

Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

7th February - Safer Internet Day with Community Police visiting Year 5 and 6
13th February - Phonics/reading workshop for Reception parents 3.15pm
14th February - Year 4 class assembly 9.15am
14th February - Year 5-6 In2Hockey
20th February - 24th February - Half term
27th February - School reopens
2nd March - Theatre Royal visit for children who attended the Sunderland Sings performance 2pm
2nd March - High tea for 5R winners
3rd March - World Book Day
6th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm - 5pm
7th March - Year 2 to visit Beamish Wild
8th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm - 6pm
9th March - Year 4 to visit Jarrow Hall
13th March - Chicks arrive in school
14th March - Year 3 class assembly 9.15am
14th March - Year 2 Infant agility challenge at Oxclose Academy
15th March - Year 5 to visit Gibside
21st March - Year 2 class assembly 9.15am
23rd March - Year 1 to Hartlepool Marina
28th March - Year 3 to visit Bowes Museum
4th April - Easter bonnet parade Nursery and Reception (am) Parent/Carers welcome
5th April - Easter egg competition Year 1- Year 6
6th April - Easter assembly
7th April - 100% attendance lunch
10th April- 21st April - Easter holidays
24th April - School reopens for summer term
1st May - School closed bank holiday
2nd May - Parents/carers to receive Summer term curriculum overview and targets
8th May - SATs week for Year 6
16th May - Reception class assembly 9.15am
22nd May - International week
29th May - 2nd June - Half term holiday
5th June - School reopens
9th June - Derwent Hill weekend
12th June - Phonic screening Year 1
13th June - Year 5 class assembly
13th June - Dance festival
19th June - Nursery sports morning (am)
19th June - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sports afternoon
20th June - Year 3,4,5 and 6 sports afternoon
27th June - Year 1 assembly
5th July - Summer family picnic
7th July - End of year reports to parent/carers
19th July - Leavers assembly 5.30pm
20th July - 100% attendance visit - Bowling
21st July - Break up for summer holidays
*The school website calendar is updated with all visitors, assemblies, school trips and other important dates.

Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



Issue:6
Date: Feb 17

Headteacher's Update

We are always keen to improve any aspects of school life and welcome your support, views and suggestions. Many thanks to all parent/carers that completed our recent questionnaire, we had 60 responses. I will be analysing these closely and will report findings and actions over the next few months.

I am delighted that we have secured funding from the Community Chest project and must thank Councillor Scaplehorn for supporting our bid for improvements to our year 1 outdoor area. The work will be completed during the next few weeks to support outdoor learning opportunities.

We have many planned activities coming up over the year (see the website and reverse of this newsletter for more details). The next event that I am particularly looking forward to is our Year 4 class assembly. Our class assemblies are always well attended and I look forward to seeing friends and family members of our Year 4 children on Tuesday 14th February at 9.15am. We hope that you will be able to stay for refreshments afterwards.

A reminder that our parent/carers consultations take place on the 6th and 8th March. Appointment letters will follow home shortly.

Enjoy the half term break when it comes.

With very best wishes,
Julia Watkins

Grants

We are delighted to have received £200 for a Kellogg's Breakfast Club grant. The money will be spent on new games, art/crafts and a football table for the children who attend breakfast club. We were also successful in a Community Chest application. We have received £1800 to develop the area outside Year 1 outdoor area. Wooden tables, benches, a chalk board and an easel are on order. We hope to complete this work by the end of February.

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'Sunderland Sings'

Miss Hepplewhite took some children from the school choir to the Sunderland Sings event at Sunderland Minster. This annual event brings together many schools across Sunderland to celebrate singing and showcase their talents. The children who attended have been invited to visit the Theatre Royal Newcastle, on 2nd March, to see an opera version of Hansel and Gretel.



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3rd March. We will be having a book swap day so if your child has any books they have read and no longer require, they can bring them into school and swap it for a new one. All children have been given a £1 World Book token which can be used between 27th Feb - 26th March at various bookshops. The voucher can also be swapped for a free World Book Day book at various book stores. A letter was sent home yesterday with all the details about the day and ideas for children to dress up as a character from their favourite book.

Sainsburys Active Kids

Sainsburys Active Kids is back for 2017. The promotion runs from 25th January-3rd May 2017. Please collect as many tokens as possible to help the school buy new sports equipment and cooking equipment for the children. The box is situated in the school entrance.

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Attendance/Punctuality

Unfortunately, we have had a lot of illnesses across our school the past week with chickenpox. Even though your child may not be on track for 100% attendance initiatives, we have spot prizes throughout the year so that they can be rewarded for making every effort to attend school when well enough. I am pleased to announce that Year 4 had the highest attendance for January with 99.6%. The class will be rewarded with a movie and popcorn afternoon next week. In addition, our two week 100% incentive begins on Monday 13th February until Friday 3rd March. All children who achieve 100% over these two weeks will have the opportunity to have their name drawn out of a hat for a spot prize. May I remind parents about children arriving to school on time. There is an increasing number of children arriving to school after 8.55am. Children need to be in class ready for registration. This is being closely monitored and if any children are persistently late, a letter will be sent home inviting parent/carers to a meeting.

Robinwood Residential Trip

We are delighted to be offering our current Year 5 children a residential visit to Robin Wood Activity Centre in October 2017. A visit has been arranged to take children to Barhaugh Hall in Alston Cumbria for a 2 night stay. Children will have the opportunity to take part in many challenges and activities which will give them the opportunity to grow in confidence and discover new skills and abilities whilst being guided by the highly trained staff. Activities will be both indoor and outdoor. The deposit of £50 is due by Friday 17th February. Please take a look at the website for further details. www.robinwood.co.uk.

Visitors to school

Year 3 welcomed Durham Outreach to work alongside with them on a Stone Age to Iron Age workshop. Children discovered what it would be like to become an archaeologist. They took part in some hands-on activities throughout the day and created their own stone age tribe and designed pre-historic coins.

