



Our Newsletter



Sept/Oct 2018

Welcome back:

Welcome back to our first full year as Brackensdale Primary School. We hope you have all had an enjoyable, relaxing summer break. This will be another busy and exciting year as we continue to develop as one school.

A particularly warm welcome to our new nursery and reception children/families joining us at the start of their school journey and also to our first Year 3 cohort that have moved up to KS2 from KS1.

You will find a topic overview on the school website (www.bps.derby.sch.uk) so that you know what your child is going to be covering over the next few weeks and how you can support them.

Here is a reminder of the teachers in each year group:

FS1/Nursery- Mrs Chapman:

Year 3/4- Mr Farina:

FS2/Reception-Mrs Wilding & Mrs Taylor:

Year 3-Mrs Fox & Mrs Fearn:

Year 1-Mrs Fisher & Miss Sayers:

Year 4-Mr Campbell & Mrs Smith:

Year 2-Mrs Latham & Miss Dilkes:

Year 5-Mr Oakes & Mrs Johnson:

Year 1/2-Miss Zablocki:

Year 6-Mr Harton & Mrs Pearson:

Ark-Mrs Bell:

Year 5/6-Miss Sims

Phoenix –Mr Price, Mrs Neale & Mr Clulow

You should receive a topic web and homework suggestion sheet later this week, if you don't get one, then please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Brackensdale's 6Rs:



This half term we will be focussing on RESILIENCE, using the Stickability Spider to reflect on how it is important not to give up. They will be encouraged to use the strategies taught such as, using the working walls in the classroom, trying to read the question or task again, asking a friend or looking for key words. The children will have weekly assemblies about how they can put this into practice inside the classroom and at home.

2017/18 Results

We would like to share some of the results from last term which show an upward trend from 2016/17 and reflect the hard work from both the children and staff alike. As we have a high proportion of children with SEND it shows the results with ALL pupils and then WITHOUT the SEND pupils.

We will be working hard to ensure that 2018/19 will continue to show further improvements and we thank you for your support with this aspiration. It will only be by working closely together that we will achieve this and allow all children to achieve their full potential at Brackensdale Primary School.

Year 2 SATs

Attainment	Reading	Writing	Maths
ALL (65pupils)	48% (31 pupils) 2017: 36% (+12%)	51% (33 pupils) 2017: 23% (+28%)	60% (39 pupils) 23% (+37%)
Non-SEN	59%	65%	73%

Year 6 SATs

Attainment	Reading	Writing	Maths
ALL (66 pupils)	61% 2017: 54% (+7%)	64% 2017: 52% (+12%)	56% 2017: 35% (+21%)
Non -SEN	87%	87%	80%

Brackensdale Primary School achieved its BEST ever phonics results this year: 82% (+13% from 2017)

Stars of the Year 2018

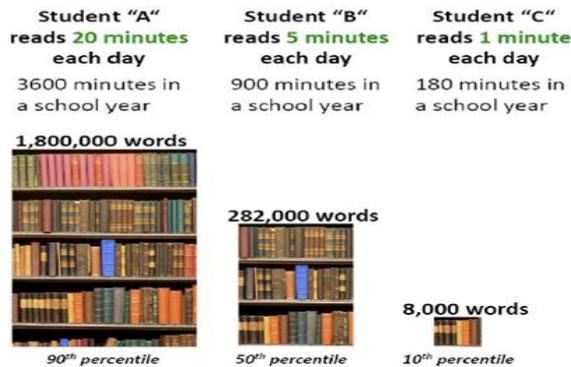
Congratulations to all the children who achieved awards in KS2 at the end of the summer term (photos up in the Junior foyer). We will be doing this at the end of both KS2 and KS1 at the end of this academic year in July 2019.

Together ... learn, care, succeed, share, belong.

Summer Fair 2018

Thank you to all the children and parents that attended the summer fair in July (and staff that made it possible). It was highly successful and raised £1200, more than the sum of both schools put together in previous years, which is fantastic. As one of our priority areas in 2018/19 is 'Closing the Vocabulary gap' we will be using the money to buy some quality reading texts across the school so that all children can enjoy some of the amazing books that are available currently. This will be a recurring theme as the year goes on and we embed 'reading for pleasure' as well as the teaching of reading skills. This helps explain why it is so important that all children read!

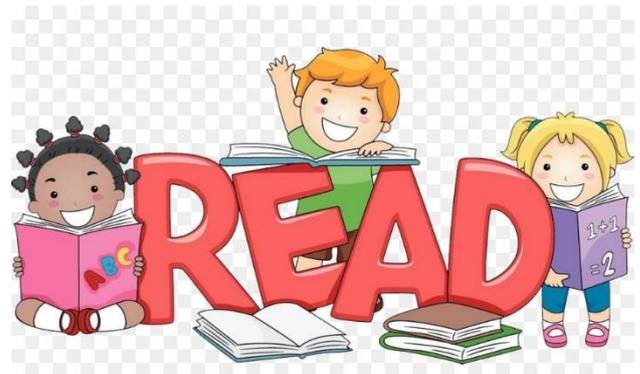
Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Perry-Lecompton USD #343 205 W. Bridge St. P.O. Box 729 Perry, KS 66073 785.997.5138



School Development Priorities for this year:

In addition to our continued push to raise all children's reading ability; the key areas for this year are:

1. Closing the Vocabulary Gap – we will be creating a word-rich environment around a 'Word Aware' curriculum. Each class will have a word of the day and we will be encouraging all children to widen their use of vocabulary.
2. Improving our Maths teaching – building on the success of last year, we will continue to develop the mastery model of teaching children Maths.
3. Quality science teaching – an emphasis on science to widen the children's scientific knowledge, skills and experiences connected, where possible, to the curriculum topics.
4. Effective tracking of the children's progress – getting a clear picture of how each child is doing and updating parents/carers after each assessment zone.
5. Increasing Parental Engagement – as part of a Derby city research project, making links with parents and the community to support our children's learning and well-being.
6. A happy, healthy and fit school – use of the Sports Funding to give a wide choice of high quality sporting opportunities, increase participation and develop a positive, happy mental attitude.

Attendance

We are continuing to make the issue of attendance high priority as it really does make a difference to your child's education if they do not attend school, unless they are poorly of course. We will continue to issue warning letters and penalty notices if needed, but also try and support you through face to face meetings when appropriate. This also applies to your child being late for school as this can be extremely detrimental. Please ensure your child is at school by 8.50am and they can start the day entering school with all their peers.

Children who attend school every day ACHIEVE more than those who are regularly absent. Give your child the best chance you can.

PE Kit reminder: Can we ask that all children have their PE kits in school from the beginning of the year. We will now have a hall in KS1 as Mrs Latham has finally been able to return to her classroom so indoor PE can resume. Depending on the weather the children may still be able to go outside for PE early in the autumn term but for all children PE is an important part of the curriculum and appropriate kit is needed. Please check this is the case for your child. We do have some spare kit but not enough for large numbers of children.

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Uniform Reminder: If you still require any new items of uniform please see Mrs Archard or Miss Shaw/Mrs Wickland and they will be able to help you. It is school policy for all children to wear black shoes but these can be trainers as long as they are black so they look smart.

As always if your child wants to play football on the field they need to bring a change of footwear and shorts/tracksuit bottoms so they don't mess up their school uniform or bring dirt into school.

Just a quick reminder that jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets and earrings that are not studs must not be worn in school for safety reasons. Your child will be asked to remove such items. There is the prospect of damage or loss, which can cause upset, so please keep them for weekend wear only. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please also come and see either Miss Shaw or Mrs Archard if you think you may be entitled to free school meals and they can support you to complete the paperwork. It is not just relevant to free school dinners but can help with school trips/clubs and other educational support for your child in school. It makes a huge difference to what we are able to do for your child so even if you are not sure if you are eligible it is well worth checking.

Run a Mile: We started an initiative to help the children of Brackensdale get fit last term and we will continue to encourage children and parents to start the day with a run or walk – this will start on Monday 17th September. Mr Harton will give you regular updates this year as we would like to begin seeing how far the children have run collectively and relate it to the distance to a particular destination: for example, have they run as far as going from Derby to London?



FOB (Friends of Brackensdale)



This will continue to be facilitated by a school governor, Letitia McCalla. The group would very much like to build on the success of events such as the 'Fish & Chip' lunch/open afternoon & family bike ride. The aim is to raise funds for each class to have an iPad to support cross-curricular learning. **Everyone** is welcome to attend the meetings and the first one of the autumn term is Tuesday 18th September at 2:15pm come along.

Governors wanted!

To enable us to function properly as a school we need a committed Governing Body to uphold the vision of the school – *'Fundamentally, everything we do is for the benefit of our children'*. We have two spaces for new governors and would welcome any applications from members of our community (you don't have to be a parent of a child at our school, just interested in making children's lives better). If you are interested, please contact the school office and they will tell you how to apply. The minimum time commitment is one full governors meeting each term (6 per year), plus one committee meeting alternate terms (3 per year).



A38 consultation:

We are hosting an open consultation session about the proposed changes to the A38 running through Mackworth on **Saturday 22nd September from 9:00am to 5:00pm**. You are welcome to pop in and look at the plans and ask any questions to the team from Highways England.



Key Diary dates

These dates take us to the end of the autumn term and will allow you to plan ahead. Sometimes changes are needed and we will give you as much notice as possible.

Thur 6 th Sept	Autumn Term begins (INSET 1) 7 weeks 2days
Fri 7 th Sept	INSET 2
Mon 10th Sept	Children start back
Thurs 13 th Sept	Voting for Team Captains & School Council/Class Ambassadors Y2 – Y6
Mon 17 th Sept	School improvement governor committee meeting
Tues 18 th Sept	Year 4 Swimming starts & FOB meeting at 2:15pm
Mon 24 th Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Mon 1 st Oct	Governor learning walk & AGM
Wed 3 rd Oct	No pens day
Thur 4 th Oct	School photographer in for whole school
Wed 10 th Oct	Y2 sing at Padley concert in Derby Cathedral
Wed 17th Oct	Infant Parent Evening 1 3:30 – 6:00pm
Thur 18th Oct	Infant Parent Evening 2 3:30 – 6:00pm
Fri 19th Oct	Infant & Junior Harvest services
Wed 24th Oct	Junior Parent Evening 1 3:30 – 6:00pm
Thur 25th Oct	Junior Parent Evening 2 3:30 – 6:00pm
Fri 26th Oct	Break for ½ term
Mon 5th Nov	Back to school (7 weeks)
Thurs 8 th Nov	Sparkler's Disco 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Mon 19 th Nov	Governor resources committee mtg 1:00pm
Wed 21st Nov	Cinderella performance in school (Infant & Junior children, no charge)
Mon 26th Nov	Autumn Assessment zone begins
Mon 3 rd Dec	Christmas Enterprise Day (XED) week begins
Tues 5 th Dec	Senior Citizen's Christmas Meal in the hall
Thur 6 th Dec	XED sale afternoon 2:30 – 4:00pm
Wed 12 th Dec	Christmas lunch for the children
Fri 14 th Dec	Church visit am & Children's
Tue 18 th Dec	Christmas Performances (Y1/2 am & aft; Y5/6 aft & Y3/4 eve)
Wed 19 th Dec	Christmas Performances (Y3/4 aft & Y5/6 eve)
Thur 20 th Dec	Christmas Movie Morning/Party afternoon/Fuddle & Secret Santa after school
Fri 21 st Dec	Carols around the tree (11:00am) & Christmas Jumper Day (for Save the Children) + Break for Christmas holidays
Tuesday 8th January 2019	Children return to school (Mon 7th Jan INSET 3 training for staff)



Suggestions:

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter. Please continue to use the Suggestion Box in the Main reception if you have any further ideas/comments.

