



# September 2017 Newsletter



Welcome back to everyone, especially our new Year 3 children and their families. I hope you all had a great Summer break. The children look lovely and smart, ready to learn and we are all looking forward to another great school year ahead.

## New staff:



A warm Brackensdale welcome to our new teachers: Mr Campbell, who is teaching in Y3/4 and Mrs Chojnowski, who is teaching in Y5/6 (previously Mrs Price's class). A further warm welcome to our new Teaching Assistants: Mrs Lacey & Mrs Laz will be working in the Phoenix Suite; Mrs Thomas, Miss Pearce, Miss Pickering & Miss Gordon will be working in the main school. We are continuing to use most of our Pupil Premium funding to enable us to keep the two extra mainstream classes, to lower the class sizes and to help children improve their learning opportunities. In addition, we have converted our library (at the request of the Local Authority) to provide an additional Phoenix Suite classroom. We will keep you posted as to how temporary the library will be used for this purpose. All classrooms now have a 'corner library' so every child will still have a reading book. Reading will always be a focus in our school, so it is still important that children get a chance to read to an adult at least 3 times a week. Please look in the centre of the Reading record book for tips on supporting your child or talk to the class teacher if you have any concerns.

## Merger with the Infant school:

The consultation period closed at the end of July with over 90% in favour of the merger. It then went to the Council Cabinet and received their support. We feel that this is very good news and will help all our children by having continuity from Reception to Year 6. The two schools will be working closely this term to prepare for the 'opening' of the new Primary school at the beginning of next term. We will be looking at new logos and mission statements/school poems for the re-launch. Any suggestions will be warmly received. NB there are no plans to change the uniform colour from red, so don't worry about any extra expenditure.

## School Photographer - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October:

The photographer will be in the school hall from 8:30 starting with family groups. NB If you do not wish your child's image to be used on our website or any other school promotions, please let us know as we have to keep a register.



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## Reminder for School Uniform

This is available from school and the prices are listed below. If you would like new uniform for your child please see Mrs Archard.

Red Fleece: £12.50; Red Jumper: £7.50; Cardigan £9.50; PE & Book bags: £4.00 each;

PE shorts & t-shirt £3.50 or £2 each.

Can we also remind you that it is school policy that the children should wear black shoes? These can be trainers, but **they must be black** to look smart.

**Also, if children wish to play football on the field at lunch times, they need to bring a change of footwear and shorts/tracksuit bottoms (scruffy kit is fine) to enable them to play all year round without messing up their uniform or bring dirt into the school.**

## Swimming for Y4:

Swimming for Y4 starts on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. A reminder that each child needs a towel, swimming costume (no baggy shorts or bikinis) and a hat if their fringe is longer than their eye-brows. No jewellery - ear-rings are best taken out on Tuesdays, if not, they must be taped over.



## Stars of the Year:

In our final rewards assembly of the 2016-17 academic year the following children were selected as their class's Star of the Year. This year we will be continuing with weekly stars as well as termly and yearly Stars. Well done everyone!

Mrs Neale - Dylan Shaw

Miss Kemm - Ruby Fletcher

Mr Price - a collective prize

Mrs Tee - Billy Abbott

Mrs Fox - Maria Molenda

Mr Harton - Harrison Bracken

Mr Tee - Ruby Hudd

Miss Sims - Daniel Sadik

Mrs Fearn - Jerome Attummel

Mrs Pearson - Charlotte Roome

Mr Farina - Kacie Buckley

Mrs Price - Stefan Alexandru

## New learning themes:



This term Y3/4 will be following the '**Burps, Bottoms & Bile**' theme where they will be looking at the inside of the human body, particularly the digestive system. The literacy is based around explanation and fact files.

In Y5/6 the theme is '**A Child's War**' where the children will study World War 2 from a child of the times perspective. The literacy is based on writing letters and historical fiction.



There is more information on our website ([www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk)) and some topic webs and homework choices will be coming out soon. Let's Keep Loving Learning!

## New Classes:

Mrs Neale - The Happy Hedgehogs

Mr Price - The Outstanding Owls

Mrs Smith - Busy Bee's

Mrs Fox - Dragon Force

Mr Campbell - Cosmic Space Unicorns

Mrs Fearn - The Superheroes

Mr Farina - Respectful Robins

Mrs Johnson - Persevering Panda's

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Miss Simms - Simsy's Super Stars

Mrs Tee - The High Flyers

Mrs Chojnowski - Spectacular Spartans

Mr Harton - The Time Lords

Mrs Pearson - Guardians of the Galaxy

## **School Development Plan 2017/2018:**

Our 4 Development priorities reflect the changes we have to implement this year:

### **1. Enhancing the teaching & learning:**

We will be reviewing the teaching strategies we use to ensure we get effective continuity from Reception to Year 6. This will form the basis of a Teaching & Learning document for all staff.

We will be refining our assessment and tracking systems to ensure the children are well prepared for the new national tests. We will use the information to spot any child falling behind at the earliest point and start intervention work to help them catch up.

We will be using our topics to underline the basic skills whilst giving the children a broad and balanced curriculum.

### **2. Whole school focus on improving maths teaching**

There has been a lot of research into new approaches to teaching Maths and we are now following a new scheme with the children. This has a strong emphasis on 'reasoning' which is using the basic maths skills to solve real-life problems.

Learning number bonds and the times tables are fundamental to success in maths, so we will be concentrating on this and offering incentives and rewards for those children who try their best.

In the Spring term, we will hold a Maths Fun Day, where children and parents can work together using some of our new strategies.

### **3. Linking with the Infants to become a Primary School**

We will develop a 'Merging plan' to take effect from January 2018, taking the best from both schools and creating a common ethos and consistent approaches.

Work in partnership with parents to provide the best school experience we can for all our children.

### **4. A happy, healthy and fit school**

Using the Schools Sport Funding to offer a wide choice of high quality sporting opportunities and to increase the participation in sporting activities for our children.

To install new interactive screens on the playgrounds to develop regular exercise, good health and communication with parents/carers.

Use our school kitchen to encourage healthy food choices, again linking with parents/carers.

Using the 'Brilliant Derby' initiative to develop a positive, happy mental attitude and a 'Yes I can' mind-set

We will keep you updated through our newsletters and our website as well as having parent information meetings. If you have any questions, please contact us.

### **Links with parents:**

We are hoping the merger of the Infant and Junior schools will generate a lot of parental interest in being involved in the design of the new Primary school. We will continue to have our Monday Coffee morning, but we are keen to have an effective parent body (name to be

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decided) that will help us create the best school we can for your children. As part of the merger we will be encouraging parents to offer suggestions and support. We will be holding a special MacMillan Coffee morning on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday after the national day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. Please come and support this charity - more details to follow.

### **Non-negotiables:**

Although there are some changes this year, many things are staying the same. One of which is the 'Non-negotiables' we've used in school for the past two years. They are:

1. Make sure you are in school. Aim for 100% attendance – more than 9 days off a year puts you under 95%.
2. Read to an adult at least 3 times a week – aim for every day.
3. Take pride in the presentation of your work.
4. Have your PE kit in school every day.
5. Bring healthy snacks for break – no chocolate, sweets or crisps.
6. Work hard to build a strong character – use our 5 R's



We hope that you will help your child meet these expectations. Especially aiming for 100% attendance, which is still a key target for us. We have another **special** prize draw for 100%ers from now until the Christmas break - go for it!

### **Parking:**



Can I remind parents to park considerately at the beginning and end of the day. There are particular concerns on Brackensdale Avenue, where we try to ensure all traffic can flow smoothly - especially emergency vehicles - by **ONLY** parking on the school side of the road.

Also, can I remind parents not to walk through the car park as it puts you at risk and that the car park is for staff and taxis only. We have already had an issue where an ambulance could not get into school due to parent's cars. Thank you!

### **2017 SATs:**

*Although the Y6 children who took the SATs in May have now moved on, it is important that all parents are aware of how the school is performing.*

*This year's tests were a lot harder after the Government's drive to raise expectations. We no longer have 'levels' just whether the child has met the 'standard' or not.*

*Below is a table showing the number of children who met the standard in all subjects, however it is important to note that as an Enhanced Resource School we have a high level of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). This year we had 30 (47%) out of 64 children who had SEN, so to compare us to other 'normal' schools who generally have about 55 SEN. You need to look at the non-SEN figures as well as the headline figures - which will be the only figures reported in the Derby Telegraph. A breakdown of the data is what we present to the Council & OFSTED and why we continue to be graded as a 'GOOD' school.*

<b>2017 SAT results</b>	<b>HEADLINE DATA All the children (64)</b>	<b>Non-SEN (34)</b>	<b>National Average 2016</b>
Percentage of children achieving standard in <b>reading, writing &amp; maths combined.</b>	27%	48%	53%
Percentage of children achieving standard in <b>Reading</b>	54%	77%	66%
Percentage of children achieving standard in <b>Writing</b>	52%	87%	74%
Percentage of children achieving standard in <b>Maths</b>	35%	52%	70%
Percentage of children achieving standard in <b>Grammar, Punctuation &amp; Spelling</b>	53%	74%	72%

In the interest of clarity and fairness, we have discounted our academically able SEN children in our non-SEN data.

### Key dates for the year:

I have attached a list of the key dates for this Autumn term to allow you to plan ahead. If we have to make any changes, we will try to give you as much notice as possible. We have matched our INSET days with the Infants.

Stick it on your fridge etc.



**NB This is a shorter version to take us up to January 2018 when a combined date list will be published to cover the new Primary School**

Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Autumn Term begins (INSET) 6 weeks 3days</b>
Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Children start back
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Voting for Team Captains/School Council
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 4 Swimming starts
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Governor learning walk & Annual General Meeting
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mrs Pearson's class to Toyota
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Macmillan Coffee Morning (following the national day on Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept)
Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	School photographer in
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Parent Evening 1 3:30 – 6:00pm</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Parent Evening 2 3:30 – 6:00pm</b>
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Harvest service (Year 3&4) 2:00 pm
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Break for ½ term</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Back to school (7 weeks 2 days)</b>
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Sparkler's Disco 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Wizard of Oz performance in school (no charge to children)
<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Senior Citizen's Christmas Meal
Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	XED sale afternoon 2:30 – 4:00pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performances (14 <sup>th</sup> Y3/4 aft & Y5/6 eve; 15 <sup>th</sup> Y5/6 aft & Y3/4 eve)
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Movie Morning/Party afternoon
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carols around the tree (10:45am) & Christmas Jumper Day (for Save the Children) + <b>Break for Christmas holiday</b>
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<b>Spring term begins INSET (6 weeks 3 days)</b>
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Children start back to school for Spring Term