



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:  
01782 987150

# Blackfriars Bulletin

Blackfriars Bucknall Reception:  
01782 987180



Volume 4 Issue 10



## The Amber Trust



This week, one of our students experienced a fab music therapy session provided by an external provider organised by parents. They have made the details available to other parents whose child might be eligible – we would be only too happy to host in school. The sessions are provided by the Amber Trust, set up to help all blind and partially sighted children – including those with additional disabilities – to access and enjoy music. For further details, please go to:

<https://www.ambertrust.org/amber-music-awards>

### Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire

First Response :  
0800 1313 126  
Outside office hours:  
0845 6042886

Stoke-on-Trent

Advice and Referral Team:  
01782 235100  
Outside office hours:  
01782 234234

Cheshire East

Referral Team :  
0300 123 5012 Option 2  
Outside office hours:  
0300 123 5022

Shropshire

Referral Team:  
01743 254 259  
Initial Contact Team:  
0345 678 9021  
Outside office hours:  
0345 678 9040

### Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

Staffordshire: First Response –  
0845 604 2719

Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care –  
0800 561 0015

Blackfriarsacademy.org.uk  
Blackfriarsfeacademy.org.uk

### PARENTS TOP TIP:

I would like, with your support, to have a section of our newsletter available for passing on top tips to parents from parents – what tried and tested things do you do that help make a difference? Dan's Mum told us that she finds flying abroad with her son who has autism much less problematic if she:-

- Rings the airline and airport in advance & asks for their autism awareness policy (do not assume they will communicate with each other) & follows up on all they offer
- Asks for priority booking,
- Explains to air stewards that her son has autism (they have then allowed him to keep his earphones on & not hand them in)

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### Scholar of the Week:

Class 5's **Sam and Jake** have been nominated for scholar of the week for their hard work in English and their understanding of suffixes, prefixes and root words. They both worked their socks off in their lesson and by the end had a secure understanding of these terms. Well done Sam and Jake.

### Bag2School



Thank you to everyone that has sent in a bag of clothing, toys, etc. for our Bag 2 School collection. We have managed to raise £66.40 which will go towards purchasing equipment for the playground

**Is your child football mad?** If so, you might want to join Harry's mum on the sidelines. She said: 'My son, Harry (aged 12) has so far attended 2 of the weekly football sessions and had a great time – he comes out very proud of how many goals he has scored and is already looking forward to next week's session'.

Classes 4 to 9 have received a flyer about the football sessions.

## Playground Makeover

Last Thursday (19th April) we were joined in school by a team of 10 volunteers from the Co-Op who kindly gave us their 'day in the community' to help transform our playground.

Declan, a pupil in Year 11, is so proud of his mum and dad. Sarah and Paul have really taken charge of this project and it is starting to take shape! Lucy is also proud of her Dad, Jim, who has also joined us to lend a hand painting. As Sally, one of our Co-Op friends said on the day, 'Teamwork makes the dream work'. I'm sure you will agree when you see what's been achieved in such a small space of time.

The funds we have raised with the dress down day and cake sale have paid for the paints and materials used and Sarah has been busy making games to bring into school once the cleaning and painting has been completed. A very big thank you to everyone for such a fantastic day!



### **Feedback - Aiming High Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

Caroline Leahy, Children's Services Manager at Aiming High joined us on Tuesday to discuss services and activities available in the area. It was an extremely productive afternoon with lots of discussion and points of view raised. One activity that lots of parents found interesting was the Sunday afternoon sensory session at Chestnut Lodge, Chesterton and if you would like any other information please visit:

<https://services.actionforchildren.org.uk/stoke-aiming-high/>

Jack's Mum, Lotty also mentioned an activity offered at The Trent Country Club, Birches Head called MAC (Multiple Abilities Club). It is on Tuesday and Thursday nights 6:30pm – 10pm, £2 per session and everyone is welcome. They do fun activities including bingo, disco, chip butty nights and live entertainment. If you would like further information please visit

<http://www.thetrentcountryclub.co.uk/macclub.html>

A big thank you to all parents for attending the meeting and to Caroline and her colleague, Ebe.

## Phone calls in morning

Communication with parents is really important and we value it highly. However, we are getting an increasing number of phone calls first thing in the morning asking to speak to the Class TA or form teacher there and then. This takes them away from the class at the start of the day when they are trying to set everything up to ensure a smooth start to the day. There are some alternatives and we politely request that the following are thought about before requesting to speak to TA or teacher first thing:

- Could I communicate this in the home / school diary – they are all opened at the start of the day and read
- Can I put a note in the diary asking for a call back later in the day?
- Can I ring the office – 01782 987150 & ask for a call back?

## Match Funding ..... Can you help?

If you work for a company that offers a match funding scheme, can you please let us know? With your support we can help to provide extra funds for facilities such as outdoor play equipment and other projects around school. There are numerous companies out there that might offer this scheme to their employees and it might be worth asking friends and relatives, too.

If you are able to help, please contact school and ask for Julie Fallows. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!