



Blackrod Primary School Newsletter  
19th January 2026



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***Information included in this weeks newsletter:***

*Ronnie - The Dog Mentor*

*Kate Pankhurst - Author visit*

*Key Stage Updates*

*Celebration*

*Dates for the diary*

*Bolton Children's Choir*

*Blackrod Community Centre - Free wellbeing, skills and confidence sessions.*

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Ronnie The Dog Mentor







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### ***Ronnie Completes His Dog Mentor Training!***

*This week, Ronnie and his handlers successfully completed their Dog Mentor training and we enjoyed a wonderfully informative day of learning with The Dog Mentor, Jenny. As part of the programme, Ronnie's welfare was carefully assessed to ensure he will be safe, comfortable and happy in school.*

*We learned all about how Ronnie can support our children, join in with learning and contribute to making Blackrod an even happier place to be.*

*Over the coming week, we will be focusing on making our school environment and classrooms "Ronnie Ready" and he will begin visiting classes throughout the week. Ronnie will also take part in morning 'Meet and Greet' sessions, welcoming the children into school with his calm, friendly presence.*

*The photographs show Ronnie spending time with some children who have been especially helpful during lunchtimes by showing kindness and supporting others. Ronnie demonstrated how he works using clicker training and the children enjoyed some playtime with him and his toys.*

*A huge thank you to Jenny, The Dog Mentor, for a fantastic day. It was wonderful to welcome her to our school and to learn from her expertise.*

*We will continue to share updates about Ronnie the Dog Mentor on his Instagram page:*

*@ronniethedogmentor and through our weekly newsletter.*



BLACKROD PRIMARY SCHOOL IS EXCITED TO INVITE  
BEST SELLING ILLUSTRATOR AND AUTHOR

## KATE PANKHURST

ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026



Kate will be signing some of her best selling books during her visit. If you would like to purchase a book for her to sign, these are available to purchase at a discounted rate of £5 per book.

An expression of interest form will be available on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Once this form has been completed, payment via Parent pay will need to be made before Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

## EYFS Key Stage Update



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*The children have had a busy week. In maths we have been looking at how we can make 6, 7 and 8, in Literacy we have been learning all about London and its special buildings and practicing writing CVC words and phrases. The children did a fantastic job of using their phonics knowledge. In project, we have been looking at the habitats of minibeasts and have been creating collages in art.*

*Please ensure your child has their items of clothing and footwear named as we have lots of jumpers / cardigans in class that would love to go home.*

*We have sent home phonics blending books and a new QR code for your child's phonics. Please look at these with your child and record in their diary.*

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## Key Stage One Update



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*Key Stage 1 have had a wonderful two weeks back and have settled in beautifully to their learning. In History this term, the children are enjoying learning about explorers, including Neil Armstrong and Mathew Henson, and are beginning to understand why their achievements are so important. In Science, we are exploring different materials and their properties. This week, the children worked collaboratively to build bridges, investigating which materials were the strongest and most suitable. They showed great curiosity, teamwork and problem-solving skills throughout the activity. In English, the children have been working incredibly hard on creating their own fact files. They have been developing their writing skills by using clear sentences, key facts and careful presentation. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown by all the children this week.*

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## Lower Key Stage Two Update



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*We have had a busy and exciting start to the Spring term!*

*We began the term with Retrieval Day-remembering all the fascinating facts from previous topics prior to Christmas!*

*We are starting a range of new topics across the curriculum. We cannot wait to learn new skills and information.*

*In Art we have started to learn about Prehistoric drawings. We have been creating basic shapes of animals that were replicated on cave walls. The children have been investigating the shapes of woodland animals and sketching them with great care and detail. This also supports our learning in History all about the Stone Age and the changes through to the Iron Age. We will begin by learning all about prehistoric man.*

*We are starting to learn about electricity in Science. This includes electrical safety and being careful with appliances. The children will go on to build circuits and learn all about the*

*different components. In PHSE we will be focusing on Economic wellbeing and how to look after our money. We will also continue to learn the recorder and a range of songs to support our learning.*

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## Upper Key Stage Two Update



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*We have had a very busy week in UKS2 and it has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm and effort shown by the children across all areas of learning.*

*One of the highlights of the week was our Design Technology work, where pupils spent an exciting day designing and creating their own playgrounds. They learned how to use tools such as saws and glue guns safely and responsibly, developing both their practical skills and their teamwork. The finished results were fantastic and the children were very proud of what they achieved.*

*Across UKS2, classes have also been producing some great pieces of writing. Pupils have been working hard to apply their skills, showing increasing confidence with parenthesis and*

*speech punctuation. It has been a pleasure to see the progress being made and the creativity on display.*

*In Geography, we have coming to the end of our project on global trade. The children have developed a strong understanding of how trade works, why it is important and how it connects countries across the world.*

*Looking ahead, we are very excited to announce a special Tudor Day on Tuesday 27th January to launch our new history project. The children will take part in lots of activities to help them to understand how the Tudors lived, the chronology of the kings and queens (and Henry VIII's many wives!).*

*Please continue to support your child by ensuring they read at least three times per week and that their reading diary is signed once each week.*

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## Celebration

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*Congratulations to our fantastic award winners. These children have shown exceptional commitment to their learning, demonstrated the Blackrod Values throughout the term and engaged in outstanding play and collaboration during OPAL sessions. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the positive example they set for our school community."*

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## Date for the Diary



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*Please refer to the Spring Term calendar for all upcoming dates including Forest School sessions and Class Assemblies*

*Tuesday 20th January: UKS2 Indoor Athletics Competition and Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm  
(Booking System open on Parent app)*

*Wednesday 21st January: Ringgold Forest School and Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm (Booking System open on Parent app)*

*Thursday 22nd January: Young Voices National Sing-a-long event 3.00-4.30pm*

*Monday 26th January: EYFS Picasso Art Exhibition 3.35-4.15pm (Families will be greeted at the main entrance and directed to the Picasso classroom)*

*Tuesday 27th January: UKS2 Tudor Workshop*

*Wednesday 28th January: Y4 Liverpool Trip, Gymnastics Festival and Competition*

*Thursday 29th January: Van Gogh Class Assembly at 9am*

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## Blackrod Community Centre: TAKE THE NEXT STEP FOR YOU

### Free wellbeing, skills, and confidence sessions in Blackrod

Feeling stuck? Want to reduce stress, build confidence, or learn new skills? Our brand new **Lifewell Economic Trailblazer** project offers calm, supportive sessions designed to help you move forward at your own pace.

Delivered by **Blackrod Sports and Community Centre**, the programme focuses on wellbeing, practical skills, and creating positive next steps in a welcoming, small-group environment.

WEEKLY SESSIONS – ALL FREE

#### **Mondays | 7.00 – 8.30pm**

Peace, mindset, stress management & goal setting

#### **Tuesdays | 12.00 – 2.00pm**

ICT skills training and digital drop-in support

#### **Wednesdays | 5.00 – 6.30pm**

Cooking skills and practical life skills

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

- Improved wellbeing and emotional balance
- Increased confidence and self-belief
- Practical digital and everyday life skills
- Support to create a more positive future

GET INVOLVED

**David Holden-Locke**

Phone: 07980 713289

Email: [bsacc.manager@gmail.com](mailto:bsacc.manager@gmail.com)

*Places are limited to keep sessions supportive and personal.*

*Supporting wellbeing • Building confidence • Creating positive futures*