



Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of I'm delighted to share our summer junior update with you. There has been so much going on our department over the past year and we would like to share some developments and memorable moments to celebrate the children's hard work.

## **A SECOND YEAR 3 CLASS!**

We were delighted to be able to open our new Year 3 class in January. Having two classes in this year group means the children are taught in smaller sizes and allows more teacher and LSA time with individuals. Mrs Bisson and Mrs Lewis, the Year 3 form tutors, have been impressed with the children's progress and, *right*, you can see the children enjoying their learning in their brand-new bespoke classroom.



## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

We strive to ensure that every child at Blanchelande meets their full potential. Our rigorous curriculum, loosely based on the English National Curriculum, lays a secure foundation for senior school and beyond. We believe that the children should receive a knowledge-rich and joyful education, with opportunities to ask questions and discover new knowledge for themselves. This approach is facilitated by our Inquiry-Based Learning department and the combination of class teachers and subject specialists who make up the Junior department.

## **Reading (NGRT) Attainment May 2023**

As advanced reading is essential for success, we place a great emphasis on developing children's reading and appreciation of literature. Our results in English and Maths speak for themselves. By Year 6 (the end of Key Stage 2), as shown in last year's reading attainment, the junior children have made excellent progress in their skills and knowledge. The level at which children are reading at a greater depth is significant and these advanced reading skills will enable the children to thrive as they move into the senior school and undertake GCSEs and A-Levels. For those children who need additional support in reading, our LSAs (learning support assistants) teach reading catch up sessions.

<b>Key Stage 2 Reading Attainment May 2023</b>	
<b>Expected Reading Age or Above</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Reading at a Greater Depth</b> (reading age +1 year or higher)	<b>73%</b>

### **Writing and Grammar Attainment May 2023**

The children's writing and understanding of grammar is judged against national expectations and in both counts our Year 6 children's attainment significantly exceeded the English national averages.

	<b>KS2 Writing Attainment May 2023</b>	<b>KS2 Grammar Attainment May 2023</b>
<b>Expected Age or Above</b>	<b>85%</b> (English average, 71%)	<b>80%</b> (English average, 72%)
<b>Working at a Greater Depth</b>	<b>44%*</b>	<b>36%*</b>

\*UK averages are not published for 'working at greater depth'.

### **Maths Attainment May 2023**

Year 6 children are taught by a maths specialist and are judged against national expectations for England. Children who excel in this subject are challenged and stretched within the curriculum. Those who need further support are involved in a bespoke intervention programmes. Again, our Year 6 children significantly surpass the national averages.

<b>KS2 Maths Attainment May 2023</b>	
<b>Expected Mathematical Age or Above</b>	<b>85%</b> (national average, 73%)
<b>Working at a Greater Depth</b>	<b>44%</b>

### **Junior Maths Challenge 2023**

For the first time last year, Year 5 and 6 participated in the Mathematical Association Junior Maths Challenge, and achieved two gold, three silver and three bronze awards.





## A WEALTH OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Blanchelande, we strongly believe that there is more to school life than just the subjects in the classroom. Extra curricular activities (which are offered for free) run during lunchtimes and after school, and provide pupils with less formal opportunities to broaden their interests, skills and develop their social interactions. During the summer term we have 16 clubs for the children to choose from:



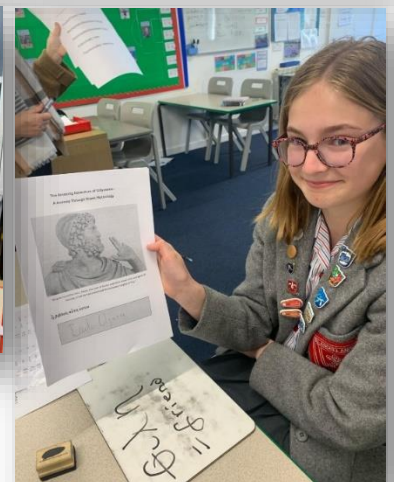
<b>Ancient Greek Club</b>	<b>Art Club</b>	<b>Chess Club</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Cricket Club</b>	<b>Drama Club</b>	<b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons</b>	<b>Gardening Club</b>
<b>Happy Feet Walking Club</b>	<b>Maths Club</b>	<b>Maypole Dancing</b>	<b>Orchestra</b>
<b>Prep Club</b>	<b>Robotics Club</b>	<b>Running Club</b>	<b>Stamp Club</b>

Lunchtime clubs also take the children outdoors: gardening club in the Eco Hut is particularly popular, especially when the flowers bloom.

As well as teaching Classics (Latin) within the junior curriculum from Year 4, Mrs Etheridge runs a lunchtime Ancient Greek Club (right) where children can immerse themselves in this ancient civilisation and its legacy.



Children of this age learning Latin helps them understand the origins of English (and the Romance languages) or to learn the principles of grammar (which is how all languages operate). Aside from this, Latin has been proven to be an effective catalyst in raising attainment in other subjects - even if by having Latin on the curriculum there is less time for those other subjects. Mirabile dictu!







## 40 ACRES OF SCHOOL!

Children at Blanchelande are incredibly fortunate to have such an extensive estate to explore. It's the biggest back garden in Guernsey! A year ago we opened our new nature trail in a breathtaking corner of the valley. Every subject area can utilise this unique resource, whether for scientific research, mathematical measurement or inspiration in Art, English or Music.



## BRAND-NEW PRIMARY PLAYGROUND

The playground was formally opened in October by the Lieutenant-Governor. The junior children have loved having this facility upgraded as it can now be used in almost all-weather. The children's favourites are the giant climbing frame, the swinging bridge and giant chess!







## GROWTH

With Blanchelande having an unparalleled natural environment, we take every opportunity to bring the children closer to nature. To deepen their understanding and appreciation for the natural world, this year every primary child is growing their own maize plant.

As you can see, Mr Jenkins, our groundsman, is helping the children plant the young maize into the ground in the walled garden. The children have to remember to give the plants plenty of water so we can see a good result in September!



## MICHELIN STANDARDS!

Since Mr Keeling, our chef, arrived in September the demand for our delicious, cooked lunches has rocketed. With the arrival of a brand new commercial kitchen last summer, all food is prepared onsite, using high-quality ingredients. This ensures that their meals are nutritious and sustain children through the day. For the Trinity Term 2024 menus: [click here](#).

## IN SHAKESPEARE'S FOOTSTEPS

We are immensely proud of Amelie and Hollie who won the International Poetry by Heart Key Stage 2 Freestyle poetry competition for their performance of *Timothy Winters* by Charles Causley.

As you can see, the girls performed their piece on the stage of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London, at the prize giving event. This was a tremendous achievement.



## FOSIL INQUIRY PROJECTS

We use the internationally recognised FOSIL framework to develop the skills and attitudes required for independent inquiry systematically and progressively from Reception through to Year 13.

The Year 6 pupils undertake a Signature Work inquiry pupil across Art & Design, English, Computing, Library and Maths leading to a Bronze CREST Award. This culminates in their campaign work where the children take positive action for change within their community. The photos show the children in action last week raising money or awareness for their chosen charities and organisations.



## JUNIOR SPORT

The junior children enjoy being active and our PE curriculum ensures they are kept moving as much as possible. Each junior child has just under 2 and a half hours of PE on their timetable each week. On top of this they also take part in the Blanchelande Blast a 15-minute weekly morning exercise session.

As you can see, Year 3 and 4 children were proud to wear their smart updated PE kits on the tennis courts in October.

Here are a few of the sporting achievements for the past 12 months:







## Badminton Champions

Year 5 crowned in May as island badminton champions, winning all their six matches in the tournament!

## Sailing

In September, Year 5 began their first sailing lesson. Sailing is the latest sport to be added to the Junior PE curriculum.



## ISA National Swimming Finals

Jodie Payne (Year 6) and Elodie Riley (Year 11) were selected for the ISA (Independent Schools Association) National Swimming Finals at the Olympic pool in London in December.



## Football

At the annual Island Junior Schools Football Tournament, our plucky team were finalists and secured second place.



## Trinity Shield Champions

Blanchelande were this year's winners of the coveted Trinity Shield Rugby. The team were undefeated in the competition.

## Netball

Our talented A-Team netballers took part in the annual Island Netball Tournament against all the island's school. They showed fantastic teamwork and skill finishing second-place position.







## MUSIC AND CULTURE

We teach a full curriculum to ensure the children learn a broad range of subjects. Most of these subjects are taught by subject specialist teachers who really know how to get the best from the children's talents.



### Eisteddfod Winners

Year 4 who were awarded the Marie and Donald Girad Memorial Trophy for their recitation of Mon P'tit Ch'va in the Eisteddfod Guernesaise Eisteddfod section!

Our wonderful junior choir love to sing and were awarded joint first place in the Sacred Song Class, singing *The Cowboy Carol* and *Boy from Bethlehem*.



### Spring Concert

Our annual Spring Concert showcased an abundance of musical talent and gave pupils an invaluable opportunity to perform in front of a supportive and appreciative audience.





## THE BLANCHELANDE DIPLOMA

The Blanchelande Diploma is our unique personal development programme which is at the heart of junior department life. The goal setting and achievements are something junior children strive for. They love reaching the end of the journey and reaping the rewards.

Each child is working towards the completion of their individual hero's journey which, when completed, means they are awarded the *dragon slayer sticker* by me to complete their quest as well as receiving a certificate at our annual prizegiving event at St James'. For more about the Junior Diploma, click [here](#).



## RESIDENTIAL & EXCHANGE TRIPS

Both Year 5 and 6 recently took trips off island. Year 5 were in Jersey and Year 6 went to Hooke Court in Dorset.

For the first time this year, we offered the Year 5 and 6 children the opportunity to be part of the Guernsey-Masnières, France exchange trip. Two weeks ago, we welcomed seven French children to our island for one week. Our Y5 and Y6 hosts did a wonderful job in looking after the children both in school and at their homes. New friendships were made and next month 12 Blanchelande junior children are looking forward to going to stay with their hosts in France.







## **NEW SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE CONNECTING ST PETER PORT AND BLANCHELANDE**

Pupils in our Primary school have been enjoying the new shuttle bus service that connecting St Peter Port and Blanchelande. Each morning it picks up at North Beach and The Grange. Parental feedback has been terrific.

## **NEW WEBSITE AND VIDEOS LAUNCHED**

In September, we were proud to launch our brand new [Blanchelande website](#)! In the autumn, we created a short [Junior video](#) to go alongside our [whole school video](#). Please do take a look as we feel it captures the essence of our school.

## **VISITS AND TASTER DAYS**

As you know, we love to provide tours for families and it is easy to arrange a free taster day to see whether your son or daughter would enjoy being a Blanchelande pupil. On a tour you can even drop into lessons and meet Mr Allison, our Head of Juniors, the teachers and LSAs, and most importantly see the junior children in action. If you'd like to visit, or book a taster day, please contact Sonia Hollowell, our Registrar.

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

We also have our **Whole School Open Morning** on **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September**.

Wishing you all the best for the rest of the summer term and we hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Robert O'Brien  
Principal