



Dear Parents,

As families who have registered with us, we are pleased to share this Easter Infant update with you!

## **New playground**

As you know, the Infant department has a wonderful forest area and just a few steps down the hill is our brilliant playground. This year, the high-quality wooden climbing equipment has been added to, with three new pieces: a playhouse, swinging bars and stepping log challenge. The children have been delighted by these new features!

It is been a wet winter and so we have been very grateful for the new Primary playground which can be used all year round. This was opened in October by the Lieutenant-Governor. Particular favourites are the climbing wall and the swinging bridge!



## **Mr Keeling's amazing lunches**

Since Mr Keeling's arrival in September, and the installation of a new commercial kitchen last summer, the children have been feasting on a daily basis! Everything is prepared onsite, using the best ingredients and following the Early Years healthy eating award scheme. This ensures that their meals are highly nutritious while also carefully regulating sugar content – ensuring maximum concentration throughout the day.

## **Mother's Day Tea Party**

We welcomed over 70 guests to our Mother's Day tea party. Each child said why they loved their mummy, performed together a poem and song, and presented a Mother's Day gift and card. Year 2 served the tea and as you can see the food was delicious!





## Eisteddfod & Spring Concert

This term is a busy one for Mrs Davis and the music department, with the Eisteddfod and then the Blanchelande Spring Concert, and the children have done us proud! Our Infant Music Making entry scored 86 points and was placed as highly commended, and our Infant choir received a Distinction with 89 points.



## Outdoor learning

Outdoor learning is woven into our curriculum. Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London this year and made a model of London. They took it to our outdoor fire pit and watched as houses, St Paul's Cathedral and the bakery were reduced to ashes. O dear!

Lunchtime clubs also take the children outdoors, and gardening club (right) is particularly popular, especially when the flowers bloom as they are beginning to do.





## Academic challenge in English and Mathematics

We are often asked by parents how we stretch pupils who are particularly gifted in a certain area of their learning.

As pupils move through their educational journey their ability to decode language is important in every subject on the curriculum, even in maths (where word problems often require a high level of comprehension). In the infant department, therefore, reading underpins the whole curriculum and we work hard to ensure that all our children reach their full potential in this area, whilst cultivating a culture of enjoyment in this subject.

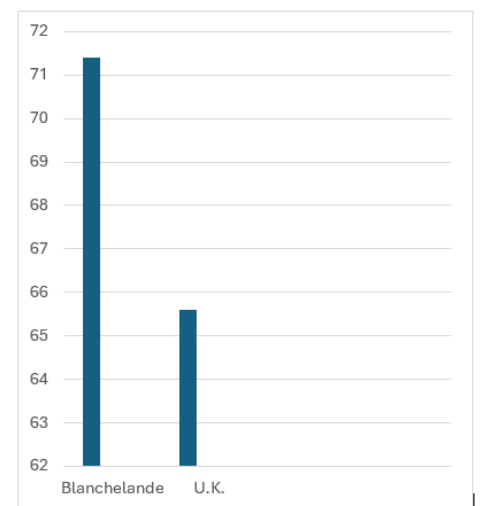
As always, we have invested in highly engaging reading books, and we love our new phonics scheme. We are fortunate to have a Learning Support Assistant who focuses on listening to the children read. This enables all our pupils to have one-to-one reading time with an adult several times over the week as well as group reading activities. From Year 1 all pupils at Blanchelande undertake a standardised reading assessment test so that we can compare where they are in their reading to the pupils in other schools across the UK. This also flags up any areas of concern so that we can provide one-to-one reading intervention sessions where needed. As you can see from the table below our pupils results are outstanding!

### NGRT reading assessment results (May 2023)

Pupils who were at Blanchelande for the full year	Reading age of their age or above	Reading age at least one year above (some 2+ 3+ 4+)
Year 1 pupils	90%	36%
Year 2 pupils	91%	68%

Pupils at Blanchelande excel in mathematics, and for the first time this summer we are introducing standardized mathematics progress tests. This will enable us to once again compare our pupils achievements against large numbers of pupils in the UK. It will highlight areas where we may need one-to-one mathematics intervention sessions for individuals, both in terms of supporting and stretching.

Our Reception class work on the National Curriculum Early Learning Goals; Blanchelande pupils achieve higher than average achievement in these goals which can clearly be seen in the graph.



*Graph showing percentage of pupils gaining expected level or above in all Early Learning Goals (June 2023)*



## Inquiry Projects – FOSIL

Project-based learning plays an important part in the children's educational journey, and Infants in all year groups engage in a variety of inquiry projects. Year 2 have recently completed their inquiry on Castles. The children particularly enjoyed the trips to visit three castles and their completed design technology castles with moving drawbridges were superb!



Year 1 will be commencing their Guernsey project, culminating in a exhibition to parents and other special guests. They are already looking forward to their island tour to investigate if 'Guernsey is a good place for tourists to visit?'

## Hero Quest!

The Hero Quest, our personal reward and growth program is very much part of Infant department life. The goal of being 'Hero of the Week' is something each infant child strives for and hugely enjoys when achieved.

Each child is working towards the completion of their individual Hero's sticker chart, collecting bronze, silver and gold awards.

Collectively, each class is sailing their boat towards Castle Blanchelande. There are seven heroic powers and this half-term's focus has been 'Concentrate'. For more about the Hero Quest, click [here](#).



### **Activity Week plans**

Activity Week is an exciting and busy highlight of the Infant year, and in June we will be having a private Herm cruise to see the puffins, followed by a beach picnic, surfing and body boarding at Vazon with the surf school and having a Blanchelande Olympic day!

### **New shuttle bus service connecting St Peter Port and Blanchelande**

Pupils in our Primary school have been enjoying the new shuttle bus service that leaves The Grange each morning and comes directly to Blanchelande. From September this will be open to Infant children as well. Parental feedback has been terrific and the service is run for free.



### **Visits and taster days**

We would love to see you soon. We offer drop in visits throughout the week when you can meet Mrs Yeoman (our Head of Infants), the class teachers and LSAs, and most importantly see the Infant children in action (bring your wellies if it's a Wednesday). We also offer free taster days which are a brilliant way for your child to experience a day at Blanchelande. Please email Sonia Hollowell, our Registrar, to book one in.

Email [hollowells@blanchelande.sch.gg](mailto:hollowells@blanchelande.sch.gg)

### **Further questions**

If you have any questions about our Infant provision, please email Alexa Yeoman (Head of Infants).

Email [yeomana@blanchelande.sch.gg](mailto:yeomana@blanchelande.sch.gg)

Wishing you a very happy Easter when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Robert O'Brien  
Principal

PS If you haven't seen our Infant video, here you are!

