

Brackensdale Infant School



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The last newsletter to be sent from Brackensdale Infant School as we move towards the beginning of a new, exciting era as Brackensdale Primary School in January 2018.

This half term will be a busy one as it always is leading up to Christmas and there will be a lot of planning and preparation to do for the new school opening. Initially, the children will not notice huge differences, they will remain in the same classes with the same teachers but it will become more apparent as the year progresses, and we will keep you fully informed.

The children continue to make us very proud with their behaviour in and around school, and we are rewarding them in many ways to encourage this. The learning power of 'Resilience' has been the focus this term and the children amaze me with their ability to try their best even when faced with challenges. This is a life-long skill that will help them now and in the future.

Also we have introduced 'Postcards' which will go home celebrating something special that your child has done. It may be related to exemplary behaviour but it could be linked to their learning or being a role model linked to our SMART code. We are sharing this with the children to raise the profile of it in our Monday & Friday assemblies. Well done to **Chloe Tunncliff** for being chosen last week by Mrs Latham and the first pupil to receive one.

Thank you for your support with the morning procedures, the children come into school ready to learn and have gained an extra 10 minutes a day of valuable learning time, which adds up to 300 minutes each half term: you can learn a lot in 300 extra minutes!

Links with parents

Just to let you know that there is a coffee morning for parents every Monday in the Junior school hall. Please come along for a drink, biscuit and a chat. You are welcome to bring pre-school children along with you. A new Primary parent forum will be launched after the merger in Jan 2018.

Upcoming Events

Monday 30th October

Return to school: (7 weeks & 2 days)

Thursday 9th November

Parent Meeting to be led by Mr Hall at Brackensdale Juniors (3.30pm) regarding SEND consultation.

Friday 1st December

INSET DAY 2

Tuesday 12th December

Christmas carols & nativity at the Church of St Francis, Mackworth KS1 (Y1 & Y2 only) at 9.30am

Wednesday 13th December

Christmas song celebration EYFS at 2.15pm in the dining hall

Thursday 14th December

Guild Hall Christmas Play

Friday 15th December

Christmas dinner in school

Tuesday 19th December

Finish for Christmas break

Wednesday 3rd January 2018

INSET DAY 3

Return to school (6 weeks 3 days)

Thursday 4th January

'Brackensdale Primary School'

Newsletter to follow in January 2018.

Building Update

As you have no doubt noticed the refurbishment of the building, shared by ourselves and Derwent Stepping Stones, has now **BEGUN** and this has meant some disruption and change within School. The contractors are aiming to keep this to an absolute minimum and are working closely with School in order to fulfil this. The completion date is weather dependent, but hopefully will be before February half term, all being well. The 23 children from the Owls and Eagles class will then move into their new 'home'.

Attendance Reminder

We will continue to celebrate good attendance in School and have a new system beginning very soon, which I am sure the children will share with you. It is vitally important for your child to attend every day on time, it has been proven that it really **DOES** make a difference to their education and therefore their life opportunities.



Non-uniform day

There will be a non-uniform day on **Friday 17th November** to raise money for Children in Need (£1 a suggested donation). The focus of this year's Children in Need is 'Odds and Ends', so we are suggesting wearing odd socks for the day, along with any odds and ends that the children would like to wear.

Parking

Can I remind parents not to use the staff carpark at the beginning or end of the school day. Staff have now been given a parking permit and anyone who does not have one of these or a disability badge will be moved on immediately. Particularly with the refurbishment work going on we are now short of car parking spaces for all the staff that work at School. If you think you qualify for a parking pass, please contact the junior reception and you will be given an application form.



Christmas Celebrations

Unfortunately, we do not have a hall space that we can use for Christmas productions this year due to the refurbishment work, so Reverend Kay has very kindly suggested we come to St Francis church at Mackworth. As you can see from the dates listed on the newsletter, this will be on Tuesday 12th December at 9.30am and is just for Year 1 and Year 2. Parents are most welcome to join us.

If your child is in FS2: Butterflies or Dolphins then there will be a separate celebration in the Infant dining hall on Wednesday 13th December at 2.15pm. The children will sing some Christmas songs and the class teachers Mrs Wilding & Mrs Taylor will keep you informed of further details nearer the time. If your child is in FS2: Tigers then Mrs Chapman has sent out information regarding the Christmas nativity already. Please ask if you are unsure. Next year, we will be able to return to using the hall for all our Christmas productions.

Communication

Please remember that you can speak to your child's class teacher at any time before the children come into school. Also I am around most mornings outside in the playground, so please come and talk to me or if it is a confidential matter you can make an appointment through the office. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you this half term and in 2018 when we become Brackensdale Primary School.

Mrs S. Mills –Acting Headteacher