

Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

12th January - Year 5-6 In2Hockey Festival - Oxclose Academy
14th January - Year 5-6 Swimming Festival - George Washington Primary
18th January - Roman Drama workshop - Year 3
20th January - Year 6 to visit Safety Works in Newcastle
21st January - Year 3-4 Swimming Gala - George Washington Primary
26th January - Year 3-4 Quicksticks Festival - Oxclose Academy
2nd February - Year 5 to visit Bedes World
9th February - Year 4 class assembly 9.15am
10th February - Chinese New Year Assembly
15th-19th February - Half term
22nd February - Creative week
26th February - The Punctuation Show Year 1-6
1st March - Year 1 Agility Challenge Festival - Oxclose Academy
1st March - Year 6 class assembly 9.15am
3rd March - Year 2 Agility Challenge Festival - Oxclose Academy
3rd March - World Book Day - Book swap
7th March - RNLI in school
8th March - Parent Consultations/3-5pm Mid Year Reports
9th March - Parent Consultations 3-6pm Mid Year Reports
10th March - Year 4 to visit Centre of Life
11th March - Viking visitor Year 5
15th March - Year 1 assembly 9.15am
17th March - Year 3 to visit Segedunum
18th March - Royal Air Force Orchestra to perform concert
21st March - Easter Bonnet Parade 9.15am
22nd March - Year 5 class assembly 9.15am
22nd March - Egg competition
23rd March - Last day of Spring Term
11 April - School reopens for Summer Term

Breakfast Club

Don't forget breakfast club is available in the community room every morning for all children including Nursery. Breakfast club opens at 7.45am. There is no need to book just turn up and sign your child in. There is a range of board games, arts/crafts and a new pool table is on order to keep the children entertained. Every Friday a sports coach does PE in the hall. The cost is £2.50 per session.

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Headteacher's Update

We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas. All of the children have settled back into school and enjoying learning many new things.

We welcome five new children to nursery and two children to Year 2 and Year 5. In addition we welcome Mrs Sharples as midday supervisor and Mrs Searle as cleaner in Key stage 1. We hope that you all have a happy and successful time at Blackfell.

We have many plans for the rest of this academic year- it is very busy just as we like it. We are looking forward to our Creative week after the half term holiday. All of the children will enjoy science/dance/art/music activities and Barrie from the Punctuation Show will be joining us to support Literacy skills in a fun and creative way! We will have many visits/visitors and the children will have the opportunity to share and learn new skills. Further details will be included in our next newsletter.

Our school website is updated regularly to keep everyone informed of important dates, photographs to share the children's learning and relevant letters and information for parents. Please leave a comment if you visit our site.

On Wednesday our termly Curriculum Overviews will be sent out. We aim to keep you up to date with your child's curriculum, important information and everything that you need to know for the spring term. In addition, my termly Headteacher's coffee afternoon for parent/carers will be on Friday 5th February at 2.15pm. A letter will be sent out next week. Please return the reply slip to the school office if you would like to join me so that we can ascertain numbers.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2016.

Julia Watkins

Sporting Festivals

This term there are a number of festivals arranged at Oxclose Academy. Children will be participating in In2Hockey, swimming, quicksticks, infant agility challenge and cross-country. A new cabinet is on order for the school entrance so we hope to fill this with lots of winning trophies. Good luck everyone.



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Pupil Questionnaires

Miss Kitchen and the school council will be asking children across the school to complete a questionnaire this half term. We do ensure that children have a voice in our school and actively support their ideas to make Blackfell Primary School the very best it can be. We will update you of the children's responses over the coming months. In addition, they are planning World Book Day, reviewing the KS2 tuckshop and playground markings.

School Meals

It is a year since our school council led the review of school meals across the school. The children now enjoy choosing their meal prior to lunch and ensure the children have more choice, there is less food waste and continue to provide our children with a pleasurable dining experience. We are delighted to report the positive impact of the change to our system to benefit all children across our school.

On Thursday 21st January City Catering are promoting school lunches by having a cinema themed lunch. The menu for the day will be sausage in a bun, french fries, corn on the cob or baked bean and a sachet of tomato sauce. The meal will be served in a box. Dessert will be an ice cream cup. There will be 7 golden tickets in the boxes (one winner for each year group). Each winner will receive a cinema themed biscuit set and their names will be entered into a grand prize draw to win a signed SAFC shirt. Following the success of lunch in a box meals on Thursday 11th February we will once again be having a Valentine Themed Lunch. Any child who is currently on packed lunch and would like a meal please forward £1.90 to the school office.

Royal Air Force Salon Orchestra

On 18th March we have arranged for the Royal Air Force Salon Orchestra to perform an interactive music concert delivering a programme of children's music. The leader of the orchestra Sgt Heather Andrews was a former pupil of Blackfell. Take a look at their website www.raf.mod.uk/rafmusic/aboutus/salonorchestra.cfm

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Mokyfit

Why not start the New Year keeping fit? Every Thursday in the top hall at 4.30pm until 5.30pm Bev from Mokyfit runs a fun dance workout for adult and children. The cost is £3 for an adult and only 50p for a child. The session is suitable for all fitness levels. Children can only participate if they are accompanied by an adult.



Attendance

Our attendance for last term was 97.6%. We were delighted that 115 children achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term and were rewarded with a Domino's Pizza lunch served by the staff. Our aim is for all children to achieve at least 97% attendance across the academic year and I am delighted that 168 children achieved this target last term. This term our 100% attendance reward will be a buffet 'party' lunch on Wednesday 23rd March. In addition there will be spot prizes. This begins with all children with 100% attendance the week before and week after the February half term holiday (8.2.16- 26.2.16). Names will be put in a hat and drawn to win a prize. Well done to Year 1 who achieved the class attendance award for December with 98.6% They are looking forward to a movie and popcorn afternoon this week.

Bookworm Challenge

Don't forget that it is really important that you sign your child's home reading diary when you have read with them at home. Our reading team challenge continues this term and we are delighted that Reception class will be joining in. All children who have had their record signed at least eight times this term will receive a certificate and pen. In our celebration assembly each class every week with 100% team challenge points is reward with a leaf for the reading tree. Last term 'Maple' won the challenge and the team enjoyed coming together from across the school to take part in a games, ICT and sporting afternoon.