

Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



Washington 50

We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Washington New Town. We will be hosting a swinging sixties family picnic event to coincide with the Washington 50 celebrations on Monday September 8th. Schools will also produce a piece of artwork to contribute to a joint display. Further details will follow with more specific details and timings.

Sports News



Well done to Caitlyn Hunter, Connie James, Erin Cummings, Jessica Chaytor, Euan Walters, Ethan Jones, Owen Wright and Nathan Wilkinson who represented Year 3 at the Puma Centre Tennis Tournament. We are delighted to announce that Year 4 won the tournament and brought the trophy back to school. Congratulations to Max Liddell, Adam Turnbull, Ryan Holloway, Jeremy Lee, Izzie Heslop, Terri Ann Carman, Abigail Smith and Amy Middlemiss.

Dates for your Diary

9th June -	Whole School Creative Week
9th June -	Year 3 to visit House of Objects
10th June -	Year 6 to visit Penshaw Monument/ Herrington Park
16th June -	Nursery Sports Day (am)
18th June -	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day (pm)
19th June -	Year 3,4,5,6 Sports Day (pm)
20th June -	Derwent Hill Weekend
24th June -	Nursery/Reception to visit Down on the Farm
26th June -	Year 2 class assembly 9.15am
26th June -	Year 4 visit to Jorvik Centre York
2nd July -	Summer Discos
15th July -	Y6 leavers performance 5.30pm
16th July -	Year 6 Frankie and Benny's / Bowling
18th July -	Inset Day - School closed to children
1st September -	Inset Day - School closed to children
2nd September -	School reopens to children
8th September -	Swinging Sixties Family Picnic

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Headteacher's Update

It is difficult to believe that we only have a few weeks left until the end of this academic year! Every week until the end of term we have many things planned to enhance the work we do at Blackfell. Some of our Year 5 and 6 children are off to Derwent Hill on the 20th June for the weekend. Let's hope the weather remains fine and they have an enjoyable time. Next week is our 'Think Big' Creative Week. All children across the school are spending a full week developing their skills in Music, Dance, Drama, Art and Design Technology. Our Creative Team and staff across the school have worked extremely hard to plan a wide range of enrichment activities so that the children have new and exciting hands on experiences to support their learning. In the newsletter you will see the wide range of activities the children will be involved in and we are looking forward to a whole school performance so that they can share their acquired skills and enjoyment from the busy week. Other events we are looking forward to this month are Sports Days (fingers crossed for good weather!) and our final class assembly to be performed by Year 2.

All dates for the rest of this term are on the reverse of the newsletter or available on our school website.

Julia Watkins



Arrangements for Sports Day



On Monday 16th June Nursery Sports Day will commence at 9.30am on the school field. Please ensure all children have their PE kit, trainers or plim-soles and a named water bottle. There will be a carousel of sporting activities for you to enjoy. On Wednesday 18th June Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day will start at 1.30pm on the school field. Year 3,4,5 and 6 Sports Day will take place on Thursday 19th June starting on the school field at 1.30pm. Parents are welcome to bring seating with them. Refreshments/drinks will be available to purchase. Once the events are finished children will be allowed to leave school only if accompanied by their parent or named adult.

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Creative Week

Children across the school will be involved in many activities over the week.

Nursery/Reception: Will be learning the story of Handa Surprise and creating animal masks in order to act out the story. Making African jewellery and creating dance to African Music.

Year 1: Learning about the Artist Andy Goldworthy. Using outdoor materials to create pieces of art. Developing the topic on mini beasts doing observational drawings. Working with an artist Mark Todman making mini beast mosaics for the outdoor classroom.

Year 2: The theme is "Around The World" and looking at different countries. There will be a variety of activities including dance, food tasting and making costumes. The class will also be working with Mark Todman creating artwork for the outdoor area.

Year 3: Visiting the House of Objects in Newcastle to make recycled items. Creating artwork linked to Eric Joyner, making a moving robot and learning a robot dance.

Year 4: A visit from a graffiti artist to produce a mural linked to the World Cup. Samba dancing and learning to play samba drums.

Year 5: Learning about Monet. A visit from Oxclose Academy Art Department to help create a mural using paints and canvasses.

Year 6: Traditional stories looking at the Lambton Worm. A visit to Penshaw Monument. Focusing on illustrations in the style of Quentin Blake.

We also have a number of visitors booked throughout the week for assemblies and to work in classes including an author Tony Wilson, music with Brendan Renwick and Dan Bovill and dancing with Debi Cairns. We have also arranged for a child's rock band to perform. We are sure that the children will enjoy all the different experiences throughout the week.



Key Stage 2 school council had a fantastic day celebrating 'Walk To School Week'. Along with other schools throughout the North East the children designed and made t-shirts at the Centre of Life in Newcastle, took part in an interactive quiz and worked with Dance City to perform a dance in Baltic Square Gateshead. A great time was had by all.

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Infant Free School Meals

As you may be aware from September 2014 every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a free school meal. This will give your child access to a hot and nutritious meal at lunchtime, with the aim of teaching healthier eating habits, boosting performance in school and also saving money (in Sunderland families will save approximately £360 per child, per year). It is important that every child who wishes to have a healthy and nutritious meal can have one. The schools meal service is able to provide meals on a daily basis to children with a range of medical conditions. If your child has a specific dietary need related to a medical condition and you wish them to have a school meal please provide a written request to school from a Doctor by the beginning of July.

If you do not wish your child to have a free meal and you would like them to have packed lunch please inform the school office.

School Visits



Year 3 visited Sunderland Winter Gardens and were plant detectives for the day and learnt about what plants need to survive. They also learnt about different exotic plants and took part in a workshop. They planted their own seeds which were brought back to school for a science experiment.



Year 2 had a fantastic time at St Mary's Lighthouse. We found crabs and anemones in the rock pools, made beautiful sand art pictures on the beach and climbed to the very top of the Lighthouse. A great day out for all.



Year 1 children had a wet but wonderful time on their visit to Rainton Meadows. They enjoyed looking for mini beasts and pond dipping. Their best find was a newt in the pond.



Year 5 had a wonderful visit to Craggside in Northumberland. We had a fascinating tour of the house—the first house in the world to be powered by hydroelectricity. The children explored the huge grounds and had great fun in the gardens. We all had a fabulous time—and slept well that night.