMMUNITY HUB

Here for you.

Attendance



## **We encourage all children to have excellent attendance at E-ACT Blackley Academy**

Regular school attendance brings enormous benefits to the individual, their families, schools and the community as a whole. Without regular attendance, levels of attainment suffer and opportunities are missed to obtain maximum benefit from education.

Persistent absence and lateness will affect a child's achievement and progression in school. Comprehensive research shows that there is a direct link between a child's level of school attendance and their level of school attainment.

As a parent it is your legal responsibility to ensure your child receives a suitable full-time education. It is your responsibility that your child attends school each day and is **on time**.

It is important to set the expectation of good attendance right from the beginning of school so children grow up with punctuality and 'good habits'.

### **What happens if we are worried about your child's school attendance?**

- Good attendance is above 95% , if attendance is below 90% the child is classified as 'persistently absent' from school and this will have a negative impact on the child's learning.
- If we have concerns about your child's attendance we will contact you to offer support, ensuring we work together to get your child's attendance back up.

## **Change of Teachers**



In the new term, there will be some staffing changes as some of our teachers move on to new and exciting opportunities in their careers.

**Miss Whatmough Year 3 Cherry** – Miss Whatmough will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up a teaching role in Dubai. This is a really exciting opportunity for Miss Whatmough and we would like to wish her every success in her future. The class will get a new teacher at the start of February. In the meantime, our Deputy SENCO Miss Adams will be the interim class teacher. Miss Adams has taught this class before and has excellent relationships with the children. She is really looking forward to spending time with Year 3 Cherry while we are waiting for their new teacher to start.

**Miss Adams Year 1 Oak** – Miss Adams will be leaving us at the end of January to start her new teaching career in Scotland. We will be very sad to see Miss Adams move on from the academy, however, we would like to wish her every success in the future. The new class teacher for Year 1 Oak will be Miss McDougall. Miss McDougall has spent much of this half term with this class and has begun to build amazing relationships with the class. She is really excited to take over full time from Miss Adams when we return in the new term.

**New Reception Teacher** – We are pleased to announce the appointment of a brand-new teacher to our Reception class. Mrs Smythe joins us with vast amounts of experience in Early Years Education. She is a specialist in Outdoor Provision and we are really lucky to have her join the team.

