



# January/February 2016 Newsletter

We would all like to wish you a very Happy New Year and we hope you all had a good Christmas. I would like to thank you all for your support during our many Christmas activities. All the performances were well attended and the ticket sales and raffle made £563 which we are putting towards the FOB fund for a security fence from the nursery to Brackensdale Avenue. The Enterprise project in the last week of term was again successful with all classes showing a profit and our mini-entrepreneurs enjoying making money selling items they have made - Thanks for being such good customers. The results of the parent questionnaire are being analysed and will be on the next newsletter. Thank you for your input.



As a reminder, 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 learning themes resulted in some great learning with Scrumdiddlyumptious in Y3/4, where many of the skills learnt, such as sweet making, were put into 'real' practice on our Enterprise day.

This term Y3/4 will be following the **'Blue Abyss'** theme where they will be looking at the underwater world. They will be learning about seas & oceans, underwater plants and animals and writing dilemma stories in the style of the 'Rainbow Fish'. They are visiting the **Sealife Centre on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.**

In Y5/6 they used the knowledge they gained from their Victorian theme to inspire their Christmas performance.

This term, they will be looking at World War 2 through the **'A Child's War'** theme. The children will be writing stories in a historical context after looking at Goodbye Mr. Tom &/or The Lion and the Unicorn. They will be



visiting **Shugborough Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> January.** Our topics encourage and develop the children's reading and writing skills and give them interesting and exciting activities for them to read and write about. If you think you can add to them, please get in touch.

There is more information on our website ([www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk)) and some topic webs and homework choices will be coming out soon. Let's Love Learning!



The next **Friends of Brackensdale (F.O.B)** meeting is on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2:30 – 3:15**. They will be discussing the Valentines disco and events for 2016. 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 or for any parents from the Infant School to join us.

### **INSET days:**

It was pointed out to me that the next INSET day in the Summer term is on a different day to the Infant School. This was unintentional, so we have rearranged it to be on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July**, the same as the Infant School. This will take us up to the Summer Break. We hope this helps with your family organization.

### **Attendance:**

Last term we are pleased to say our attendance remains above our target of 96%. Mrs Pearson's and Mr Price's classes won the competition for best attending class and will have an extra Golden Time. Nadine Ashton from Mrs Pearson's class won the 100%er draw for the **Kindle Fire HD – congratulations!** There were 74 other 100%ers who received a prize and certificate - a big WELL DONE! Help us keep up the good attendance this term too - a mystery prize for this term's draw.

### **Parking:**

A reminder that the school car park is for **staff and taxis only**. There isn't enough space for parents to use it as a dropping off area and there is a real danger of an accident. We will be putting 'reminder notes' on cars that should not be in the car park. Please help us keep safe by adhering to this request. Thank you.



### **Governing body news:**

*We welcome Lisa Higginbottom as a new member of our governing body. Recently, we have been focusing on knowing our school better and trying to get into school as often as possible. We carry out a work scrutiny, where we look at the children's books; learning walks where we observe the whole learning environment observing the children being taught in the classes; and we talk to the children to find out what they have been learning and what improvements they would like to see. We carry out each of these activities twice a year. This is giving us a much clearer picture of the learning and teaching in school. In addition we have two sub-committees: a Standards committee where we question Mr Hall about the progress data and the School Development Plan; a Resources committee where we monitor the budget, personnel and future building plans. We now have a Governor page for the website to keep everyone informed of our work. If you have any questions for the Governing body, please contact me, Iain Bater (Chair of governors), via the school office.*

### **Mobile phones:**

Many children have had new mobile phones for Christmas. We do not allow their use in school. If a child needs a phone for their journey to and from school, they should hand it to Mrs Archard for safe-keeping until the end of the day. Any phones not given in, will be confiscated and only returned to an adult. Please also remind them to be careful when sending messages, so that others do not get upset or feel bullied. We are doing some work on this in school.



## Scooters & bikes:

We try our best to look after the scooters & bikes in our bike shed. However, pupils leave them at their own risk. To reduce the risk, use a lock - Aldi do decent cheap ones.



## Bedtimes:



We have noticed that there are quite a few children who look very sleepy since the Christmas holiday. It is really important to get back into a good bedtime routine so the children are ready to learn. Remind them that children are like flowers and grow (up and cleverer) in beds ☺.



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Thur 11<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb  
**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar**  
**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Apr  
Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July**  
Tues 5<sup>th</sup> July  
Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> July  
Fri 8<sup>th</sup> July  
Tues 12<sup>th</sup> July  
Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July  
Mon 18<sup>th</sup> July  
Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July  
**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

**Spring term begins (6 weeks)**  
Valentines Disco 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
**Break for ½ term**  
**Back to school (5 weeks)**  
**Parents evening 1 3:30 – 6:00**  
**Parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00**  
**Easter Service 10:00am Y5/6 + Break for Easter holidays**  
**Summer term begins (7 weeks)**  
Bank holiday  
**SAT week**  
Art week  
**Parents evening 1 3:30 – 6:00**  
**Parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00**  
**Break for ½ term**  
**Back to school (7 wks) – Book week** – link with Derby Book Festival  
**INSET** – joint with Hardwick & Allenton Primary Schools  
**Transition day** (Welcome Assembly for Y2s 9:15 & New parents mtg 3:30pm)  
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**

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

**David Hall – Headteacher**

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