

Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

9th November - Phonics meeting for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 parents 2.30pm or 4.00pm
10th November - Year 2 class assembly 9.15am parents/carers welcome
10th November - We connect Art Project to work with Year 4
13th November - Children in Need (cake sale)
16th November - Anti Bullying Week
18th November - Year 4 trip to Winter Garden
19th November - Author to visit school
19th November - Friendship Disco
20th November - Non uniform Day - Wear blue and bring a donation for Christmas Fair
23rd November - Anti Bullying production Y1-Y6
24th November - Movie night (whole school) 5pm finish
1st December - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to Washington Art Centre to see Snow Child
3rd December - Nursery and Reception Christmas production 9.30am
3rd December - Year 3 to visit Bowes Museum
4th December - Nursery and Reception Christmas production 9.30am
4th December - Christmas Fair 2pm-4pm
8th December - Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service 2pm
9th December - Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Service 2pm
10th December - Christmas Lunch
11th December - Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Production 9.15am and 2pm
14th December - Nursery and Reception Party 1pm (no nursery session in morning)
15th December - Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party 1.15pm
16th December - Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party 1.15pm
17th December - Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party 1.15pm
18th December - Last day of Autumn term 100% attendance lunch
4th January - School closed - Inset Day
5th January - School reopens for children

Author Visit

We are delighted to be welcoming Vivien French a children's author into school on Thursday 19th November. Vivien will spend time with children from Years 3,4,5 and 6. We have a limited number of books in school that Vivien will sign on the day if children would like to purchase them prior to her visit. The books are Snarling of Wolves priced at £6.99 or Music of Zombies priced at £5.99. Children can purchase these from the main office, school office on a first come first served basis.

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Issue:3
Date: Nov 15

Headteacher's Update

Welcome back after the half term holiday. Dark nights are now here and as winter approaches we are preparing for the very busy festive events for all children across the school.

Thank you to all parent/carers who attended our consultations at the end of last half term. We were delighted that 98% of families managed to attend; however if you have not had the opportunity to speak to the class teacher, please feel free to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

I am delighted to say that our new school entrance is just about complete. I am sure that you will agree the benefits of ease of access to the main school as well as enhancing safeguarding of the whole school community. Our thanks must go the Sunderland Local Authority who paid for all of the work.

The refurbishment of our nursery indoor learning environment has been completed too over the holiday. The children and staff are delighted with the enhancements and resources that will have a positive impact on outcomes for our youngest children at Blackfell.

We have all thoroughly enjoyed 'Maths Week'. It has been lovely to see all teachers working with children from across the school on a range of mathematical learning experiences and challenges during the changeover morning on Thursday. Today we have seen children taking part in their sponsor challenges. Thank you for supporting this event by helping the children to learn their number facts and tables. In addition, thank you for all your sponsorship money. I will update you when the final figures are calculated and what the monies raised has been spent on.

The diary dates on the reverse of the newsletter, show how busy it will be for the rest of the term - just as we like it! We are all looking forward to supporting and taking part in Children in Need, Anti- Bullying Week, Educational Visits, Class Assemblies, Children's Discos and of course the arrival of the Christmas trees on the 1st December!

Julia Watkins

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes
Julia Watkins

Smoking

Please can we ask that parents/carers refrain from smoking in and around the school site, particularly the school entrance at the beginning and end of the school day. We have had a number of complaints from parents/carers about this issue and would welcome your support.



Children in Need

We will once again be supporting Children in Need on Friday 13th November by having a cake/biscuit sale in school. Children can wear Pudsey accessories e.g headband, t-shirt etc. We would welcome any donations of cakes and biscuits into school on Thursday 12th November. Children will also bake cakes in school next week. The cakes will be on sale during morning break for the children (no tuck shop that day), a 50p contribution would be appreciated. At 3pm parents and members of the community will be able to buy any remaining cakes. If any parent would like to volunteer throughout the morning please contact Mrs Watkins.

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Christmas Fair



The Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 4th December.

The arrangements for this year are as follows. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and their siblings can be collected via the main entrance from 2pm. At 2.30pm Years 3,4,5 and 6 will visit the fair. Parents are welcome to join their children at this time. No child in Key Stage 2 will be allowed to leave school before normal finishing time at 3.15pm unless they have been collected by an adult. Each class will be making arts/crafts to sell as well as refreshments being available. Children's calendars will be available to order. We will be holding a Christmas raffle, tickets will be sent home soon. Other stalls will include a children's chocolate tombola, tombola, face painting and Santa's Grotto. We are starting to collect prizes and would welcome any donations or unwanted gifts into school. To help support our Christmas Fair children can come dressed in non-uniform on Friday 20th November. Instead of making a money donation we would like all children to bring a small gift or prize. This can be anything from a small chocolate bar or a prize for the tombola. The Fair is always a great community event and we welcome your continued support.

Christmas Productions/Concerts



Nursery and Reception Christmas Production will be 'A Miracle in Town'. The performances will take place over 2 days on Thursday 3rd December at 2.00 pm and Friday 4th December at 9.30 am.

Year 1 and Year 2 production will be A midwife Crisis. There will be 2 performances on Friday 11th December at 9.30 am or 2 pm.

Year 3,4,5,6 will be participating in a Christmas Carol Service, singing a selection of traditional Christmas Carols and readings. Year 5-6 will be on Tuesday 8th December at 2pm and Year 3-4 will be on Wednesday 9th December at 2pm.

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Christmas Parties

Christmas Parties will be held the last week of term. All children except Nursery and Reception children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. For Nursery children the morning session on Monday 14th December will be changed to the afternoon, and children brought into school at 1pm. Reception children can bring their party clothes in a bag and staff will change children after lunch. Children do not need to go home to get changed.

Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch will be served on Thursday 10th December. We would like to encourage all children to join staff in the hall for the meal and to enjoy all the Christmas festivities (including Christmas crackers). If your child normally has a packed lunch and you would like them to have a Christmas lunch please forward £1.90 in an envelope to the school office by Tuesday 1st December.

School Disco

Disco tickets will be going on sale on Monday 9th November. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be from 4.15pm until 5.15pm, Years 3,4,5 and 6 from 5.30pm until 7.00pm. Tickets are priced at £1.50. Hotdogs, refreshments and sweets will be available.

Movie Night

A movie night has been arranged for Tuesday 24th November after school until 5pm. The school council will be conducting a vote in each class for children to decide on the movie. Entry will be £1.00 which will include a hotdog and drink.

Attendance

Well done to Year 5 who achieved the highest attendance for October at 98.5%. Children will be rewarded with a movie afternoon and popcorn. 133 children are on track for a 100% attendance lunch on 18th December. Attendance to date is 98.2%. Well done everyone.