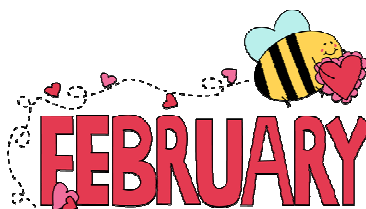
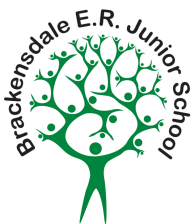


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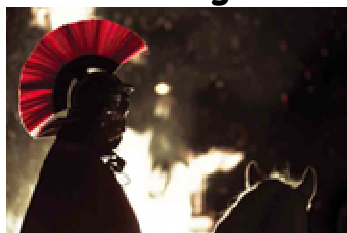
January/February 2017 Newsletter

We hope you all had a good Christmas and we wish you all a happy and healthy 2017. I would like to thank you all for supporting our many Christmas activities. All the performances were well attended and we raised £430 from the ticket sales, which we will spend on new reading books. The FOB raised just over £400 from the Christmas raffle and they will be deciding how to spend this at their meeting this month. The Enterprise project in the last week of term was very successful with all classes showing a profit and our mini-entrepreneurs enjoying making money selling items they have made - they will be spending the money on class treats and subsidizing some of the school trips this year. The children also raised over £1,000 for cancer research with our Race for Life. The results of the parent questionnaire are shown below - 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.

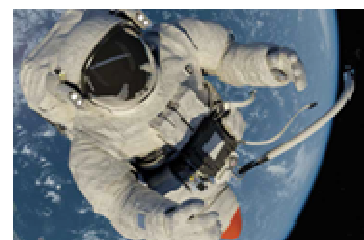
New learning themes:



This term Y3/4 will be following the 'I am warrior' theme where they will be looking at different aspects of Roman life, linking it to Derby's Roman heritage. We are having a 'Roman visit' to our school on 20th January when the children will have the opportunity to look at Roman toys and find out more about Queen Boudica.

In Y5/6 they are following the Stargazer theme, looking at the Solar System, myths and legends about the moon and stars and persuasive letter writing. The children experience a planetarium set up in the hall and visit to the Space Centre in Leicester.

We teach through our topics to 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) and some topic webs and homework choices will be coming out soon. Let's Love Learning!

Parent/Teacher meetings:

Just before Christmas we assessed the children in Reading Writing and Maths. We used the INSET day to analyse the results and to set targets for each child. Every child will have a 1:1 meeting with their teacher to talk about how the year is going and what their next steps are. We are trialling a Pupil Profile sheet, which will form part of the discussion with parents at the meetings on **Wednesday 1st February and Thursday 2nd February 3:30pm - 6:00pm** (Appointment letters to follow). We hope as many parents as possible will be able to attend



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Parent questionnaire results:

1	My child enjoys school	Yes -78%	S-times22%	No – 0%
2	Brackensdale ER Junior School keeps my child safe	Yes- 80%	S-times0%	No – 20%
3	The school informs me about my child's progress	Yes-80%	S-times0%	No – 20%
4	I feel welcome when I come to school	Yes-78%	S-times22%	No -0%
5	My child is making enough progress at school	Yes-80%	S-times0%	No-20%
6	I feel problems are resolved when I come into school	Yes-75%	S-times15%	No-10%
7	The school helps me support my child's learning	Yes-88%	S-times8%	No-4%
8	My views are taken into consideration in school	Yes-75%	S-times15%	No-10%
9	Are you happy with the school's policy on uniform?	Yes-100%	Mostly-0%	No-0%
10	Are you happy with the school's policy on bullying?	Yes-88%	Mostly-0%	No-12%
11	Overall I am happy with my child's experience at Brackensdale	Yes-88%	Mostly-0%	No-12%
12	Would you be interested in becoming part of the parent group – Friends of Brackensdale?	Yes - 40%	No – 60%	
13	Would you be willing to help in school during the school day?	Yes- 38%	No – 62%	
14	There have been quite a few changes to our curriculum since September. Would you like to attend a Maths Curriculum meeting?	Yes- 54%	No – 46%	
Please circle below the areas you would like us to demonstrate: When is the best time for the meeting? The start of the day (9:15pm) 40% The end of the day (3:15pm) 42% In the evening (6:00pm) 18%				
15	Would you be interested in participating in any social/ fund raising events?	Yes	Sometimes	No
What events would you would be interested in: The Family disco for all Brackensdale families; the Bike ride-out and the Picnic were the most popular				

We are pleased that the questionnaire resulted in a lot of positive responses (101 were returned, so each percentage equals a response). We hope to address the issue of parents understanding more about their child's progress through the Parent/Teacher meetings next month. Also, we will be holding information sessions for parents about maths later in the year - there have been a lot of changes. We review the safety of the children continually, but please let us know if you have concerns (most of the forms were anonymous). A big thank you to everyone who completed a form, but remember that we welcome feedback (positive and developmental) throughout the year.



Friends of Brackensdale (F.O.B) meet on the 13th January. They discussed the Valentines disco and events for 2017 - they are looking into setting up a 'School Lottery' later this year. They have £2,800 in their funds after the paying out for the new path, books for the library and Christmas gifts for the children. They want to update the microphones in the hall, but are open to suggestions for the rest of the funds.

They have a regular **Coffee Morning** every **Monday** from 9:15 - 10:30 in the school hall, where suggestions for spending the funds can be made. 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.

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School lunches:

Since we took over the school kitchens in October, the feedback has been very positive. Responses such as, 'It looks like real food and tastes like real food' are commonplace. 194 children enjoyed the school Christmas dinner and whilst we only do that once a year, I can confirm that the standard of meals are good every day. We keep the price as low as possible (£2.15 per meal - paid on the day, please), but some profit is made - all of which now goes into school funds. By choosing a school lunch, you are not only making a healthy choice for your child, but supporting the school. Thank you! ☺



School uniform:

We are very pleased that the vast majority of children wear our school uniform. We have tried to keep it simple and affordable. We have noticed that some children are wearing shoes in a variety of colours. The rule is **black** shoes, we are flexible on the type of shoe - even trainers are ok, but they do need to be black. We appreciate your support in helping the children to look smart. A reminder that fleeces are available from reception (£12.50), which the children like now the days are colder.

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:

I have attached a list of the key dates for this year to allow you to plan the year ahead. If we have to any changes, we will try to give you as much notice as possible. We have matched our INSET days with Infants.



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Wed 1st Feb	Parents evening 1 3:30 – 6:00
Thurs 2nd Feb	Parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00
Thur 9 th Feb	Valentines Disco 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Fri 10 th Feb	Break for ½ term
Mon 20 th Feb	Back to school (7 weeks)
Fri 7th Apr	Easter Service 10:00am Y5/6 + Break for Easter holidays
Mon 24 th Apr	Summer term begins (5 weeks minus Bank Holiday Monday)
Mon 1st May	Bank holiday
Mon 8 th May	SAT week
Wed 24th May	Parents evening 1 3:30 – 6:00
Thurs 25th May	Parents evening 2 3:30 – 6:00
Fri 26th May	Break for ½ term
Mon 5th June	Back to school (7 weeks 3 days) – INSET (Assessment & TA training)
Tues 6th June	Book week – to link with Derby Book Festival
Mon 12 th June	End of year assessment week (inc Y6 writing)
Tues 4 th July	Transition day (Welcome Assembly for Y2s 9:15 & New parents mtg 3:30pm)
Thurs 6 th July	Summer Fair
Mon 10 th July	Reports to parents
Tues 11 th July	Sports morning am
Wed 12 th July	Marathon am
Mon 17 th July	Awards assembly – Swimming + Star of the term
Wed 19 th July	Open evening/exhibition
Thurs 20 th July	Family Bike ride
Fri 21 st July	Final awards assembly - 100%ers for term & year, Star of the year
Mon 24 th July	Leavers Performance 1:30pm followed by Y6 leavers party
Tues 25 th July	End of Year Assembly + Break for Summer returning on Wed 6th Sept
Wed 26th July	INSET (preparation for 2017.18)

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