

# Happy New Year 2009

At the beginning of another new year many of us will have reflected on everything that has happened during 2008. Some of us will have good memories and others will be glad that 2008 is over. Here at school we look back on a successful 2008. The new staff that started in September are now established and are well and truly part of the team. Our SATs results in Year 6 improved in May, we had many enjoyable and successful school trips including one to France and we enjoyed a busy and lively Christmas period in December.

I'm sure many of you will have wondered what lies ahead for 2009. Well, at school, we too are busy planning and thinking ahead ready to face 2009. Finally, after years of planning, we hope to replace many of our windows and fascia boards. This will give the school building a new look and make the outside look better, while making the building more energy efficient. We have planned a trip for our older pupils to 'Manor Adventure' for a week-end of outdoor pursuits and we have high expectations of all of our children this year, but especially the Year 6 children who will sit their SATs tests in May. We have had to set targets in line with government expectations and we aim to have at least 55% of our Year 6 children achieving level 4 or above in both English and Maths. All of the staff and children are aware of this target and are working hard to achieve it.

Please help us to help your children, by supporting their learning at home. There are many useful and fun websites out there which can really encourage your children to read more. Please let us know if you would like a list of these.

Finally, whatever happens in 2009, please be assured that we are always happy to welcome you into school and listen to your concerns. We want, more than anything in 2009, to help build our community into a caring, kind and friendly environment for our children to grow up in.

All of the staff here at Brackensdale would like to wish you a Happy and Peaceful 2009.

*Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. ~Oprah Winfrey*

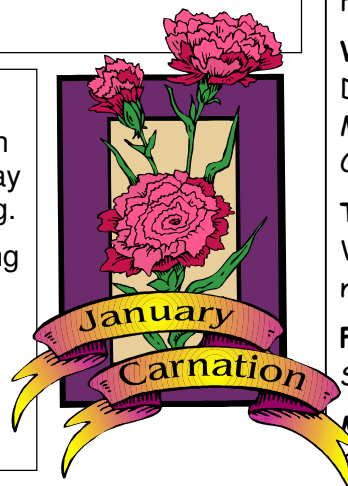


### !!Advance Notice!!

School will be closed on Friday 6th March & Friday 3rd April for staff training.

The last day of the Spring Term will therefore be Thursday 2nd April.

School opens for the Summer Term on Monday 20th April.



### Dates for your Diary:

**Tuesday 13th January** - Y4 Swimming starts

**Sunday 18th January** - Cycling competition at Markeaton Park

**Monday 2nd February** - Diversions Theatre Visit for Mrs Fox and Mrs Pearson's class.

**Wednesday 4th February** - Diversions Theatre visit for Miss Mortlock and Mr Harton's Class.

**Thursday 12th February** - Valentine's Disco (more details next month)

**Friday 13th February** - School closes for half term.

**Monday 23rd February** - School re-opens.

Phone: 01332 341171

E-mail: [admin@brackensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@brackensdalej.derby.sch.uk)



Walthamstow Drive  
Mackworth  
Derby  
DE22 4BS



## Extended Schools News:

Steve Berry

Extended schools co-ordinator

This is my second month in this role and many projects are now up and running. Two new projects have been started; Book Swap and Netball Club. The Book Swap will now be in the **Junior's hall at breakfast club** on a **Thursday**, so come along and pick a book up, (remember it's **FREE!**). What I do want to get up and running, as there has been a lot of interest from the youngsters, is a pupils Book/comic swap. So if your young ones have books comics they no longer read, bring them to me at the breakfast club and I'll start the Book/comic Swap on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**. The netball club has been a great success. We've had a good time running it and I will look into the chances of running another when this one finishes (mid January).

You may have heard of the cookery club which we hope to have running shortly. It's called 'Lets get Cooking'. We have now been given funding to run a club for parents and children. It may take a while to get started but as soon as I have any more information, I'll let you know.

I've been looking at the questionnaires you filled in and will be considering the ideas you put forward. ICT for parents was a popular request, and as a result I will shortly be organising sessions starting at the beginning of February. We will be running Parenting Programmes later this month, and in February, for parents of both schools. The 1<sup>st</sup> one is a full day session called "Talking to your children about relationships and sex". The second deals with managing challenging behaviour. More about this nearer the date. If anyone is interested in either of these courses, they can contact, Diane Reddish, Helen Bye or Kath Merry, at the infants. You can also always contact me, Steve Berry, at the Juniors' breakfast club. I am there most mornings until 9:00am. A Happy New year to you all from me, Steve Berry. [s.berry@brackensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:s.berry@brackensdalej.derby.sch.uk)

## New SEN Parent Interest Group

By Helen Wallace  
Inclusion manager

On Tuesday 13th January at 2pm, I will be holding the first 'get together' for our Parent's of SEN children. As we are an Enhanced Resource school we have many children with a wide range of Special Educational Needs within our school. Many of these children come to school in a taxi as they live out of our usual catchment area. Because of this, many of their parents rarely, if ever get the opportunity to come into school to meet the teachers and support staff or have the chance to ask questions or meet parents in similar situations. This is one of the reasons why I have agreed to set up this group. At the first meeting we will be discussing what we want from the group and the kind of issues we want to explore. Steve Berry will also be attending the meeting, so that he can talk to the group about possible activities and training. We have had a very positive response from parents so far. We have even had offers of cake and biscuits! If you think you may be interested in joining us next Tuesday, and your child is on the SEN register in school, or even if you would just like to know more about it, please contact me at school or you can e-mail me at [h.wallace@brackensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:h.wallace@brackensdalej.derby.sch.uk) by Monday 12th January.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Helen Wallace.

### Parking outside school

We are always being contacted by local residents about parking outside school. We appreciate that it is difficult to find space to wait for your child, but please do not obstruct driveways or drive on the grass. It's a new year maybe a good resolution would be to walk to school more often or park further away and walk a bit further? It could be the start of a healthy New Year for you and your family!

It's still dark in the morning and after school, so don't forget to be seen and be bright! Wear bright clothes, especially if you are coming to school on your bike!



Don't forget we're on the web: [www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk)