



# September 2014 Newsletter



Welcome back to everyone, especially our new Year 3 children and their families. The first couple of days of term went very well and we are looking forward to a very successful year ahead.



## New staff:

A warm Brackensdale welcome to our new teachers: Miss Stanway, who is teaching in Y5/6, Miss Kemm, who is teaching in Y3/4 and Mrs Johnson who is returning from maternity to teach in Y3/4. A further warm welcome to our new Teaching Assistants: Ms Brewin, Mr Chapman, Miss Sly and Miss Rai. We now have two extra mainstream classes, which have been partially funded through our Pupil Premium funding to enable us to lower the class sizes to help children improve the learning opportunities for our children.

## School Photographer – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Reminder for School Uniform

This is available from school and the prices are listed below. If you would like new uniform for your child please see Mrs Archard.

Red Fleece: £12.50; Red Jumper: £7.50; Book bag: £4.50

PE Kit: £9 (includes shorts, t-shirt & kit bag)

Can we also remind you that it is school policy that the children should wear black shoes? These can be trainers, but they must be black to look smart.

Also, if children wish to play football on the field they need to bring a change of footwear and shorts/tracksuit bottoms to enable them to play all year round. Thank you.

## PE kits:

We are now in the second year of the Government's School Sports initiative, which encourages more sport and physical activity in schools. We continue to ask children to have their kit in school every day. Most leave their kit (White t-shirt & red shorts - available from reception) on their peg all week and take them home every weekend or half-term for washing (a good idea as they only wear it for about 40 minutes at a time). This allows all classes to be ready for any PE activity during the week.



## Swimming for Y4:



Swimming for Y4 starts on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Each child will need a towel, swimming costume (no baggy shorts or bikinis) and a hat if their fringe is longer than their eye-brows. No jewellery -ear-rings are best taken out on Tuesdays, if not, they must be taped over.

## School Development Plan 2014/2015:

I have attached a poster showing the **4 Key Elements** we are working on this year. We feel these areas will help us comply with the new National Curriculum and other government initiatives, whilst building on our improving teaching and learning strategies that ensure we meet the needs of all of our children.

There are many changes happening this year in all schools - new ways of teaching maths, a new curriculum and changes to how progress is measured. We will keep you updated through our newsletters and our website as well as having parent information meetings. If you have any questions, please contact us.

## Links with parents:

We want to work with as many parents as possible - particularly helping children with their reading, which includes helping us keep our reading books tidy -a simple job, but needs to be done regularly. Can you offer us any time? Is there anything extra we can do for you? Please tell us.



The next **Friends of Brackensdale (F.O.B)** meeting is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 3:20 - 4:15. They will be discussing the Macmillan Coffee morning planned for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September as well as other issue to help support our school. Please feel free to drop in - all ideas are welcome.

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.

## Non-negotiables:

Although there are a lot of new changes this year, many things are staying the same. One of which is the 'Non-negotiables' we developed together last school year. They are:

1. Make sure you are in school. Aim for 100% attendance – more than 9 days off a year puts you under 95%.
2. Read to an adult at least 3 times a week – aim for every day.
3. Take pride in the presentation of your work.
4. Have your PE kit in school every day.
5. Bring healthy snacks for break – no chocolate, sweets or crisps.
6. Work hard to build a strong character – use our 5 R's



We hope that you will help your child meet these expectations. Especially aiming for 100% attendance, which is still a key OFSTED target for us. Well done to the 27 100%ers who were each awarded a £10 voucher last term and to Liam Brown for winning the new bike donated to us by Aquinas. This term we have a new **Kindle Fire HD** as a prize draw for 100%ers from now until the Christmas break - go for it!

## Key dates for the year:

I have attached a list of the key dates for this year to allow you to plan the year ahead. If we have to make any changes, we will try to give you as much notice as possible. We have matched our INSET days with the Infants. Also we have brought the first set of parent's evenings forward to enable us to let you know how your child is settling in early in the new school year.

Stick it on your fridge etc.



### Key Diary dates for 2014-2015

Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Autumn Term begins (INSET) 7 weeks 2 days</b>
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 4 Swimming starts
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning - FOB
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Parent Evening 1 3:30 – 6:00pm
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Parent Evening 2 3:30 – 6:00pm
<b>Fri Oct 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>INSET day 1</b>
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Harvest service (Year 5&amp;6) 2:00 pm</b>
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> & Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Y5/6 Residential to London (Lion King)
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Break for ½ term</b>
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Back to school (7 weeks)</b>
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Firework Disco 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School Photographer
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Autumn Assessment week</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Senior Citizen's Christmas Meal
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>INSET 2</b>
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performances
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Whole School Christmas activity day
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas service at St Barnabas
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Movie Morning/Party afternoon
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carols around the tree (11am) + <b>Break for Christmas holidays</b>
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Spring term begins (5 weeks)</b>
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Valentines Disco 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Break for ½ term</b>
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Back to school (6 weeks)</b>
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Spring Assessment week</b>
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parent Evening 1
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parent Evening 2
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Easter Service 2:00pm Y3/4 + <b>Break for Easter holidays</b>
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Summer term begins (7 weeks)</b>
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SAT week</b>
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Break for ½ term</b>
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>INSET 3</b>
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>Back to school (7 weeks 3 days)</b>
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>End of year assessment week</b>
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Summer Fair
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET 4</b>
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports morning
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports to parents
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Open afternoon – 1:00 – 5:00 (celebration of the year)
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Leavers Assembly 1:30pm followed by Y6 leavers party
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Final Awards Assembly + <b>Break for Summer returning on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>

Looking forward to a great year at Brackensdale ER Junior School.

**David Hall – Headteacher**

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