

# Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES

9th January - School reopens Spring term  
12th January - Show Racism the Red Card Year 5 and Year 6  
13th January - High tea for winners of Resilience  
16th January - Durham University to visit Year 2 for a Polar workshop  
16th January - Parents/carers to receive Spring term curriculum overview and targets  
16th January - Year 2 Parent/carers meeting 4.00pm  
16th January - Year 6 Sats meeting for parents 4.30pm  
17th January - Year 5-6 swimming festival  
20th January - Anglo Saxon visitors to Year 4  
24th January - Year 3 and Year 4 swimming festival  
30th January - Year 6 to visit Safety works  
31st January - Year 1 Infant agility challenge at Oxclose Academy  
1st February - Year 3 Stone Age to Bronze Age workshop in school  
3rd February - Headteacher's coffee afternoon 2.15pm  
14th February - Year 4 class assembly 9.15am  
14th February - Year 5 -6 In2Hockey  
20th February - 24th February - Half term  
3rd March - World Book Day  
6th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm - 5pm  
7th March - Year 2 to visit Beamish Wild  
9th March - Year 4 to visit Jarrow Hall  
8th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm - 6pm  
13th March - Chicks arrive in school  
14th March - Year 3 class assembly 9.15am  
14th March - Year 2 Infant agility challenge at Oxclose Academy  
20th March - Year 2 class assembly 9.15am  
23rd March - Year 1 to Hartlepool Marina  
4th April - Easter bonnet parade Nursery and Reception (am) Parent/Carers welcome  
5th April - Easter egg competition Year 1- Year 6  
6th April - Easter assembly  
7th April - 100% attendance lunch  
10th April- 21st April - Easter holidays  
24th April - School reopens for summer term  
1st May - School closed bank holiday  
2nd May - Parents/carers to receive Summer term curriculum overview and targets  
8th May - SATs week for Year 6  
16th May - Reception class assembly 9.15am  
29th May - 2nd June - Half term holiday  
5th June - School reopens

# Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



Issue:5  
Date: Jan 17

## Headteacher's Update

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and send you my very best wishes for 2017. All of the children have settled back into school and enjoying their new topics.

At the end of last term, to thank the children for their hard work and celebrate our successful Ofsted inspection, we had a wonderful magician for Foundation stage children and a cinema visit for children in years 1-6. We all had a wonderful day and as always the children's behaviour, manners and enthusiasm were a real credit to you and our school. I have no doubt that together we can continue to build on our many achievements in 2017.

Last week we welcomed new children to nursery and to year 1 - we are sure they will enjoy their learning at Blackfell. Our school website is updated regularly to keep everyone informed of important dates, photographs to share the children's learning and relevant letters and information for parent/carers. Today our termly Curriculum Overviews have been sent out. We aim to keep you up to date with your child's curriculum, important information and everything that you need to know for the spring term. In addition, my termly headteacher's coffee afternoon for parent/carers will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 2.15pm. A letter will be sent out next week. Please return the reply slip to the school office if you would like to join me so that we can ascertain numbers.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2017

Julia Watkins

## Staffing update

Mrs Horn, has made the decision to resign from her post as teaching assistant. She has been a loyal and dedicated member of staff for 14 years and we would like to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication. Everyone sends Mrs Horn their very best wishes as she moves on from Blackfell - she has assured us she will keep in touch. Mrs Horn's last day will be Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

# Newsletter

## News

### School Uniform/School Policy

A reminder, as stated in our school prospectus/school policy set by the school governing body, children must wear black trainers/shoes/boots for school. School hoodies are only to be worn for PE lessons or in the yard not around school. In addition heels, nail varnish and jewellery, including earrings, can not be worn to comply with our school policy and to prevent accidents on the school yard and during PE lessons. Thank you for your support.

Please ensure that your child has their school PE kit in school at all times. This consists of a white t shirt, black shorts and trainers/plimsolls.

### Attendance

Our attendance for last term was 97.6%. We were delighted that 96 children achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term and were rewarded with a Domino's Pizza lunch served by the staff. Our aim is for all children to achieve at least 97% attendance across the academic year and I am delighted that 144 achieved this target last term. This term our 100% attendance reward will be a buffet 'party' lunch. In addition there will be spot prizes. This begins with all children with 100% attendance the week before and week after the February half term holiday (12.2.17- 3.3.17). Names will be put in a hat and drawn to win a prize.

Well done to Year 3 who achieved the class attendance award for December. They enjoyed a movie and popcorn afternoon.

### Safeguarding / Health and Safety

If your child is unwell for school, please contact school as early as possible in the school day to inform us. We need to know where every child is and that they are safe. We are a safeguarding school and have a duty to pass on any concerns to Children's Services. Please park in a safe place around the school at the beginning and end of the school day. We have had concerns raised about cars parking on pathways and blocking access. We understand that it can become congested; however safeguarding of children is a priority. Please refrain from smoking around the school gates and keep dogs on a lead off school premises.

### School Meals

To encourage more pupils to choose school meals on Thursday 19th January school meals have changed the menu to a special "Go Jungle" menu. Children will have a choice of Hakuna Matata Wrap, Chicken Breast Goujon served in a soft tortilla wrap with mayonnaise dip or fish and chips, fish fillet served with chips salad and coleslaw. The pudding will be tiger sponge with custard. Children who are on packed lunches can pay £2 and enjoy a meal on this day.

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### Reading Challenge

Don't forget that it is really important that you sign your child's home reading diary when you have read with them at home. Our reading team challenge continues this term and we are delighted that Reception class will be joining in. All children who have had their record signed at least eight times this term will receive a Blackfell pen or pencil. In our celebration assembly each class every week with 100% team challenge points is reward with a leaf for the reading tree. Last term Maple won the challenge and the team enjoyed coming together from across the school to take part in a fun afternoon.

### Daft as a Brush

We are delighted to announce that £535.28 was raised for the Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care. Thank you for all your kind generosity.

### Celebrating Learning Power 5Rs

We are delighted to announce that the following children were voted by their class peers for their contribution to 'Resilience'. The children were invited with a family member or friend to enjoy high tea with Mrs Watkins last Friday. Well done to:

Reception - Harrison Casey Year 1 - Alecia Johnson Year 2 - Lyta Carr  
Year 3 - Bo Atwill Year 4 - Lily Hannon Year 5 - Emily Brown Year 6 - James Parkin

Next half term children will be focusing on risk-taking.

[Next half term children will be asked to vote for a child in their class who has clearly](#)

On Wednesday Matt Wylie gold paralympic champion, visited our school to support our 'Going for Goals' and 'Inspiration' themed assemblies for 2017. Matt was a pleasure to meet and his presentation of his journey to Olympic champion at Rio 2016, truly inspired us all to aim high, work hard and be the very best you can be!

Matt shared his story, held a quiz and visited all classrooms. It was fantastic to see a real Gold medal and try it on! Please check out the class pages on the website to see more photos.

