



Headteacher's Update

Welcome to the summer term! As I write the introduction to our April newsletter, the sun is shining and we are all set for another busy term. I am delighted to announce that Mr Barrass and his partner Julie welcomed the arrival of their daughter, Ava Grace on Sunday 10th April. All are doing very well and we look forward to meeting the new addition to the family very soon. I am sure that you join me in sending our very best wishes to them all at this happy time.

It is an important time for children in year 6 as they prepare for their up and coming statutory assessment tasks in May. All of the children have worked very hard to do their very best and we all wish them the best of luck! All year 6 children are welcome to access our Breakfast Club free of charge during SATs week (w/c 9th May). There is no need to book just arrive from 7.45 am until 8.30am for breakfast. Thank you to all of you that have supported them and we are sure that they will all have a fantastic final term at Blackfell.

We hope that you will find the summer term Curriculum Overviews and personalised targets that you received on Wednesday informative. Once again we have a fun packed, busy term planned for children across the school. I am particularly looking forward to our International work around the Olympics in June. Our website has all dates, events and plans detailed for every year group.

It would be lovely to see as many as possible at my Headteacher's coffee afternoon on the Friday 6th May at 2.15pm. Following the huge success of last year's event, we will be holding a 'Family Picnic' afternoon on Wednesday 7th July (weather permitting) and would like parent/carers to help plan and support this community event. The theme will be 'British Music' and will part of our school celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday. All children will perform classic British number 1 hits to entertain us. In addition, a disco will play as will our school rock band. If you would like to help, please call in for a coffee and cake to share your ideas. Reception children will be performing some songs linked to our recent Creative Week.

Best wishes
Julia Watkins

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Nursery Places

We still have places for children wanting to start Nursery in September. If your child is 3 on or before 31st August then please contact the school and make an appointment to come and look at the fabulous facilities we have on offer. The Nursery session runs from 8.45am until 11.45 am daily.

Bookworm Challenge

Well done to Maple who won our reading team challenge for the Spring Term. We were delighted that so many children achieved the 8 signatures required. Children were rewarded with ice cream and movie afternoon. This term children will need 10 signatures to complete the reading challenge. Please continue to hear your child read on a regular basis and sign your child's reading book at least once a week to support us.

Attendance

The winners with attendance of 99.2% for March was Year 1 class. The children will be rewarded with a popcorn and movie afternoon. 175 children achieved 100% attendance from 1st March to 23rd March. Congratulations to our spot prize winners Zac Bailey, Isabelle Haddrick, Matthew Sykes, Malika Mawhinney, Lauren Ward, Lexie Murray, Joe Walker and Ryan Holloway who all received a £5 Galleries gift card.

Great North Snow Dog Project

We are delighted to be taking part in "A Snow Dog Project" that is being arranged through St Oswalds Hospice. Great North Snowdogs is a large scale public art event designed to communicate the best of our region's art heritage and culture to the widest possible audience. In winter 2016 over 50 large snowdog sculptures will be decorated to create a trail across Tyne and Wear for 10 weeks. These sculptures will then be auctioned off to raise funds to support the hospice. Children across school will be involved in designing and decorating a school snow dog which will go on display at locations around the North East.

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School Disco

Tickets for the school disco will be on sale from Monday 18th April from the school office. Nursery, Reception Year 1 and Year 2 will start at 4pm until 5.15pm. Year 3,4,5 and 6 will start at 5.30 until 7pm. Tickets are priced at £1.50. Hotdogs and refreshments will be on sale on the night.

Sunderland V Chelsea

School has been allocated 20 pairs of tickets for the Sunderland v Chelsea game on Saturday 7th May. The tickets are for one adult and one child. We would like the tickets to go to families who will definitely be able to attend the game with their child, therefore if you would like your name to go into a draw then please contact Mrs Reynolds or Mrs Simpson in the office. If we have more than 20 requests names will be drawn out of the hat on Friday 29th April.

School Council News

This term the school council are very much looking forward to hosting their very first visitors. Children from Oxclose Academy and Lambton school council will be joining us for a morning and lunch. We look forward to sharing ideas with them and hearing about their school in hopes of making our impact across school even greater.

Sporting Events

We were delighted to add another trophy to our new cabinet. Well done to Matthew Cook, Honey-Faye McAulay, Ella Beattie, Bailey Riches, Evie Warris, Malika Mawhinney, Daniel Lamming, Chloe Butler, Aaren Taylor and Layton Wood who won the Year 2 Infant Agility Challenge at Oxclose Academy. Good luck to the children from Year 6 who are representing the school in the Tag Rugby Final at Ashbrooke in Sunderland on Monday.

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IMPORTANT DATES

18th April - Year 6 SAT's parent workshop 4pm
21st April - Year 5 residential visit to Gibside
25th April - Year 2 Assessment meeting for parents 4pm
26th April - Year 4 skipping festival at Oxclose Academy
26th April - Reception class assembly 9.15am
27th April - School Disco
5th May - Local elections - Community room used as polling station
6th May - Headteacher's Coffee afternoon 2.15pm
9th May - SAT's week - Free breakfast club for Year 6 all week
23rd May - Nursery induction meeting for parents 4pm
24th May - Year 1 to visit Washington Wetlands
27th May - School Closed to pupils INSET Day
30th May - School closed half term
6th June - School reopens
6th June - Reception meeting for new starters 5pm
6th June - Whole School Assembly - Firehose Production "Dealing with Internet Safety"
7th June - Year 5 visit to Cragside
9th June - Nursery/Reception to visit White House Farm
10th June - Derwent Hill Weekend
13th June - Phonics Screening Week
13th June - Year 2 to visit Gateshead Stadium
14th June - Year 6 cricket festival Washington Cricket Club
14th June - Year 3 class assembly 9.15am
15th June - Year 3 to visit Kirkley Hall
20th June - Nursery Sports morning
21st June - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sports afternoon
22nd June - Year 3,4,5,6 sports afternoon
23rd June - EU Referendum, Polling station - school open to children
24th June - School closed to pupils - INSET DAY
27th June - Reception visit for new children 9.30 - 1130am
27th June - Kingsway Outdoor to work with Year 6
28th June - Year 5 cricket festival Washington Cricket Club
29th June - Year 4 to visit Beamish
4th-5th July - Oxclose transition day
6th July - Whole school summer picnic afternoon
8th July - End of year reports to parents
12th July - Parent/carer drop in sessions 3.30pm - 4.30pm
13th July - Parent/carer drop in sessions 3.30pm - 4.30pm
18th July - Leavers assembly 5.30pm
20th July - 100% attendance cinema visit
20th July - Last day of summer term
5th September - School closed to pupils - INSET DAY
6th September - School reopens to pupils