



April/May 2016 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you had a great Easter break.

There is always a lot to do in the first part of the Summer term, especially for the Year 6's as they prepare for SAT week in May. However, the weather is improving and the days are noticeably longer so there are plenty of things to look forward to.

New learning themes:

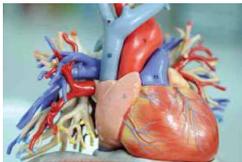
Last term's learning themes resulted in more great learning with 'Potions' in Y3/4, with the sale of children's own designs of ice-lollies proving to be very popular.

This term Y3/4 will be following the 'Heroes & Villains' theme where they will be looking at heroes and villains in fiction and real life. The literacy is based around 101 Damations as a comic strip and writing alternative fairy tales - so the more traditional fairy tales they know the better. There is a lot of work on making good choices, taking responsibilities and being a 'hero' in everyday life. They began the topic with a visit from the heroes at The Dogs Trust.



In Y5/6 they looked at mini-beasts through the 'Beast Creator' theme, which led to some interesting and high-level writing.

This term their theme is 'Blood Heart'. The children will be looking at real hearts, the human circulatory system, writing explanation texts and persuasive letters. They will end the topic with a Skipathon to encourage everyone to keep fit and look after their heart. They will be reading 'The Pig-heart boy' by Malorie Blackman.



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

Parking on Brackensdale Avenue (continued):

Since the last newsletter Diane Reddish and I have met with 3 councillors, Cllr Paul Pegg, Cllr Diane Frogatt and Cllr Sarah Russell. We all met with a member of the Local Authority planning group to try and find a solution to the problem of parking on Brackensdale Avenue at the beginning and end of the school day. I was impressed by the fact that everyone at the meeting was committed to finding a solution, although there doesn't seem to be a simple option - mainly because all the solutions require funding and there isn't any spare money in the system. However, the suggestion we made to parents of parking **only** on the **school side** of the road was agreed as a good step forwards and, if it could be agreed and adopted by everyone, a solution that doesn't have any cost. The main problem of flow does arise when there are cars parked on both sides of the road creating a blockage, often preventing large vehicles such as Fire Trucks from passing through - this was seen to be an important consideration as no-one would want lives put at risk through inconsiderate parking. This 'rule' may help everyone's frustration until a more permanent solution can be found. It was also suggested that parents could park on Knightsbridge and walk the short distance to school, which would not create a blockage as it is a dual carriageway.

The councillors will be sending out a letter to all our parents next month, recognizing the problem and supporting our parking 'rule' as a good way to ease the problem. We all thank you for your support on this matter.



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

Y6 SATs:



SAT week for the Y6 children begins on **Monday 9th 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.

If you want to help your child prepare the BBC bitesize website is very good -

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/ - or they could ask for some practice papers to be sent home.

We are planned a trip to Alton Towers in July 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.

Anti-bullying week: In the first week of the term we are having an Anti-bullying awareness raising week. We will be having some assemblies on the theme with follow-ups in class. The children will have a chance to design anti-bullying posters and we will be selling anti-bullying 'friendship bands' for £1. We hope this will remind everyone that bullies are not welcome at Brackensdale and give tips on what to do if you are being bullied. Look out for the posters around our school.



Links with parents:

The Easter hat competitions were really enjoyed by the children and fitted in well with the 'Wear a hat' day. Thank you to FOB for organising the event.

Minutes of the meeting on 13th April 2016

Attending: Amanda Arnold (Chair), Sandra Holmes. David Hall.

- **Bullying awareness week w/c 11th April** - we will be having assemblies, working with the local police, having a 'design an anti-bullying poster' competition – 10 prizes provide. DH to judge. Friendship bands on sale £1 each – ordered by DH.
- **Upcoming events – mainly after half term:**
- **Summer Fair on Tues 7th July – FOB to run Jar stall and animal handling.**
- **Sports Day on Tues 12th July – FOB to provide a refreshment stall.**
- **Leaver's Party on Thurs 21st July – FOB to provide prizes for games (outside if possible)**
- **Discussion about parking on Brackensdale Avenue – see section on newsletter.**
- **Budget update:** £2,110 – Fence project target is £5,000 (almost ½ way there ☺) – no new fundraising since last meeting.
- **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th July 2:30pm – 3:00pm** – 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.

Attendance:

We continue to keep our attendance above the 95% recommended level - despite the wet winter season. We had 45 children who received prizes for being 100%ers and I will draw a name from that group on Monday (18th) to find the winner of last term's Kindle Fire HD - I will send out a text with the result. Miss Kemm's class won the class prize of extra Golden Time. 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.

Olympic athlete:



On 1st February, we had a visit from Sarah Holt, an Olympic track and field athlete. All the children were able to train with her and enjoyed finding out about the life of a top-level athlete. Many children used the opportunity to raise funds to support British Olympians and for some outdoor sport equipment for our school. I am pleased to announce that we sent over £1,000 to the fund and we are waiting for our new equipment to arrive and the individual prizes for those children who raise more than £5. Thank you.

School clubs:

We have several clubs active at the moment:

Choir on Tuesdays after school

Engineering Club after school on Tuesdays

Gardening Club on Thursdays after school

Book Café on Fridays after school.

In addition, we have girls football, boys football & rugby matches going on this term - practices at lunch times - along with cyclo-cross events at various venues.



Governing body news:

The governors wanted to thank all the parents who spoke to them on the Parent's evening in March. At the last meeting they carried out a Learning Walk - monitoring the learning across the school. They would like to draw your attention to the new 'Group rooms' that have been built at both ends of the school. These will allow us to be even more flexible in our approach, ensuring every child's need are being met effectively.

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.



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.
Stick it on your fridge etc.

Key Diary dates for 2015-2016

Mon 11th Apr

w/c 11th Apr

Mon 2nd May

Mon 9th May

Mon 23rd May

Fri 27th May

Mon 6th June

Tues 5th July

3:30pm)

Thurs 7th July

Fri 8th July

Tues 12th July

Wed 13th July

Mon 18th July

Thurs 21st July

Fri 22nd July

Summer term begins (7 weeks)

Bullying Awareness week

Bank holiday

SAT week

Art week

Break for ½ term

Back to school (7 wks) – Book week – link with Derby Book Festival

Transition day (Welcome Assembly for Y2s 9:15 & New parents mtg

Summer Fair

Reports to parents

Sports morning am

Marathon am

Final Awards assembly – Swimming, 100%ers & Star of the term

Leavers Performance 1:30pm followed by Y6 leavers party

End of Year Assembly + **Break for Summer**