



Our Newsletter



Jan/Feb 2018

Welcome to Brackensdale Primary School:

We wish you all a Happy New Year and with the beginning of 2018, we have the official beginning of Brackensdale ER Primary School.

The development of the new primary school will be more EVOLUTION than REVOLUTION, with changes happening over time rather than all at one as we look at every aspect of the school and decide whether to KEEP, DEVELOP or LET GO. We will be asking the children and the community for some help with some of the changes ahead.

There are some changes that have been made:

We have a new Governing Body, which does have **3 vacant places** for parents and members of the community – see below for how to apply.



We have a new name and a new logo. We also have a simplified logo that will be used for the uniform and book bags. New uniform will be available soon (we will send out a text when it comes in). We are keeping the same red colour throughout and it is still acceptable for you to buy plain sweatshirts from supermarkets.



We now have a different management structure, so Mr Hall will now be known as the **Principal** with Mr Radbourne and Mrs Mills as the two **Heads of School**. As you can appreciate, Mr Hall will be focussing on the strategic planning of the merger and the adjustments to our ER status. Mr Radbourne and Mrs Mills will be the best contact points for day-to-day matters. They will be supported by Mrs Lumley, Mrs Wallace and Mrs Cooper as **Assistant Heads**, although they will keep their main focus on managing inclusion across the school.

We are all very excited about the future opportunities we have to make Brackensdale Primary School the best it can be.

Playground Screens:



We hope you have noticed the 3 screens on the playground. These have three main purposes: The first is to encourage physical activity with fun activity videos the children can follow at break times and during outdoor PE. Secondly, it is to help educate the children with the different topics that are covered in short videos such as bullying, cyber safety & healthy eating. The third purpose is to improve our communication with parents – a key element of our School Development Plan. They will provide an opportunity for you to see some of the activities we do in school and keep you updated with news – such as when a newsletter is coming out and other reminders. We also hope that some of the videos will also be helpful to you as parents and carers.

Brackensdale's 6Rs:



As well as teaching the traditional 3Rs - Reading, Writing and Maths (arithmetic??) – we are focussing on developing the whole child through our 6Rs. These are 6 attributes we believe everyone needs to function well in our society.

We will be referring to these as we teach and each term we will have a focus on one particular R. This term we will be focussing on RESPECT, using Respectful Rover to show how to respect yourself; respect others and how to respect your environment – on a very local scale to a whole world scale. This will take place through assemblies and class time. We hope that all these jigsaw pieces will build together to give the children the skills and attributes they need to be a good citizen and a healthy and happy person.

Topics this term:

We will continue to teach through our topics to encourage and develop the children's reading and writing skills and give them interesting and exciting activities for them to read and write about. This term, the topics are:

Together ... learn, care, succeed, share, belong.



A visit by our local MP:

Chris Williamson, MP for Derby North, will be visiting our school on Friday 26th January. He will be talking to the children and looking around our school. He would also be holding a session for parents to ask him questions 'on any subject' in our hall from 3:30pm onwards. At this stage we think it will just on a drop-in basis without appointment, but we will send out further details closer to the event.



Attendance:

Attendance is key to your child getting the best out of school. Our recent attendance has been affected by a lot of families taking holidays in term time. We are now at a point where we will have to inform the Education Welfare Officers and fines may have to be issued.

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the many events we ran last term. We raised £250 for Children in Need; £325 for Christmas jumper Day and £800 for the Christmas performances and raffle.

Also, thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire. Each one is being read and the responses collated – we will publish the overall results in the next newsletter.



Key Diary dates

These dates now take us up to the Summer break – please keep/stick on your fridge etc.



Wed 3 rd Jan	Spring term begins (6 weeks 3 days) INSET – Primary launch & assessment analysis
Thurs 4 th Jan	Children start back – 1:1 meetings begin
Thurs 18 th Jan	Y5/6 Tudor day in Junior hall
Fri 26 th Jan	Visit by Chris Williamson MP for Derby North
Mon 29 th Jan	Gov mtg – 1:30 Learning Walk (whole school) 4:00pm Full Governors meeting
Tues 6th Feb	Junior parents evening 1 3:30 – 6:00
Wed 7 th Feb	Y3/4 Seaworld visit
Thurs 8th Feb	Junior parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00
Wed 14th Feb	Infant parents evening 1 1 3:30 – 6:00
Thurs 15th Feb	Infant parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00
Thur 15 th Feb	Valentines Disco 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Fri 16 th Feb	Break for ½ term
Mon 26 th Feb	Back to school (4 weeks)
Mon 19 th Mar	Govs mtg – Learning walk followed by full meeting
Fri 23rd Mar	Easter Service 10:00am + Break for Easter holidays
Mon 9 th Apr	Summer term begins (7 weeks minus Bank Holiday Monday)
Wed 18 th Apr	Junior Parents evening 1 3:30 – 6:00
Thurs 19 th Apr	Junior Parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00
Wed 25 th Apr	Infant Parents evening 1 3:30 – 6:00
Thurs 26 th Apr	Infant Parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00
Fri 27 th Apr	Photographer – Infant class photos
Mon 30th Apr	Y2 test zone begins
Mon 7th May	Bank holiday
Fri 11 th May	Photographer - Y6 Leavers
Mon 14th May	Y6 SAT week
Mon 22 nd May	Govs mtg – Book scrutiny

Together ... learn, care, succeed, share, belong.

Fri 25th May

Mon 4th June

Tues 5th June

Wed 6th June

Mon 11th June

Thurs 28th June

Tues 3rd July

Thurs 5th July

Wed 11th July

Thurs 12th July

Fri 13th July

Mon 16th July

Wed 18th July

Thurs 19th July

Mon 23rd July

Tues 24th July

Wed 25th July

Break for ½ term

Back to school (7 weeks 3 days) – INSET (Report writing & TA training)

Book week – to link with Derby Book Festival (1st – 9th June 2018)

Y5/6 Residential at Pine Lakes (2 days)

Y1 Phonics check **End of year assessment week (inc Y6 writing)**

FS2 + Y2 + Y6 writing data input **final day**

Transition day (Welcome Assembly for Y2s 9:15 & New parents mtg 3:30pm)

KS1 athletics morning at Moorways + Summer Fair afternoon

Sports morning am

Marathon am

Reports to parents

Awards assembly – Swimming + Star of the term

Open evening/exhibition

Family Bike ride

Y6 Leavers Performance 1:30pm followed by Y6 leavers party

Final awards assemblies - 100%ers for term & year, Star of the year – Children break up

INSET + **Break for Summer**

Suggestions:

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter and I hope you feel it is useful. We do have a Suggestion Box in the Main reception. Please feel free to let us know any of your ideas or concerns either by using the suggestion box or contacting us in the usual ways.



Finally, our **school poem** has been developed and will be put up around our school. We hope you will help the children learn it and think about what it means. Thank you!



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