



November/December 2014 Newsletter

This term is always very busy with all the activities we do in the lead up to Christmas - please check the dates at the end of the newsletter to check when these are happening.

After a very mild start to autumn, the weather is now getting colder. Can I remind you that the children need to have coats to make sure we can get out on the playground as often as possible.

If there is a threat of snow, keep an ear on Radio Derby, but I will always send out a text letting you know if the school is closed or open. Make sure we have your up-to-date mobile number so we can keep in touch.

New learning themes:

Last term's new learning themes were a great success with Predators in Y3/4, where I have seen some excellent work on all different kinds of predators great and small, and ID in Y5/6, which ended in a 'real' crime scene with the children being Crime Scene Investigators. The key to the success was the work the staff put in to make them interesting and the massive effort the children put in to show their best work, both in school and at home - some of the best homework I have ever seen. Well done!



This term Y3/4 will be following the Playlist theme where they will be looking at poetry and song lyrics; sound and instruments; dance and music. I know they have been asked to find their favourite song and bring it in on mp3 or CD.

In Y5/6 they are following the Stargazer theme, looking at the Solar System, myths and legends about the moon, newspaper reports with a planetarium set up in the hall and a visit to the Space Centre in Leicester.



There is a lot more information on our re-vamped website (www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk) and some topic webs and homework suggestions will be coming out later this week. Let's Love Learning!

School Photographer – Monday 10th November:

The photographer will be in the school hall from 8:30 starting with family groups. This is a little later than usual, but the photographs will be returned promptly to use as Christmas presents etc.



Links with parents:

The Friends of Brackensdale (FOB) group is going from strength to strength, with a growing membership which held a successful Macmillan Coffee Morning raising £557.62 and involving all the children and many parents. They have planned the next school disco on Wednesday 5th November, which will have food and sweets on sale and a real DJ and disco lights - should be great fun. Money from the FOB fund has been used to create safe play spaces at either end of the school, which will be widely used and is gratefully received.



The next **Friends of Brackensdale (F.O.B)** meeting is on Wednesday 26th November 2:15 – 3:15. They will be discussing Anti-bullying week and Christmas events as well as other issues to help support our school. Please feel free to drop in – all ideas are welcome and I like the ideas for spending FOB money to come from the parents.

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.

Attendance:

Last term we are pleased to say our attendance is now above 96%. Mr Tee's class won the competition for best attending class and will have an extra Golden Time. At the end of this term we have the draw for the **Kindle Fire HD**. There are many children who are still 100%ers and therefore in with a chance. Keep up the good attendance this term too.

INSET day:

The next INSET day is Friday 5th December. The Infant school is also closed on this day and we hope this helps with your family organization.

Non-uniform days:

We are having 2 non-uniform days this term: The first is on Friday 14th November to raise money for Children in Need, with the optional theme of dress like a hero – £1 donation, please. The second is on the following Friday (21st) for Anti-bullying day, when we want to wear 'Blue to beat bullying', but there is no need for donations it is just to raise awareness.



Christmas performances:

Y3/4 will be performing 'Children of the world' on Wed 10th December at 1:30pm and Thurs 11th December at 6:00pm.

Y5/6 will be performing their Christmas play on Wed 10th December at 6:00pm and Thurs 11th December at 1:30pm. This is a slight change to the original dates.

Tickets will go on sale from Monday 1st December – more details closer to the event.

Community announcements:

We have been asked by the local police if parents could park their cars only on the school side of the street on Brackensdale Avenue at the beginning and end of the day. This is because the traffic is now quite busy due to roadworks in other areas and double-side parking can bring the traffic flow to a halt. Also, be aware that roadworks begin on Streatham Road on the 10th November until Christmas, so there will be some disruption. We will keep you updated.

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 2014-2015

Mon 3 rd Nov	Back to school (7 weeks)
Wed 5 th Nov	Firework Disco 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Mon 10 th Nov	Photographer morning - 8:30 start
Fri 14 th Nov	Children in Need non-uniform day (Hero optional theme)
Fri 21 st Nov	Anti-bullying day – non-uniform ‘Wear Blue to beat bullying’
Mon 24 th Nov	Autumn Assessment week
Tues 2 nd Dec	Senior Citizen’s Christmas Meal
Fri 5th Dec	INSET 2
Wed 10 th & Thurs 11 th Dec	Christmas Performances
Tues 16 th Dec	Whole School Christmas activity day
Wed 17 th Dec	Christmas service at St Barnabas
Thurs 18 th Dec	Christmas Movie Morning/Party afternoon
Fri 20 th Dec	Carols around the tree (11am) + Break for Christmas holidays
Mon 5 th Jan	Spring term begins (5 weeks)
Wed 4 th Feb	Valentines Disco 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Fri 6 th Feb	Break for ½ term
Mon 16 th Feb	Back to school (6 weeks)
Mon 16 th Mar	Spring Assessment week
Tues 24 th Mar	Parent Evening 1
Thurs 26 th Mar	Parent Evening 2
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 23 rd May	Break for ½ term
Mon 1 st June	INSET 3
Tues 2nd June	Back to school (7 weeks 3 days)
Mon 15 th June	End of year assessment week
Thurs 2 nd July	Summer Fair
Fri 3rd July	INSET 4
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

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