

# Newsletter

Our school Council organised a Valentines themed day for all the children across school. Our Valentines theme was about sharing positivity and kindness throughout the school. We had a lovely Valentine's Day lunch and shared cards with the children alongside some spot prizes when they were caught doing something kind for their peers or teachers. The children all had a wonderful day!

Thank you very much for wearing red and making donations for our local cause. Together we have raised, £131.00 for Washington Mind, which will help support positive mental health within our community.



## Dates for the Diary

- 21st - 25th February - Half term holiday
- 3rd March - World book day - children to wear pyjamas /onesies
- 7th March - Children's mental health week
- 9th March - Parent/carers consultations 3.30pm - 6pm
- 14th March - Parent/carers consultations 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- 14th March - British Science week
- 18th March - Final balance due for Derwent Hill
- 11th - 22nd April - Easter holidays
- 25th April - Return to school for Summer term

# Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



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Date: Feb  
2022

## Headteacher's Update

Last week, we all took part in Internet Safety Day across school. Safe and responsible use of the internet through apps, mobile phones and computers is of paramount importance and we sent home a guide for the safe use of Netflix. Please see our class pages and information for parent/carers on our school website.

Thank you to our school council who organised our special Valentine's lunch and shared the February calendar events, including random acts of kindness. We all enjoyed these activities and sharing our ideas and learning.

As you know we love to celebrate the children's achievements in and out of school. Celebration Assemblies continue to take place every Friday morning so if your child would like to share anything, please get in touch with the class teacher or catch me at the school gate.

Teachers are looking forward to parent/carer consultations on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March. If you haven't made an appointment, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Mid-year reports will be shared at the meeting or sent home after a telephone appointment.

It is lovely to welcome back Miss Kitchen following her maternity leave. Miss Kitchen is our Key Stage 2 Phase Team Leader and English lead across school. She is teaching in Year 5 alongside Mrs Gilbert for the rest of the term.

We are planning some community activities to invite you all back into school as soon as we are allowed to do so, following Public Health guidance and updates to risk assessments. I hope to reintroduce my termly Headteacher coffee afternoon event next half term. Further details to follow shortly.

Enjoy the half term break when it comes. I know that many of the children will be hoping for snow!

Very best wishes and thank you for your continued support.

Julia Watkins  
Headteacher

After February half term there will be a new style newsletter circulated monthly to parent/carers. This will include a section from all key stage groups and the work that is being covered that month as well as any other news and important dates that need to be shared. This will continue to be uploaded onto the website. If any parent would like a paper copy please inform the school office.

# Newsletter

## School News

### Chinese New Year



In Foundation Stage we have been celebrating Chinese New Year. The children have been learning how Chinese New Year is celebrated and some of the customs. The children enjoyed listening to the story of the Chinese Zodiac and found out that it is the year of the tiger. It was great to see the children take part in a range of activities, involving dressing up, using chopsticks to complete number activities, drawing pictures of some of the animals and helping to retell the story. In PE the children used their bodies to move in different ways to create the movement of the animals from the story.

The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and would like to wish you all **Xīnnián hǎo, which means Happy New Year.**

### School football News

After the half-term break, we look forward to continuing our school football season within the Washington District Football league. Our first game back will be on Thursday 3rd March at Blackfell, on the school field, against Fatfield and Lambton. After a good run of form before the break for Winter, we are currently just above mid table within the league.

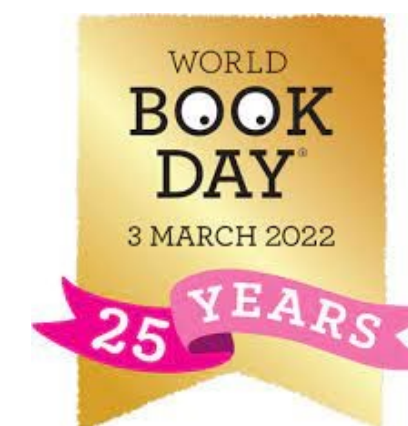
Our Year 5/6 girls' team will be competing in a knock-out style competition on Thursday 28th April; our Year 4 team will also be playing their tournament on Thursday 12th May and our Year 5 team will be challenging on Thursday 26th May. Further information of the format and venue details for these fixtures will be circulated to those children playing nearer the time.



# Newsletter

## World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. The theme will be Bedtime Stories. Children will be invited to wear their pyjamas/onesies and bring their slippers and a cuddly toy. They will still require their outdoor shoes for play time. Children will listen to a story whilst enjoying a cookie and glass of milk. Children will swap classes to hear other stories. There will also be a competition for children to encourage reading. Details of this will be sent out on Thursday 17th February on a separate letter. Children will also receive a £1 book token to spend in any WHSmith, Waterstones or Sainsburys.



## Clean up your dog waste

We have had a number of concerns from parents and children about the amount of dog waste on the paths around school. This has been reported the Sunderland Council in the hope that more lamp post signs and clean up can take place.

## Attendance

Well done to Year 5 who won attendance of the month for January 2022. They enjoyed a fun afternoon with class treats. Attendance across school for January was:

Nursery 87.2%

Reception 86.7%

Year 1 92.5%

Year 2 86.3%

Year 3 75.8%

Year 4 80.3%

Year 5 93.4%

Year 6 87.9%

**Overall attendance across school from September to present date is 92.4%.**

## NHS App

Sunderland Change for Life programme are promoting a new NHS food scanner App. This can be downloaded for free from Google play or the App Store. It allows you to find healthier food swaps for the whole family. You just scan the barcode on your favourite foods, swipe to see the healthier options and then swap the next time you shop.