



# September 2015 Newsletter



Welcome back to everyone, especially our new Year 3 children and their families. The children seem to have settled in very well - they look lovely and smart, ready to learn. We are all looking forward to another great school year ahead.



## New staff:

A warm Brackensdale welcome to our new teachers: Mrs Pappa, who is teaching in Y3/4, covering for Mrs Kemm whilst she is on maternity leave. A further warm welcome to our new Teaching Assistants: Miss Coulson and Miss Bassett. We are continuing to use some of our Pupil Premium funding to enable us to keep the two extra mainstream classes, to lower the class sizes to help children improve their learning opportunities as it was successful last year.

## School Photographer - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October:

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 third year of the Government's School Sports initiative, having now been awarded the Gold School sports award - well done to the staff and children! 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 started on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. A reminder that each child needs a towel, swimming costume (no baggy shorts or bikinis) and a hat if their fringe is longer than their eye-brows. No jewellery - earrings are best taken out on Tuesdays, if not, they must be taped over.

## School Development Plan 2015/2016:

Our 4 Development priorities reflect the changes we have to implement this year:

1. **Developing a new system to measure progress and achievement:** This will be the area we spend the most amount of time on as it is a big culture change. We have to comply with the government's decision for schools to stop using levels to measure progress and to use the new 'end of year expectations' instead. We will be keeping you updated as we develop this area. Although we won't be saying your child is, for example, level 3c in writing, from now on - your child will still know what their next step is as a personal target. We are working closely with the Infant school on this, so we have a consistent system across the two schools.
2. **Developing a new assessment and tracking system:** We want to continue to closely monitor the children's progress effectively, so we can make sure the learning is matched to their needs and so we can keep parents informed.
3. **Using feedback as a reflective tool for learning:** To build on the work some children started last year where they work together to 'peer critique' each other's work being 'kind, helpful & specific' - Ask them about Austin's butterfly.
4. **Defining key roles in school:** We will be looking at the attitudes and attributes that make a 'good Brackensdale pupil'. Alongside this the adult roles in school will be reviewed. The aim is to move us all from good to outstanding, working smartly with the ultimate purpose being the happiness of all members of our school.

As you can see, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2:15 - 3:15. They will be making final the **Macmillan Coffee Morning** planned for **Monday 28<sup>th</sup>**

**September** (to enable parents to attend other events on the Friday). Please feel free to drop in - all ideas for supporting our school are welcome, especially from our new 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.

### 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, although now post-OFSTED, is still a key target for us. Well done to the 21 100%ers who were each awarded a £10 voucher last term and to Adele Hunt for winning the new Kindle Fire prize. This term we have another **Kindle Fire HD** as a prize draw for 100%ers from now until the Christmas break - go for it!

### 2015 SATs:

Although the Y6 children who took the SATs in May have now moved on, it is important that all parents are aware of how the school is performing. In the media the combined figure of 57% has been published, which is under the floor target of 65%. What is not published is the fact that 39 out of the 63 children who took the tests were children with Special Educational Needs (62%). For a complex school such as ours a breakdown of the data is required. A breakdown of the data and this is what was presented to OFSTED and why we were upgraded back to 'GOOD'. Percentage of children at Level 4 or above (figures in brackets for non-SEN children):

	2014 For comparison	2015	Nat. Av. 2014	National Average for non-SEN children
Combined reading, writing & maths	47% (81%)	<b>57%</b> <b>(92%)</b>	Floor target 65%	Target above 65%
Reading	60% (100%)	<b>76%</b> <b>(96%)</b>	89%	96%
Writing	57% (85%)	<b>62%</b> <b>(96%)</b>	85%	95%
Maths	64% (97%)	<b>75% (100%)</b>	86%	94%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	64% (94%)	<b>60%</b> <b>(96%)</b>	76%	87%
No.in Yr	55 (36)	63 (24)		

## 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.

Stick it on your fridge etc.

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Sept

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Sept

Thurs Oct 8<sup>th</sup>

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> & Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Dec

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

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**

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup> June**

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**

### **Autumn Term begins (INSET – 2 days) 7 weeks**

Children start back

Voting for Team Captains

Year 4 Swimming starts

Mayor's assembly; Gov learning walk & AGM

AGM for FOB

Macmillan Coffee Morning

School photographer in

**Parent Evening 1 3:30 – 6:00pm**

**Parent Evening 2 3:30 – 6:00pm**

Harvest service (Year 3&4) 2:00 pm

Y5/6 Residential to Dukes Barn

**Break for ½ term**

**Back to school (7 weeks)**

Sparkle Disco 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Children in Need day

**Sleeping Beauty performance in school**

Senior Citizen's Christmas Meal in the hall

Christmas Performances (9<sup>th</sup> Y3/4 aft & Y5/6 eve; 10<sup>th</sup> Y5/6 aft & Y3/4 eve)

Christmas Enterprise (XED) sale afternoon

Christmas service at St Barnabas/Christmas Movie Morning

(weather dependent) & Party afternoon

Carols around the tree (11 am) & Christmas Jumper Day (for

Save the Children) + **Break for Christmas holidays**

**Spring term begins (6 weeks)**

Valentines Disco 3:30 - 5:00 pm

**Break for ½ term**

**Back to school (4 weeks 4 days)**

**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**

