

May 2017 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you had a great Easter break.

There is always a lot to do in the first part of the Summer term, especially for the Year 6's as they prepare for SATs week in May. However, the weather is improving and the days are noticeably longer so there are plenty of things to look forward to.



New learning themes:

A 'topic web' for this term and list of homework activities will be going out this week. A reminder: the children can choose their favourites from the homework activities and they are not expected to do all of them. If you have missed the new topic sheet there are extras in reception or you can see them on our website.



This term Y3/4 will be following the 'Traders and Raiders' theme where they will be looking at Saxon and Viking history. They will be looking at maps and settlements and working on printmaking in art and design. They will be reading and writing poems and legends.

In Y5/6 they are following the topic 'Allotment'. In addition to growing plants, the children will be discovering where our food comes from and discussing reproduction of plants from germination to seed dispersal. In the following term, they will be selling their produce at a Farmer's Market - invitations will soon follow!



Y6 SATs:



SATs week for the Y6 children begins on **Monday 8th May**. It is very important that **all Y6** children are in school for the week as the tests cannot be taken at any other time. It is also important that the children have enough sleep leading up to the tests and that they have some breakfast so they are alert and ready.

We realise it is an anxious time for some children, but it **should be stressed** that this is just an opportunity for the Y6 children to show their very best work. **There is no pass or fail**, it is just a way to show their next school where they are so their new teachers can set the work at the right level. In the past a lot of Y6 children have said they really enjoyed the week and all the Y6 will be able to celebrate their hard work at the end of the week. If you want to help your child prepare the BBC bitesize website is very good - www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/ - or they could ask for some practice papers to be sent home.

We are planning a trip to Alton Towers in June for the Y6 children as a reward for all their hard work preparing for the SATs and all their time here at Brackensdale - details will be sent out to the children closer to the event.

Bracko's got talent 2017:

After many auditions and an afternoon of brilliant entertainment, Elise Mansell, Lilah Paulson and Daisy Langford were voted the winners of Bracko's Got Talent 2017; Well done to all of you, all of the entrants and Mrs Wallace for organizing the event. On the day we raised £421 for Comic Relief. Thank you for being so generous and supporting this great charity.



Sun protection

When we have hot, sunny days it is important that the children are protected. Please ensure the children have hats and sunscreen so they can enjoy the sun safely. We are not allowed to apply sunscreen to children, but sun wipes are useful and widely available. Also remember our summer uniform gives the option for red & white checked summer dresses and plain tailored shorts (Black, grey or blue). No 'Bermuda' style or sports shorts.



PE kit: To allow us to make the most of the good weather, it is useful if the children have their PE kit in school every day. (Ensure that they have names in).

INSET day:

The next INSET day is **Monday 5th June** (the first day after the May half-term) as planned. I can now announce that the final INSET day of this school year is on **Monday 19th June**. The Infant school is also closed on these days and we hope this helps with your family organization.



Links with parents:

The Easter hat competitions were really enjoyed by the children. Thank you to the FOB for organising the event and providing the prizes.

The next F.O.B meeting is The Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) on Wednesday 10th May at 2:15 pm in the school library. We are looking to try and get ideas for raising additional funds for the school and would like to increase the profile of the F.O.B at this meeting so if you're interested in finding out how to be involved or just have some ideas you'd like to share, then you are more than welcome to attend.

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.

Attendance:

We continue to keep our attendance above the 95% recommended level - despite the wet winter season. We had 43 children who received prizes for being 100%ers and the name pulled out of the hat to win the Kindle Fire HD was Niema Comrie - Congratulations!

Mr Tee's class won the class prize of extra Golden Time. There will be another set of prizes for this term and special prizes for any child that has been in school every day for the whole year.

School clubs:

We have several clubs active at the moment:
Dodgeball on Tuesdays after school
Dodgeball/Paceball after school on Thursdays
Multisports on Fridays after school



Thank you for taking time to read the newsletter. If you lose the newsletter, this and previous newsletters are also on the school website.

David Hall - Headteacher

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 8 th May	SAT week
Mon 22 nd May	Art week
Fri 26th May	Break for ½ term
Mon 5th June	INSET day
Tues 6th June	Back to school (7 wks) – Book week – link with Derby Book Festival
Mon 19th June	INSET day
Tues 4 th July	Transition day (Welcome Assembly for Y2s 9:15 & New parents mtg 3:30pm)
Thurs 6 th July	Summer Fair
Fri 7 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,
Thurs 20 th July	Family Bike Ride
Fri 21 st July	Final Awards assembly incl 100% and Star of the Year
Mon 24 th July	Year 6 Leavers Performance
Tues 25 th July	Final Assembly for 2016/2017 – Yr6 Gift, goodbyes and break for Summer
Wed 26th July	INSET
Wed 6th September	RETURN TO SCHOOL