

Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

15th January - SATs workshop for parents/carers of Year 6 3.30pm
16th January - Year 5/6 swimming festival
22nd January - SATs meeting for parent/carers of Year 2 3.15pm
23rd January - Year 5/6 IN2 Hockey
1st February - Year 6 to visit Safetyworks Newcastle
6th February - Year 1 Infant Agility Challenge
6th February - Safer Internet Day
12th - 16th February - Half term
20th February - Year 2 Infant Agility Challenge
22nd February - Year 4 to visit Jarrow Hall
23rd February - Headteacher's coffee afternoon 2.15pm
1st March - World Book Day
5th March - Chicks arrive in school
5th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm-5pm
6th March - Year 2 to visit Centre of Life
6th March - Year 5 to visit Gibside
7th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm-6pm
12th March - RNLI to visit school
13th March - Year 3 to visit Archaeology Museum Durham
14th March - Year 4 assembly 9.15am
23rd March - Year 1 to visit Durham Castle
27th March - Nursery Bonnet Parade 9.15am
27th March - Easter Egg Competition
28th March - Easter assembly Year 1 parents/carers invited 2.15pm
29th March - Last day of spring term
30th March - 13th April - Easter holidays
16th April - School reopens Summer term
1st May - Reception class assembly 9.15am
3rd May - Community room used for polling station (school remains open)
14th May - SATs week
22nd May - Year 1 class assembly 9.15am
25th May - School closed to children INSET DAY
28th May - 1st June - Half term holiday
4th June - School reopens
18th June - Nursery sports morning 9.15am
18th June - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sports day 2.00pm
19th June - Year 3,4,5 and Year 6 sports day 2.00pm
2nd July - Transition to Oxclose
10th July - Summer picnic event on school field (1.00pm)
16th July - Year 6 to visit Nissan
18th July - Leavers assembly 5pm
20th July - Break up for summer (normal school day)
5th September - School reopens to children

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Issue:5
Date: Jan 18

Headteacher's Update

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and send you my very best wishes for 2018.

This term, we have welcomed four new children to our nursery - we are sure they will all enjoy their learning at Blackfell. All of the children across school have settled well and enjoying their new topics. Next Monday, curriculum overviews will be sent home with important dates for your diary.

Last month we had a wonderful celebration of Christmas including our annual Christmas Fair, class productions across the school culminating in our CLIC Sargent fundraiser on the last day of term. Thank you to everyone including our school council for supporting this event. We raised £375 for this incredible charity and a message of thanks was received with a certificate proudly displayed in our school entrance. My next termly headteacher's coffee afternoon for parent/carers will be on Friday 23rd February at 2.15pm.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2018.

Julia Watkins

Young Leaders and Sport

Throughout the Spring and Summer Term, Year 5 will be participating in the 'Playmaker Award' on a Tuesday lunchtime. The Playmaker award, developed by Sports Leaders UK, can boost the confidence and skills of those taking part, engaging more children across the whole school in physical activity and help decrease behaviour incidents on the playground. It's also a great introduction into leadership, helping learners develop skills such as organisation, communication and teamwork. After completion of the course, the children will be presented with a certificate of achievement in our celebration assembly. Children across school will also be representing the school at many sporting festivals this half term. Year 5-6 will be playing IN2 hockey and selected children competing in a swimming competition at George Washington. Years 3/4 will also be entering a swimming competition and year 1 will be taking part in an infant agility challenge.

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Health and Safety

Please park in a safe place around the school at the beginning and end of the school day. We have had concerns raised about cars parking on pathways and blocking access. We understand that it can become congested; however safeguarding of children is a priority. Please refrain from smoking around the school gates and keep dogs on a lead off school premises.

Attendance

Our attendance for last term was 96.6%. We were delighted that 76 children achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term 2017 and were rewarded with a disco afternoon. Our aim is for all children to achieve at least 97% attendance across the academic year and I am delighted that 138 achieved this target last term. This term our 100% attendance reward will be an activity afternoon. 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 (5.2.18- 23.2.18). Names will be put in a hat and drawn to win a prize.

Well done to Year 2 who achieved the class attendance award for December. They will be rewarded with a movie and popcorn afternoon.

School Council Spring 2018

This term the following children have been elected to represent the School Council. **Year 1** - Charlie McGovern/Ellie Garnett, **Year 2** - Ellis Kerry/Chloe Jones, **Year 3** Dainton Kelley/Sadie Castling, **Year 4** - Aaron Taylor/Chloe Brown, **Year 5** - Adam Shelbourne/Tilly Newstead and **Year 6** James Burns / Lexie Murray

Miss Hepplewhite will be working with the children this half term. The focus will be to create a healthy cook book. The children will be visiting a local restaurant to gain ideas and working with children across school to gather their input and ideas. The menus/book will be available to purchase after Easter. Miss Clennell will be focusing on the environment with the children looking at recycling and energy efficiencies.

School Meals

To encourage more pupils to choose school meals on Thursday 18th January school meals have changed the menu to a special "Lunchtime Magic menu". Children will have a choice of Magic Wands (fish fingers served with chunky chips and baked beans) or Hocus Pocus pasta (tomato pasta pot served with a garlic slice and mixed salad followed by abracadabra magical muffin surprise. Children who are on packed lunches can pay £2 and enjoy a meal on this day.

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Reading 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 reward. 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 team celebration.

School Uniform/School Policy

A reminder, as stated in our school prospectus/school policy set by the school governing body, children must wear black trainers/shoes/boots for school. School hoodies are only to be worn for PE lessons or in the yard, not around school. In addition heels, nail varnish and jewellery, including earrings, can not be worn to comply with our school policy and to prevent accidents on the school yard and during PE lessons. Thank you for your support.

Please ensure that your child has their school PE kit in school at all times. This consists of a white t shirt, black shorts and trainers/plimsolls.

We still have number of unclaimed items in lost property that are unnamed- please label all clothing so misplaced items can be returned.

Safeguarding

If your child is unwell for school, please contact school as early as possible in the school day to inform us. We need to know where every child is and that they are safe. We are a safeguarding school and have a duty to pass on any concerns to Children's Services. Many children will have received new electronic devices that can access the internet for Christmas. We would like to remind you that we have produced a comprehensive document aimed to keep parent/carers informed of what is available to all children if they have this access. This document is available to download on the school website 'Blackfell Primary School safe and responsible use on the internet' and can be found under 'children' then 'online safety'.

Safer Internet Day

Martin Bailey from Animate to Education is joining us on 6th February for E-Safety day. He will spend the afternoon working with all pupils to discuss the importance of keeping safe online. Parent/carers are invited to join Martin for a workshop based on E-Safety and ways you can keep your child safe on-line. Childcare will be available for children.