



# April/May 2015 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you had a great Easter break. There is always a lot to do in the Summer term, so please take time to look at the events we have planned and check the diary dates at the end of the newsletter.

Let us hope that the good weather continues and allows us to do all that we have planned in the sunshine ☺.

## OFSTED inspection:

As most of you are aware, we had OFSTED inspectors in school just before the Easter break. We are very pleased to announce that they graded our school as *GOOD*. I am very pleased with the report, especially the comments about us being a welcoming and inclusive school. We know that we are a special kind of school, but it is great that OFSTED recognizes this and everyone who contributes to this gets recognition in the report - teachers, teaching assistants, pupils, leadership team, governors and parents. I would like to thank all of you for supporting me and our school both during the inspection and over the years leading up to it. I hope the report reassures you that your children get a very good experience here at Brackensdale and I will assure you that we will continue to work hard to become even better. Well done, Bracko!

A summary of the report is attached. The full report will be on the OFSTED website from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April.



## New learning themes:

I was very pleased to see our new curriculum was highlighted as a strength in the OFSTED report. A 'topic web' for this term and list of homework activities will be going out this week. A reminder: the children can choose their favourites from the homework activities and they are not expected to do all of them. If you have missed the new topic sheet there are extras in reception or you can see them on our website.



**This term Y3/4** will be following the 'Traders and Raiders' theme where they will be looking at Saxon and Viking history. They will be looking at maps and settlements and working on print making in art and design. They will be reading and writing poems and legends.

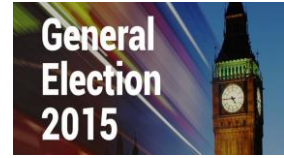
**In Y5/6** they are following two topics over the whole of the Summer term; 'Allotment' and 'Darwin's Delights'. This is because elements of the 'Allotment' topic need time for plants to grow. In addition to growing plants, the children will be discovering where our food comes from and cooking and nutrition. It links very well with the 'Darwin's Delights' topic with work on living things and habitats. They will be looking at taking responsibility for themselves and the world they live in.





The main reason for all of our topics continues to be to encourage and develop the childrens' reading and writing skills by providing interesting and exciting activities for them to read and write about.

In my assemblies we will be looking at the General Election, leading up to a Bracko Election in a few weeks' time. I hope this encourages the children to take an interest in the news. Be prepared for some questions. NB. The school is open on polling day.



### Parent/Teacher meetings:

We are changing the dates for the parent/teacher meetings this term as a result of the positive feedback to the meetings last term. The children will be having another 1:1 mentor meeting with their teacher over the next few weeks. Parents/carers will have an opportunity to talk to the teacher about your child's progress during meetings on **20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May** - booking letters out closer to the time.

### Y6 SATs:



SAT week for the Y6 children begins on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. It is very important that **all Y6 children** are in school for the week as the tests cannot be taken at any other time. It is also important that the children have enough sleep leading up to the tests and that they have some breakfast so they are alert and ready.

We realise it is an anxious time for some children, but it should be stressed that this is just an opportunity for the Y6 children to show their very best work. There is no pass or fail, it is just a way to show their next school where they are so their new teachers can set the work at the right level. In the past a lot of Y6 children have said they really enjoyed the week and all the Y6 will be able to celebrate their hard work at the end of the week.

We have planned a trip to Alton Towers on July 15<sup>th</sup> for the Y6 children as a reward for all their hard work preparing for the SATs and all their time here at Brackensdale - details will be sent out to the children closer to the event.

### Links with parents:



The Easter hat and 3-D Egg design competitions were really enjoyed by the children. Thank you to FOB for organising the event. The next FOB event will be a Car boot sale in the school carpark on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May - more details to follow.

The next **Friends of Brackensdale (F.O.B)** meeting is on **Wednesday 10th June 2:45 - 3:15**. They will be discussing the upcoming Sports day and Summer Fair events. It is also an opportunity to mention any suggestions for improvement to the school as a whole. Please feel free to drop in - all ideas are welcome.

Remember, we have a regular **Coffee Morning** every **Monday** from 9:15 - 10:30 in the school hall. Please come along for a drink, biscuit and a chat. We are happy for you to bring any pre-school children with you.



### Bracko's got talent 2015:

After many auditions and an afternoon of brilliant entertainment, Adele Clay (Mrs Hall's class) was voted the winner of Bracko's Got Talent 2015; amazing the audience with her singing ability. Well done to Adele, all the entrants and Mrs Wallace for organizing the event.

## **Attendance:**

All our efforts to improve attendance were recognized by OFSTED - thank you for your support. We had 72 children who received prizes for being 100%ers and Isla King in Mr Tee's class was drawn out to win a Kindle Fire HD. There will be another set of prizes for this term and special prizes for any child that has been in school every day for the whole year.

## **Sun protection**

When we have hot, sunny days it is important that the children are protected. Please ensure the children have hats and sunscreen so they can enjoy the sun safely. We are not allowed to apply sunscreen to children, but sun wipes are useful and widely available. Also remember our summer uniform gives the option for red & white checked summer dresses and plain tailored shorts (Black, grey or blue). No 'Bermuda' style or sports shorts.

PE kit: To allow us to make the most of the good weather, it is useful if the children have their PE kit in school every day. (Ensure that they have names in).



## **INSET day:**

The next INSET day is **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** (the first day after the May half-term) as planned. The final INSET day of this school year is on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. The Infant school is also closed on these days and we hope this helps with your family organization.

## **Governing body news:**

At the last meeting the governors agreed on a Mission statement and Vision Statement that reflects the views and aims of all governors. They have asked me to share these with you.

### **Brackensdale Junior School Board of Governors Mission Statement**

To give every child the best possible opportunity to thrive, regardless of ability and background.

### **Brackensdale Junior School Board of Governors Vision Statement**

Fully committed to supporting & developing the school's ER status and inclusion policy, through effective collaboration with the Head-teacher and staff, and successful implementation of the school improvement plan within a positive environment.

For your information our governors are:

Don Parker - Chair

Iain Bator - Vice-chair

David Keys - Local Authority

Jo Bater - Parent

Helen Rose - Parent

Letitia McCalla - Parent

Jean Kidd - Co-opted

Diane Davison - Co-opted

Garry Williams - Co-opted

David Tee - Staff

Ben Radbourne - Associate

Mike Greenfield - Clerk



Thank you for taking time to read the newsletter. If you lose the newsletter, this and previous newsletters are also on the school website.

**David Hall - Headteacher**



## Key dates for the year

If we have to make any changes, we will try to give you as much notice as possible.

Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Summer term begins (7 weeks)</b>
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SAT week</b>
<b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>FOB Car boot sale (£5 per pitch)</b>
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Photographer for Y6 memory book
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Parent/Teacher meetings
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Break for <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> term</b>
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>INSET 4</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Back to school (7 weeks 3 days)</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Book week & book fair - link with Derby Book Festival
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Dress as your favourite book character.
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Keystings music performance - free to children
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Concert for whole school at the new Derby Arena - no charge
<b>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>INSET 5</b>
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Summer Fair
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition day for Y6; Welcome assembly for Y2s & new parents meeting (3:30pm)
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports morning - <b>change due to Transition day.</b>
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports to parents
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Leavers Assembly 1:30pm followed by Y6 leavers party
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Final Awards Assembly (1:00pm)+ <b>Break for Summer returning on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>