



Blackboys CE Primary School  
School Lane  
Blackboys  
Uckfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 5LL

01825 890423  
[office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr G Sullivan

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to school from the Christmas break! We hope that you have had a restful and peaceful festive period. Our Christian value of the term is 'courage'. From conversations around school, this value is going to inspire our children to be courageous and resilient. Sometimes taking the first step in a new skill or life change can be the hardest. We'll all be courageous and supportive together as a school community.

#### **Managing Tricky Mornings Session - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan**

We are very lucky to have Lucy Chedzoy from the East Sussex Mental Health Support Team running an in-school coffee afternoon for parents next Monday. This will be an informal session where Lucy will share tips and strategies for supporting children who may struggle to manage busy morning routines at home. The session run from 1:30-3pm and we look forward to parents joining us for a thought-provoking afternoon.

#### **New Caretakers**

We are delighted to report that following a very thorough recruitment process, the Governors and I have appointed 2 new caretakers, covering the role as a job share. We look forward to welcoming Mr Brendan Hammond and Mrs Suzanne Hammond to their new role from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Both Mr and Mrs Hammond are well known to the school, having been former parents and also through New Life Church, Blackboys and our Open the Book assemblies. I know everyone will make them feel at home.

#### **Clerk to Governors**

Following 17 years sterling service to the school, our Clerk to Governors Mr Phil Wilmoski retired at the end of the year. We have appointed a new Clerk to Governors, Ms Rebecca Miller. Ms Miller's role tends to be more 'behind the scenes' supporting our Governing Body, but I know she will be a valuable asset to our school.

#### **TT Rockstar and Numbots Day - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.**

We are holding an exciting theme day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January to boost the profile of our online Maths platforms, Numbots and TT Rockstars. We invite Key Stage 1 pupils to dress up as Robots. They will complete plenty of Numbots practice in class and be part of a special assembly led by Maths subject leader Mr Boorman. Key Stage 2 children are invited to dress up as a rockstar and will also have some special events taking place. We know dressing up isn't for everyone, but please encourage children to take part. We're hoping staff will be dressing up too!

#### **Parking**

We are all fully aware that parking at Blackboys can be difficult despite the opportunities to use the Blackboys Inn and Village Hall car parks. I have been made aware of a resident of School Lane who wears a high-viz jacket and acts as some form of 'street parking marshal'. This resident

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(John 10:10)



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is not acting on behalf of the school, but does have the good of the village at heart. I am sorry to hear that there have been altercations with this resident, but please try to be courteous in any interactions.

Ultimately, the school hopes that parents will park considerately. The blocking of pavements, parking over driveways and filling junctions is not on, and will ultimately increase the risk of accidents (sadly, most likely involving one of our children). We have yellow zig zags outside of school. These are not for parking or stopping on. They are designed to keep clear to help children to cross the road safely.

In the new term, it might be a good idea for Key Stage 2 parents to consider whether they need to come into the playground and wait with their child at the start of the day. As children get older and more independent, leaving your child when they enter the school gate and returning to cars might free-up space for others. Alleviating the blockages at the start of the day would certainly help.

### **Winter**

With the colder months upon us please can we take this opportunity to remind you that in the event of adverse weather causing potential school closure we will communicate relevant information to Parents/Carers via the following means; ParentMail, the Blackboys CEP School website homepage, our 'X' and Instagram feeds and local radio stations which will include Ashdown Radio. You can also sign up to an alert via ESCC

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/school-closures>

As previous winters, please remember that we make every effort to remain fully open. We would also expect families to make every effort to attend school. Please allow plenty of time for journeys, use main roads where possible and be prepared.

### **Diary Dates**

As ever our school diary is available on the home page of our school website, accessed via; <http://www.blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk/> This itemises events well into the future to aid you in planning.

### **Class Planning Meetings**

Our Spring term planning meetings will be taking place as detailed below for classes 1 and 2. During these meetings Class teachers will be giving an overview of the curriculum and classroom routines for the term ahead. These will be taking place from next week.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Class 1</b> | Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January @2.45pm,<br>Class 1 |
| <b>Class 2</b> | Wednesday 14th January @2.45pm,<br>Class 2           |

A class newsletter for all classes, 1 through to 5 will be distributed by the end of next week, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

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### **Act of Worships**

As you will be aware we welcome Parents/Carers to any Thursday act of worships (assemblies) which take place in the School Hall from 9.05am and last around 20 minutes.

Please utilise the School diary which is embedded within the home page of the Blackboys School website for these dates.

On Thursdays we have the following notable acts of worship scheduled.

| Class/Visitor    | Date  |
|------------------|---|
| Pastor Phil      | Thursday 22nd January 2026,<br>9.05am School Hall   |
| Class 5 Assembly | Thursday 29th January 2026,<br>9.05am School Hall   |
| Class 2 Assembly | Thursday 5th February 2026,<br>9.05am School Hall   |
| Father James     | Thursday 12th February 2026,<br>09.05am School Hall |

### **Contact with teachers**

Should you wish to discuss anything with your child's teacher, you are welcome to pop along to the classroom at the end of the day. If there is a matter of urgency which needs discussing, teachers can be seen in the morning but obviously their availability is somewhat limited. Should you have a need to speak with Mr Sullivan, please see the school office to make an appointment with him. All staff will happily communicate through email.

### **Uniform**

In the run up to Christmas, we noticed that some children were wearing large colorful hair accessories, novelty earrings and varying shoes. Please could we remind parents that children should wear discrete, plain hair accessories (preferably in Blackboys green), plain metal stud earrings and traditional black school shoes (not trainers, 'sneaker' style school shoes or boots). Should you ever need any help or support with uniform, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Our uniform providers, *Signosaurus* <https://www.signosaurus.co.uk/blackboys-school-clothing> are a locally based family run business, and ordering uniform online couldn't be easier, with options for delivery of either direct to School to collect or your home address (a small charge is made for this).

### **Forest School**

Once again, pupils in Class 1 will be taking part in Forest School on a rota basis as per the ParentMail email sent out to all Class 1 Parents/Carers during the end to last term.

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During the first half of the Spring Term it will be Class 4's turn to take part in the sessions with these taking place on a Wednesday. After the February mid-term break it will be Class 5's time to enjoy Forest School. A rota for this will be distributed before the end of this half term.

Please can we remind Parents/Carers that our Wednesday weekly Forest School sessions, whilst led by Mrs Godfrey, rely heavily on parental volunteers. There is a parental/carer sign-up sheet to enable parents to indicate their availability to assist on the internal School Office door or if preferred please email [office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk) with the dates of the sessions which you can assist with and they will add your name. If there is not the correct adult to pupil ratio for the sessions these may have to be cancelled.

#### **Inset Days 25/26**

Remaining Inset days planned for the academic year are:

| <b>INSET DAYS 25/26</b>              |
|--------------------------------------|
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026   |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026     |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026 |

#### **Spring Parent Consultation Dates**

Please make a note of the following two dates when our Spring Term Parent Consultations will take place. A letter with the interactive 'sign up' links will be sent out towards the end of January. A reminder about this will be published in the fortnightly School newsletter.

| <b>SPRING TERM PARENT CONSULTATIONS</b>         |
|---|
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 3.30-6.00pm     |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 5.00-7.30pm |

#### **Emergency Parental Contact Details**

In case of emergencies, School holds contact details for all parents (and other family members which you have given as a contact) against each pupil. Should you have moved house, jobs or wish to add another contact number please can you make sure that you inform the School Office of this. If in doubt you are welcome to check with the office what numbers etc. are held.

#### **ParentMail**

In general as a school we use ParentMail to communicate things like fortnightly school newsletters, uniform orders, success in gaining places in clubs with limited spaces etc. with Parents via the ParentMail emailing service.

*Please ensure that you update your contact details on this to ensure that you are kept up to date with all news. The school office is unable to amend any parents' details for those who have 'connected' via ParentMail.*

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### **Clubs - Spring Terms 3&4**

Attached are the lunchtime and after school club options for this Spring term, 3 and 4.

Please fill in your child's club choices returning it to the School Office. You are welcome to return forms via scan email to the office email address [office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk)

**If the club has a maximum number of attendees a ParentMail will be sent out informing you of your child's allocation of a place or not.**

**Not all clubs have limited numbers and if your child chooses a club that doesn't have a 'limited to' number they will automatically gain a place.**

Please also note instructions with regards to payment for specific clubs. We also ask that should your child put their name down for a club that their attendance is expected for the duration of the club.

**Please remember in the event that you have booked your child a space at After School Club (wrap around care) and your child goes to a club instead, please inform the office to cancel the After-School Club booking. Our wrap around care provision is incredibly popular and we want to be able to offer spaces to all who need them.**

Yours sincerely

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Mr G Sullivan  
Headteacher

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### Club Authorisation

for: \_\_\_\_\_ (child/ren's name(s))

| DAY                  | CLUB   | WHO FOR?   | EXTRA INFORMATION   | ATTENDING (PLEASE TICK BOX/ES TO REGISTER PUPIL(S) FOR CLUB) |
|----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| MONDAY               | SCHOOL LEARNING COUNCIL                            | TWO REPRESENTATIVES PER CLASS                                  |   |  |
|                      | GUITAR CLUB  | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS   | PLEASE MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH RBMS SHOULD YOUR CHILD NOT ALREADY PARTAKE IN THE CLUB AND WOULD LIKE A TRIAL<br><a href="https://rbmsmusic.com/join/">https://rbmsmusic.com/join/</a>  |  |
|                      | BOOK CLUB  | YEARS 1,2,3 & 4  |   |  |
|                      | KS2 FOOTBALL CLUB<br>INCORPORATING GIRLS' FOOTBALL | KEY STAGE 2 (YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6)<br>CHILDREN ONLY                |   |  |
| TUESDAY              | CHOIR CLUB   | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS   |   |  |
|                      | ART CLUB   | YEARS 2,3,4  | LIMITED TO 15 PLACES  |  |
|                      | MISS ZARA'S DANCE CLUB                             | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS   | PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYER TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH MISS ZARA TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD (LINK BELOW) AND ARRANGE PAYMENT<br>LIMITED TO 20<br><a href="https://app.classmanager.com/portal/zara-breeze/enrolment/classes/term-3-2-blackboys-school">https://app.classmanager.com/portal/zara-breeze/enrolment/classes/term-3-2-blackboys-school</a> |  |
| WEDNESDAY            | CHEESE APPRECIATION SOCIETY                        | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS BUT PLEASE BE AWARE OF DIETARY REQUIREMENTS | LIMITED TO 15 PLACES  |  |
|                      | KS1 FOOTBALL SESSIONS                              | KEY STAGE 1 ONLY (YEARS R, 1 & 2)                              | LIMITED TO 18 PLACES  |  |
| THURSDAY             | CHESS CLUB   | YEARS 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6   | LIMITED TO 20 PLACES  |  |
|                      | NETBALL  | KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6)<br>CHILDREN ONLY               |   |  |
| EVERY DAY!           | READING CLUB                                       | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS   |   |  |
| NO SIGN UP REQUIRED! | WHEELIE WEDNESDAY                                  | BY ROTA  |   |  |

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**LUNCHTIME & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SPRING TERM 25/26**  
**UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CLUBS RUN FOR THE WHOLE OF SPRING TERMS 3 & 4**

| DAY     | CLUB  | WHO FOR?                                     | TIME                              | ESSENTIAL DETAILS  |
|---------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| MONDAY  | SCHOOL LEARNING COUNCIL                         | TWO REPRESENTATIVES PER CLASS                | 12.30-1.00pm                      | Mrs Booth continues to lead the pupil School Learning Council. Pupils who were voted for during Term 1 will continue their good work for the remainder of the academic year. Elections are held annually in September.<br><b>Starts Monday 05<sup>th</sup> January</b>   |
|         | GUITAR CLUB                                     | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS                           | 12:00-1.00pm (half hour sessions) | Jack from Red Butler Music School will return for Guitar club. If your child took part in this club last year and would like to continue or if your child would like to try, please use the club return slip to inform the School Office. Red Butler Music School will contact you directly with regards to payment.<br><b>Starts Monday 05<sup>th</sup> January</b>   |
|         | BOOK CLUB                                       | YEARS 1, 2, 3, 4                             | 12-12.30pm                        | Meet book enthusiast Miss Mylon in the LRC to share and explore books.<br><b>Starts Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>   |
|         | KS2 FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATING GIRLS' FOOTBALL | KEY STAGE 2 (YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6) CHILDREN ONLY | 3.15-4.15pm                       | Mr Sullivan, Mr Boorman and Mr James would like to see keen Key Stage 2 footballers, boys and girls, for this free club. Please wear shin pads and appropriate clothing. <i>No Shin pads=No play!</i> Pupils will need to bring both football boots and trainers to each session as the field and all weather pitch will be used.<br><b>Starts Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b><br><b>PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB TAKING PLACE ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY DUE TO SPRING TERM PARENT CONSULTATIONS</b> |
| TUESDAY | CHOIR CLUB                                      | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS                           | 12.30-1.00pm                      | Mrs Taplin re-invites all singers to a club learning to perform classic and contemporary songs for special occasions. A positive 'can do' attitude is essential. The club will take place in Class 4.<br><b>Starts Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>   |
|         | ART CLUB  | YEARS 2,3,4                                  | 3.15-4.15pm                       | Miss Rietdyk continues to lead her friendly art club, focussing on creating and learning from famous artists from around the world. Limited to 15 places, There was a waiting list last term and if your child was on the waiting list <b>and</b> re-applies for a place this term, they will take priority so we can share this club's experience.<br><b>Starts Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>   |

|                      |                             |   |   |   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
|                      | MISS ZARA'S DANCE CLUB      | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS  | 3.15-4.15pm                                       | Dance Club with Zara! We warmly welcome back Miss Zara to deliver her famous dance club!<br>3.15-4.15pm. All monies to be paid directly to Miss Zara using the link below:<br><a href="https://app.classmanager.com/portal/zara-breeze/enrolment/classes/term-3-2-blackboys-school">https://app.classmanager.com/portal/zara-breeze/enrolment/classes/term-3-2-blackboys-school</a><br>Attached flyer with additional information. Spaces limited to 20.<br>Starts Tuesday 06 <sup>th</sup> January   |
| WEDNESDAY            | CHEESE APPRECIATION SOCIETY | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS<br>BUT PLEASE BE AWARE OF DIETARY REQUIREMENTS | 12.00-12.30pm                                     | Mr Sullivan and Year 5's Charles invite fellow cheese enthusiasts for a cheese history and tasting session. There will be a cheese of the week to focus our tasting. Limited to 15 pupils.<br>Participants of the club will be informed of their place via ParentMail.<br>6 dates throughout term 3 & 4, starting Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January  |
|                      | KS1 FOOTBALL SESSIONS       | KEY STAGE 1 ONLY (YEARS R, 1 & 2)                                 | 3.15-4.00pm<br>(please note the end time of this) | Mr James invites all budding KS1 pupils to join him after school for some football fun!<br>Trainers required (NO FOOTBALL BOOTS) as the club will take place on the all-weather pitch or playground. Warm clothes are a must!<br>The club will be limited to 18.<br>Participants of the club will be informed of their place via ParentMail.<br>Starts Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January<br>PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO KS1 FOOTBALL CLUB TAKING PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH. WEDNESDAY 11 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH WILL BE THE FINAL SESSION. |
| THURSDAY             | CHESS CLUB                  | YEARS 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6  | 12.30-1.00pm                                      | Mr Sullivan shall lead a lunchtime Chess Club. Limited to 20 players. To take place in Class 5. Participants of the club will be informed of their place via ParentMail.<br>Starts Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January  |
|                      | NETBALL                     | KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6)<br>CHILDREN ONLY                  | 3.15-4.15pm                                       | Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Howell offer quality free coaching to keen Key Stage 2 children. Please wear appropriate clothing/PE kit. No trainers = No Netball!<br>Starts Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January  |
| EVERY DAY!           | READING CLUB                | OPEN TO ALL PUPILS  | BREAK TIME / LUNCH TIME / AFTER SCHOOL            | Mr Sullivan are always on the lookout for keen readers who want to try something different or challenge themselves. Come to Mr Sullivan's office during your break, lunchtime or even quickly after school to select a book and begin your reading challenge.<br>Starts Monday 05 <sup>th</sup> January   |
| NO SIGN UP REQUIRED! | LUNCHTIME WHEELIE WEDNESDAY | BY YEAR GROUP ON A ROTA BASIS                                     | 12.30-1.00pm                                      | Mrs Pomfret and Trinity will be leading this club. Year groups will be invited on a rota basis and informed via assembly when it's their turn to take part. Pupils will enjoy time on scooters and skateboards, improving their co-ordination and time outside!<br>Starts Wednesday 07 <sup>th</sup> January  |