

Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

12th - 16th February - Half term
19th February - School reopens
20th February - Year 2 Infant Agility Challenge
22nd February - Year 4 to visit Jarrow Hall
23rd February - Headteacher's coffee afternoon 2.15pm (family quiz)
27th February - Year 1 Infant Agility Challenge
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 (tall ships theme)
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
23rd April - Curriculum Overviews to go out
25th April - Year 4 to Gibside (residential)
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
11th June - Phonic screening Year 1 (all week)
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
2nd July - Tall ships week
11th July - School choir singing for Tall Ships (venue to be announced)
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)
4th September - School reopens to children

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Issue:6
Date: Feb 18

Headteacher's Update

As the half term holiday quickly approaches, I would like to thank you all again for your support. Our children have enjoyed their new learning experiences and we are looking forward to another busy half term leading up to the Easter holiday.

I would like to invite you all to my termly coffee afternoon on Friday 23rd February at 2.15pm in the main hall. We always have a theme at this event and have decided we will be hosting a 'Blackfell Family Quiz'. You and your child are invited to join me in the hall to participate in a twenty question quiz all about our school. Entry will be £1 per family and there will be a prize for the winning team. Refreshments will be available to purchase. Further details have been sent out today in a separate letter. Please save the date!

All arrangements for the next half term will be sent to you all. A reminder that our annual Easter egg decorating competition theme for children in years 1 to 6 is 'The Tall Ships' to celebrate Sunderland hosting the race in July. I have no doubt that the children will produce some unique and fabulous creations!

Finally I would like to welcome Olivia to our Year 5 class. All of the children have already made her feel very welcome and we are sure that she will enjoy being part of our school community.

Enjoy the half term break when it comes - I know that many of the children are hoping for more snow!

Mural Art Project

After half term we will begin working with a local artist Scott Donnelly to create a relief mural. Children will be working with Scott to create four large individual cast tiles that will incorporate various themes which are associated with our school. The process will involve a selection of small objects being pressed into clay and then removed. The surface is then cast and the tiles will be mounted around school. A similar project was made with Cragside Primary School <https://www.scottdonnelly.co.uk/cragside>. An important aspect of the artist's work is allowing children to use their own materials. Children are encouraged to gather their own materials and bring these into school after half term. The items that children need to bring in need to be rigid e.g plastic, metal or wood). The themes which have been identified are trees which include Willow, Oak, Maple and Pine, musical instruments and animals linked to the 5R's (elephant, penguin, fox, monkey and beaver). The materials need to be small items in order to fit onto the cast tiles. The project will begin on Thursday 22nd February. Scott joined us in assembly today to share the exciting project with the children.

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Foundation Stage

If anyone has children's dressing up clothes that are in good condition and are no longer of any use at home Nursery and Reception would appreciate any donations. They need to be aged 3-6 years. Also they would be grateful of any old pirate figures or Superhero figures.

Attendance

Our attendance for this half term is 96.4%. 121 children are on track to receive 100% attendance for the spring term 2018 and will be rewarded with an activity afternoon on the last day of term. A reminder that spot prizes will be awarded to children who have had 100% attendance this week and the week following half term 23/2/18. Names will be put in a hat and drawn to win a prize.

School Council Spring 2018

Well done to Tom Pinnegar, Gabrielle and Christiann Pitcairn who won the competition to write the blurb and designed the front cover for the cookery book that the school council are producing. They received galleries vouchers. Miss Hepplewhite accompanied the school council to Frankie and Benny's this week to find out about healthy recipes and healthy food. The children had a great time out of school and their behaviour was exemplary. A real credit to Blackfell School. The children were treated to lunch.



Headlice

There has been several reported incidents from different classes of children having headlice. Can I please ask that you regularly check your child's hair and treat accordingly? Headlice can become a persistent problem if left untreated or not treated properly and can cause a lot of distress to children and families. We have headlice combs available free of charge in school. Please contact Mrs Reynolds in the school office if you require one.

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Safety Works

Year 6 had a really informative morning at Safetyworks in Newcastle. Safetyworks is an interactive safety centre set up to look like an indoor town. It has its own Metro station, Police Station, road complete with a Sainsburys shop, mini hospital and a house with a back alley. In the different areas we learned different aspects of safety. We learned safety tips for using the Metro, about shoplifting and what would happen if you were arrested, we used clues to figure out a road collision and learned first aid and how to put someone in the recovery position. It was a great morning out of school and we all learned so much to take home and share with our parents/carers.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Don't forget World Book Day on 1st March. After half term children will receive a book token. To celebrate in school children bring their pyjamas/dressing gown to get changed to after lunch. Nursery children can come dressed in their nightwear on the morning.