

Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



Violin Lessons

We would like to increase the number of children who play violin. There are spaces on a Tuesday afternoon for a beginner group. The cost of a lesson is £3. If your child is in Year 3, 4 or 5 and would like to learn this instrument please contact the school office for further details.

School Refurbishment

We are continuing with the refurbishment programme throughout school. Key Stage 2 hall has now been decorated, the school library has new furniture and carpet and the improvements to Year 5 and 6 cloakroom and classrooms are in place to take place over Easter.

Dates for your Diary

22nd Jan -	RNLI Water Safety visit
28th Jan -	Year 2 to visit Oxclose Church
6th Feb -	Parents Coffee Afternoon at 2.15pm
11th Feb -	Year 2 class assembly at 9.15am
12th Feb -	Year 2 Sats talk for parents at 3.30pm
12th Feb -	Movie night Reception, Year 1, Year 2 (3.15 until 5pm)
13th Feb -	Non uniform day - Valentines Lunch
13th Feb -	Break up for half term
23rd Feb -	School Reopens
24th Feb -	Year 6 to visit Safety Works
2nd March -	Internet Safety training for parents 5pm (further details to follow)
5th March -	World Book Day
11th March -	Parent Consultations 3pm - 6pm
12th March -	Parent Consultation 3pm - 5pm
16th March -	Healthy Eating/British Week
19th March -	Year 4 class assembly
20th March -	School Closed - Inset Day
26th March -	Year 3 class assembly
26th March -	Year 2 visit to Gibside
1st April -	Easter egg competition/Easter bonnet parade for Nursery/Reception
3rd April -	School closed for Easter holidays
20th April -	School reopens for Summer term
All dates and events are on our school website	

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Date: Jan 15

Headteacher's Update

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a fantastic Christmas break and are ready for the new term. All of the children have settled back into school very well and enjoying learning about their new topics. We welcomed five new children into Nursery this week and are sure that they will all have a happy and successful time in our school.

Next Wednesday you will receive the termly Curriculum Overview for each class which will detail the many learning opportunities and experiences that are planned for this term. Also included, will be your child's personal curriculum targets for this term. We hope that you will find them both informative and useful to support your child's learning.

This term, I will be working closely with our school council. Meetings are already well underway and the children have been holding 'class councils' to find out views and ideas from their class members to improve our school even further. Pupil voice is key to our continuing success therefore children across school will be completing pupil questionnaires in the next few weeks to find out what we are doing well and suggestions for improvements. My termly coffee afternoon will be on Friday 6th February at 2.15pm. I have invited members of our school council to join me and tell you about their role and results of pupil questionnaires to further enhance our school.

We are looking forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in 2015, to ensure another exciting year here at Blackfell.

Julia Watkins



Sunderland Football Tickets

The school has been given the opportunity to take advantage of Sunderland v Burnley match at the Stadium of Light on Saturday 31st January. Tickets are priced at £20 per pair (one adult and one child with additional tickets at £10 each). We would be delighted if you could support this scheme as Sunderland FC will donate £4.25 back to the school for each pair of tickets bought as well as £5 to the SAFC Foundation. If you would like to purchase tickets please contact the school office by Wednesday 21st January to complete a ticket request form and arrange payment.

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Bookworm Challenge

Many thanks to all the parents who supported our bookworm challenge last term. 76% of all parents signed their child's reading book every week for 10 weeks. The children all received a certificate and a badge and it is lovely to see them wearing their badges this term. One lucky child from each class also received a £5 book voucher.



The winners were: Year 1 Sam Morris, Year 2 Natalie Carrott, Year 3 James Burns, Year 4 Owen Wright, Year 5 Jack Palmer, Year 6 Callum Jones.

Reception children will be joining the Spring Bookworm Challenge. We hope to increase the number of parents supporting this reading challenge to 80% this term so please listen to your child read at home and sign their home reading book.

Attendance/Punctuality

Following the success of Autumn terms attendance initiative and 95 children achieving 100% attendance we will once again be rewarding children for good attendance in the Spring Term. Any child who achieves 100% attendance from Monday 5th January to Thursday 2nd April will be rewarded with an "American Themed Lunch". We will be consulting the School Council to find out what food the children would like ordered. Any child who achieves 100% attendance for the whole year will receive a visit to the Cinema in the summer term. The attendance to date is 97.2%. Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time. If your child is late arriving into school please bring your child to the school office and sign them in.

School Meals

There will a change to the menu on Thursday 15th January. Children will have a choice of Beef burger in a bun or fish fingers served with chips, vegetable sticks, reduced fat doughnut and a drink—all served in an animal printed box. We are trying to encourage as many children who currently have packed lunch to try school meals. All children in Reception Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a meal on this day. If your child is in Year 3,4,5 or 6 and would like a meal on 15th January please forward £1.90 to the school office in a named envelope.

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Christmas Festivities



A visit from Santa Claus



Christmas Lunch



Christmas Disco



The children enjoyed a performance of Sinbad



Collective Musical Assembly



Christmas Fair



The Choir performed at Barclays Bank in the Galleries