

Newsletter

18th January - Year 5/6 swimming festival
21st January - SATs meeting for parent/carers of Year 6 3.30pm
28th January - Year 2 SATs workshop
5th February - Year 1 class assembly 9.15am
5th February - Safer Internet Day
5th February - Themed lunch - Chinese New Year
6th February - Greek Workshop Year 6
11th February - Phonics screening talk for Year 1 parents 3.15pm
14th February - Themed lunch - Valentines Day
18th - 22nd February - Half term
25th February - Year 6 to visit Nissan
1st March - Year 1 infant agility challenge
4th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm - 6pm
5th March - Year 5 to visit Gibside
6th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm - 5pm
7th March - World Book Day
8th March - Year 2 infant agility challenge
11th March - Anti Bullying production Y2-Y6
12th March - Travelling book bus in school
13th March - Year 3 on visit to Durham University - Wear Roman experience
19th March - Year 1 to visit Preston Park
21st March - Year 3 class assembly 9.15am
25th March - Spring Discos
25th March - Ducks arrive in Nursery/Reception
3rd April - Easter egg competition Y1-Y6/Easter Parade Nursery and Reception
8th April - 22nd April - Easter holidays
2nd May - Community room used as polling station
13th May - SAT's week
21st May - Year 4 to Gibside Residential visit
24th May - School closed to children - Inset Day
27th May - 31st May - Half term holiday
3rd June - School closed to children - Inset Day
4th June - Raising Aspirations/Inspiring the Future week
4th June - Year 6 to visit Safety Works
10th June - Phonics Screening week
17th June - Nursery sports morning/Be Fit, Be Safe, Be Healthy Week
17th June - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sports afternoon
18th June - Year 6 to visit Sunderland University
19th June - Year 3,4,5, 6 sports afternoon
26th June - Winners of 5R school visit- Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
27th June - Winners of 5R school visit - Year 3,4,5,6
1st July - Transition week
9th July - Summer picnic
11th July - Reports to Parent/Carers
17th July - Year 6 leavers assembly 5pm

Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



Issue:5
Date: Jan 19

Headteacher's Update

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed spending some quality time with family and friends. This term, we have welcomed seven 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 are enjoying their new topics. I hope that you received your Spring curriculum overview this week. All important dates for the rest of the academic year are on our school calendar.

This week we have launched our updated website. All key information is on the site and we hope that you find it much easier to navigate with our most visited pages on the main front page. Please take a look at the class section to see what your child has been up to - we are always very busy at Blackfell!

We were delighted with the feedback from the recent parent/carers questionnaire sent out in December. My correspondence to you last week shared the positive results and suggested areas for improvement. In light of suggestions and responses from our Breakfast Club survey, from Monday 4th February the breakfast menu on offer will change to provide more healthy options. In addition, the newly elected school council will be reviewing key stage 2 tuck shop options as we will be working in partnership with the NHS Foundation supporting a healthy eating and oral hygiene programme. I will send further details out later this term.

It is always wonderful to welcome you to join us in school and to work alongside your child. My next termly headteacher's coffee afternoon for parent/carers will be on Friday 1st March at 2.15pm.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2019.

Julia Watkins

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. The community police will be carrying out spot checks at the beginning and end of the school day to support us and to raise awareness of the importance of parking safely. We understand that it can become congested; however, safeguarding of children is a priority. In addition, please refrain from smoking around the school gates and keep dogs on a lead off school premises.

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Attendance

Our attendance for last term was 96.4%. We were delighted that 77 children achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term and were rewarded with a special lunch. Our aim is for all children to achieve at least 97% attendance across the academic year and I am delighted that 135 out of 215 achieved this target last term. This term our 100% attendance reward will be a visit from the ice-cream van. In addition, there will be spot prizes. This begins with all children with 100% attendance for the week before and week after the February half term holiday (11.2.19- 1.3.19). Names will be put in a hat and drawn to win a prize.

Well done to Year 3 who achieved the class attendance award for December with 98.6%. The children enjoyed a movie and popcorn afternoon.

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'.

Spelling Challenge

Well done to the 125 children who achieved their spelling challenge in the autumn term. This term there are changes to the weekly challenge. To achieve their star each week, children need to get a certain number of their spellings correct. You will find the number on your child's curriculum overview. Children in Reception class will also be taking part.

World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. We are launching a 'Book Box' competition with the chance to win some great prizes including books and a visit to Frankie & Benny's. Children will be taking part in a variety of activities in their class based on a class story. More details of the competition will follow in due course. We will not be dressing up this year. On Tuesday 12th March a travelling book bus will be visiting school for the day selling books at discounted prices.

Safer Internet Day 2019 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 5th February 2019 with the theme: Together for a better internet. On this day, in school, children will take part in class activities focussing on cyber-bullying. Alongside this there will be a poster/leaflet competition for children to complete at home under different themes:

Nursery and Reception: Top tips on using a tablet/Ipad/phones

Year 1 and 2: Top tips for using Roblox/Minecraft or games which they play online

Year 3 and 4: Top tips for using You Tube

Year 5 and 6: Top tips on Snap Chat/ Tic Tok/Instagram

Templates and further information will be sent home with children closer to the time. Please support your children to complete this to raise awareness of staying safe online using different devices and accessing a range of apps/games. Winners of the competition will receive a Galleries voucher worth £10.

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School Council 2019

The following children have been elected as School Councillors for the spring term.

Year 1 - Lexi Quinn, JJ Beadling

Year 2 - Jaycee Day, Aaron Coulson Patel

Year 3 - Ellis Kerry, Miya Wilson

Year 4 - Isla Martins, Alex Meager

Year 5 - Ellie Platts, Harry Beadling

Year 6 - Brendon Tetchner, Grace Anderson

Over the spring term the school council will be focusing on the theme "Healthy Heart, Healthy Mind". Miss Stockport and Mr Whitfield will be working with the children reviewing the KS2 tuck shop and introducing healthier options. Children will also be involved in pupil questionnaires and helping to support Safer Internet Day on 5th February doing work around cyber bullying supporting other pupils. Fundraising will be for a local charity "Mind" which supports those experiencing emotional and mental health problems.

Sport

We continue to offer many different opportunities for participation and competition in different sports: Mr Taylor, from Championship Sports, works with children during breakfast club and lunchtimes and Mr Anderson is currently working with KS2 on a lunchtime competing at Boccia. Mr Anderson will be running a range of sports allowing house teams to challenge for our Blackfell Team Trophy.

Good luck to all of the children competing against local schools in our different inter school sports competition: Year 5/6 will be competing in our cluster swimming festival on Friday 18th January; on Friday 8th February, we will be competing in our annual Y5/6 Hockey Festival at Oxclose and Year 3/4 will be competing at the Puma Centre, Silksworth, in the Sunderland Tennis Games on Friday 15th February.

Themed Lunches

On 5th February to celebrate Chinese New Year and on 14th February Valentines Day the school menu will change. The menu will soon be available to view on our website and in the school notice board. The cost of a school meal is £2 and children will be entered into the golden ticket prize draw.