



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of the 2023/24 academic year. It's been a busy start to term as always, with everything falling into those patterns of school that we, once again, take for granted.

Alongside pupils and students returning to their classes and adjusting back into their respective timetables, they are enjoying some new subjects (eSports, Learning outside the classroom and History to name a few), we have had a continued focus on developing the school in line with our strategic plan.

We welcomed the Ofsted inspection team into school on the 26th -28th September. Thank you to the staff team, parents and pupils for engaging with the inspectors and excitedly sharing their successes. I look forward to publishing the report on our website in the coming days.

The team have also been able to arrange the Macmillan parent afternoon and fundraising, attend the Gillingham Careers fayre, learn more around Dyslexia Awareness Week and Black History month. Our specialist teacher conducted our WRAT testing, with significant progress made across the school. Well done all pupils for your continued drive.

You will see on the reports this year that we have included the behaviour tracking points. This will be shared each term to identify strengths and patterns of change. The descriptor of each category is available on the website, alongside the middle leaders' presentations. <https://www.blueskiesschool.co.uk/info-for-parents-1>

Have a restful week, and I look forward to seeing everyone in term 2.

Graham Richards

Notices

- Congratulations to Sam G on getting married over the summer.

- The School Aged Immunisation Service would like to invite parents to book an appointment at one of their Community Clinics if your child missed their cancer prevention HPV vaccination on their visit. Parents can book an appointment via their website on the following link :
<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms>

Macmillan coffee fundraising event raised £54.00

Thank you all for your donations.

Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Graham Richards - Headteacher - Lead DSL
Sam Gracey - Senior Teacher - Deputy DSL
Jo Higgins - Proprietor - Overseeing Safeguarding

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

safeguarding@blueskiesschool.co.uk

Diary Dates:

30/10/2023 - students return to school
06/11/2023 - Founder's day - students in school

Birthday Wishes:

02/11/2023 - Alfie
14/11/2023 - Leo
17/11/2023 - Katie
19/11/2023 - Vivienne
26/11/2023 - Lily
10/12/2023 - Thomas

Happy Birthday to you, from all at Blue Skies

Highlights Reel



Warhammer lunch club



**School's Allotment
Work in Progress**

**Science lesson
heart dissection**



Term 1

This term students were able to join several lunchtime clubs that were run by different members of staff.

Tuesday - Warhammer club - led by Graham

Wednesday - park club - led by Sam G and Graham

Thursday - crochet club - led by Sam M

ELC group students were learning about the structure and function of the heart and to enhance their learning, they were able to participate in the science experiment "The Dissection of Sheep's Heart".

Alto and Stratus class, as part of their Life and Living skills were asked to choose their own recipes, research and purchase the ingredients needed and cook or bake their chosen meal.

Cumulus class had visited the school's allotment area where they used several life and living skills such as drilling, sawing, cutting trees and helping to build the shed. **Well done, everyone.**

Founder's Day - Celebration Day
Monday 6th November 2023
&
Blue Skies School
Fundraising for British Heart Foundation Charity
Planned Schedule of Activities

Sponsored...
Skip
Silence
Read

Cooking



Fran Higgins



Supporting the
British Heart Foundation

Heart Tattoos
&
Guess the number
of balloons

Knitting
&
Crocheting or Salt
Dough making

Film
&
Computer
games

Our Founder's Day here at **Blue Skies School** is very important to us.

The Founder of our School, **Fran Higgins** (Mum to Lauren and Jo, the proprietors) sadly passed away in September 2011 from a heart related condition. For this reason we have decided to celebrate her birthday, **5th November** in school and at the same time raise money for the **British Heart Foundation** in her honour.

The whole day will be full of fun activities, with the option for students to make things, carry out sponsored events, buy snacks and drinks and take part in some games as well as other activities. Students will need money with them on the day if they wish to buy food/drinks, or take part in some of the games. There will be a sponsorship form for the students to use so they will be able to ask friends/family to sponsor them if they wish to take part in a sponsored activity. **Students can wear something red on this day.**