



February/March 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2015. The New Year is moving on at a pace with Easter just around the corner. We have had some great learning experiences with Roman soldiers marching in the school and children searching strange lands for gold. We finished last half term with a disco for the children and look forward to more learning and fun activities this term.

New learning themes:

Last term's learning themes resulted in some great learning and I am especially pleased with the amount and the quality of the homework brought in by children. We can really see the benefit when children continue their learning outside of school. We positively encourage parents, grandparents and carers to help with the homework tasks as we know we all learn best from one another. A 'topic web' and list of homework activities has gone out to all parents. 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 '**Mighty metals**' theme where they will be exploring the scientific world of forces and magnetism, metals and materials. They will be thinking like an engineer, a scientist and inventor. They will be reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes for

inspiration.

In Y5/6 they are following the '**Frozen Kingdom**' theme, researching facts and figures of climate, temperature, habitats and eco-systems. They will be imagining being part of an Antarctic rescue team and looking at some famous explorers. The homework this term earns points which can be exchanged for prizes. The main reason for all of our topics is to encourage and develop the childrens' reading and writing skills by providing interesting and exciting activities for them to read and write about. This can be done both in school and at home. There is a lot more information on our re-vamped website (www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk). Let's Love Learning!



Links with parents:

A big THANK YOU to all the parents who helped with the Children's Valentine disco on 4th February. All the food and music went down very well.



The next **Friends of Brackensdale (F.O.B)** meeting is on **Tuesday 24th February 2:30 - 3:15**. They will be discussing the upcoming Red Nose Day and Easter 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.

Parent's evenings - feedback:

We are very pleased that more parents than ever attended our parents evenings this term. The feedback about the new Pupil Summary sheets was very positive. We will be updating these sheets each term, so there will be new summary sheets for the children after the Easter break. Thank you all for support the learning of all of our children.

Attendance:

Once again we are pleased to say our attendance for last half term remained above our target of 96%. Therefore there are many children still in with a chance to win the prize for being a 100%er for the whole of the Spring Term. We have managed to get another **Kindle Fire HD** for this term's prize, so keep up the good attendance and you may be able to take one home for Easter.

INSET day - change of date!!:

The next INSET day is **Monday 1st June** (the first day after the May half-term) as planned. The final INSET day of this school year has had to be changed to **Monday 29th June**, instead of Friday 3rd July. The Infant school is also closed on these days and we hope this helps with your family organization.

Governing body news:

This term the governors would simply like you to know who they are. We have had some new members of our governing body and are now pleased to say we have full membership. We are planning to put a 'pen portrait' of each governor on the website after the next full governor meeting (16th March). In the meantime the names of 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



Together we...learn, care, succeed, share

Key dates for the year

If we have to make any changes, we will try to give you as much notice as possible.
Stick it on your fridge etc.

Key Diary dates for 2015

Tues 17 th Feb	Back to school (6 weeks)
Mon 16 th Mar	Spring Assessment week
Fri 27 th Mar	Easter Service 2:00pm Y3/4 + Break for Easter holidays
Mon 13 th Apr	Summer term begins (7 weeks)
Mon 4 th May	Bank holiday
Mon 11 th May	SAT week
Fri 22 nd May	Break for ½ term
Mon 1 st June	INSET 4
Tues 2 nd June	Back to school (7 weeks 3 days)
Mon 15 th June	End of year assessment week
Mon 29th June	INSET 5
Thurs 2 nd July	Summer Fair
Tues 7 th July	Sports morning
Fri 10 th July	Reports to parents
Thurs 16 th July	Open afternoon – 1:00 – 5:00 (celebration of the year)
Wed 22 nd July	Leavers Assembly 1:30pm followed by Y6 leavers party
Thurs 23 rd July	Final Awards Assembly + Break for Summer returning on Mon 7th September

If you lose the newsletter, this and previous newsletters are also on the school website.

David Hall - Headteacher