

Brackensdale Infant School

www.brackensdalei.derby.sch.uk



Welcome back everyone, and a special welcome to our new FS2 & FS1 children/parents.

With the retirement of Mrs Reddish, I am looking forward to leading the school with a dedicated, hard-working team alongside me, ensuring the highest standards of education and care for all pupils. Any changes that take place will always be done with this as our priority and I will keep you fully informed.

We welcome a new member of staff in Year 1, Miss Sayers who was appointed at the end of the summer term and I am sure will be an asset to the school.

Classes for September 2017/2018

- FS1/Nursery: **TIGERS**: Mrs P. Chapman (class teacher & Acting Assistant Head) supported by Mrs Phillips, Mrs King, Mrs McCann & Mrs Buckley
- FS2/Reception: **BUTTERFLIES**: Mrs M. Taylor (class teacher) supported by Mrs Eaton & Mrs Parker
- FS2/Reception: **DOLPHINS**: Mrs N. Wilding (class teacher) supported by Mrs Abbot & Mr Baggett
- Year 1 : **BUMBLEBEES**: Miss L. Sayers (class teacher) supported by Mrs Shelton & Mrs Clarke
- Year 1: **ZEBRAS**: Mrs M. Fisher & Mrs T. Farrell (job share class teachers) supported by Mrs Bushnell & Mrs Coons
- Year 2: **PANTHERS**: Mrs H. Latham (class teacher & Acting Assistant Head) supported by Mrs Dean & Mrs Shaw supporting across both classes.
- Year 2: **PANDAS**: Miss L. Dilkes (class teacher) supported by Mrs Parker
- The Ark: **OWLS & EAGLES**: Mrs A. Bell & Miss W. Zablocki supported by Mrs Mo, Mrs Baxter, Mrs Brown, Mrs Berry & Miss Briggs
- Mrs D. Coxon will continue to support across all of KS1 in various roles.
- Mrs S. Hassall & Miss L. Samuel will be the Speech & Language leads across the school.
- Mrs K. Cooper will continue to work as the Inclusion Manager with responsibility for children with SEND.

Each class will be sending out some information very soon about topics and expectations for their year group.

Important Information & Changes

Firstly, thank you to the parents for supporting the new 'start of the day' procedures. The children are able to begin the school day in a calm, orderly

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 6th September:

INSET DAY 1

Thursday 7th September

Return to school for autumn term: (6 weeks & 3 days)

Tuesday 26th September

Harvest Festival KS1

Thursday 28th September

Harvest Festival EYFS

Tuesday 17th October

Parents Evening 1 (3.30-6.00)

Wednesday 18th October

Parents Evening 2 (3.30-6.00)

Friday 20th October

Break for ½ term

Monday 30th October

Return to school: (7 weeks & 2 days)

Friday 1st December

INSET DAY 2

Monday 11th December

Christmas Production Week-details to be given

Thursday 14th December

Guild Hall Christmas Play

Tuesday 19th December

Finish for Christmas break

manner, ready to maximize every moment of their learning (5 minutes a day adds up to 25 minutes a week, and approximately 150 minutes each ½ term) and it is also reinforcing important safeguarding regulations so that school is secure. If you need to speak with the class teacher and do not get the opportunity in the playground, then please come through the front entrance of the school and make an appointment with one of the office staff who will be more than happy to help you.

With safety in mind, please check your child's school bag as there will be important forms coming home that require your attention. **'End of day procedure' forms are essential for us to know who has permission to collect your child.** It is vital that you complete this form and list anyone who will be collecting your child from school. If they are not on your 'end of day' procedure form we will not let your child go home with them until we have been able to contact you. The names on the forms must be of people 16 years or over. This is for the safety of your child. You can add or remove names from the form at any time, just pop and see the office staff.

There will also be a **'Home/School agreement'** form that we would like you to read, sign and return to school. This clearly sets out **what we expect from you and what you should expect from us.** If we work together the children are far more likely to flourish and succeed.

Please return both forms by Friday 22nd September

School Photographs

Just a quick reminder that the school photographer will be in on 6th October (They will be at Brackensdale Juniors on the 5th October). **If you do not wish your child's image to be used on our website or any other school promotions, please let us know as we have to keep a register.**

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club continues to be available from 8.15am and for the same reason as the change in the start of the day procedures, parents are encouraged to drop off at the bottom door by the kitchen area and will not be allowed to come through school. If you use the reception entrance then a member of staff will come and collect your child at 8.15am. You can also pay the office staff in advance and will receive an invoice for your records.

Focus for the term

One of the school priority areas for the autumn term is encouraging high standards of behavior and conduct in and around school at all times. With this in mind we are going to be referring to our **SMART** school code regularly both in class, and in assemblies. It will feed into award assemblies on a Friday and daily class reward systems. The children will also be learning a SMART song with Mrs Latham.

School is a place for working hard

Manners matter, say please and thank you

Always be kind and respectful to each other

Remember good listening means good learning

Together we make school a safe, caring place to be

Uniform Standards

It has been wonderful to see the children all looking so smart in their school uniform at the start of the year, and we would like to maintain these high standards. Can we request that jewelry is not worn for school and if your child wears earrings they wear studs, this is again for safety reasons as the children are extremely active at this age outside of the classroom. On the days when your child has PE they must be able to remove the earrings themselves or better still avoid wearing them on those particular days. PE is a compulsory part of the curriculum and we do not want children to miss it as a result of wearing earrings. We are unable to remove earrings or cover them in any way for health & safety reasons.

Can we remind you that it is school policy that the children wear black shoes with their uniform, so they continue to look smart.

School uniform is available, please come through the front entrance and see Miss Shaw in the office.

School Development Plan 2017/2018

The following 4 priorities reflect the changes we have to implement this year:

1. Enhancing the teaching & learning:

We will be reviewing the teaching strategies we use to ensure we get effective continuity from Nursery to Year 6. This will form the basis of a Teaching & Learning document for all staff.

We will be refining our assessment and tracking systems to ensure the children are well prepared for the new national tests. We will use the information to spot any child falling behind at the earliest opportunity and start intervention work to help them catch up. We will be using our topics to underline the basic skills whilst giving the children a broad and balanced curriculum.

2. Whole school focus on improving maths teaching:

Following analysis of the KS1 SATs papers we are now continuing to teach the basic maths skills as we have always done, but with an increased focus on 'reasoning', which is using the maths skills to solve real-life problems.

In the spring term we will hold a Maths Fun Day, where children and parents can work together using some of our new strategies.

3. Linking with the Juniors to become a Primary School:

We will develop a 'Merging plan' to take effect from January 2018, taking the best from both schools and creating a common ethos and consistent approaches.

Work in partnership with parents to provide the best school experience we can for all our children.

4. A happy, healthy and fit school

Using the Schools Sport Funding to offer a wide choice of high quality sporting opportunities across the school and to increase the participation in sporting activities for our children.

To install new interactive screens on the playgrounds to develop regular exercise, good health and communication with parents/carers.

Use our school kitchen to encourage healthy food choices, again linking with parents/carers.

Using the 'Brilliant Derby' initiative to develop a positive, happy mental attitude and a 'Yes I can' mindset

We will keep you updated through our newsletters and our website as well as having parent information meetings. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Building Update

As you have no doubt noticed the refurbishment of the building shared by ourselves and Derwent Stepping Stones has not yet begun, but is due to start later in September. Updates will be given when more information is known.

Attendance Reminder

We will continue to celebrate good attendance in school. Please note the following with regard to the issuing of penalty notices from the Education Welfare Service:

Derby City Council and Derby schools consider that regular attendance and punctuality is of such importance that Penalty Notices may be issued where a pupil has had periods of unauthorised time away from school at any point in the school year. This includes: Where the parent/carer takes a child on holiday during term-time without the school's permission.

We want all children to aim for 100% attendance –more than 9 days off a year puts you under 95%.

Please ensure your child attends every day on time –research has proven it really does make a difference to their education.

Parking

Can I remind parents not to use the staff carpark at the beginning or end of the day. **It is for staff and taxis only.** Only last week an ambulance needed to enter the staff car park and was struggling as some parents had decided to come and use the car park. This will be monitored and you will be asked to move your car immediately. Thank you

I am really looking forward to this term and making sure all the children at Brackensdale are reaching their full potential in a safe, happy environment. I thank you in advance for your support. If there is anything you need to discuss please don't hesitate to make an appointment with your child's class teacher or myself. We are all here to work together to ensure your children have the best possible experience at Brackensdale Infant School.

Mrs S. Mills –Acting Headteacher

Merger with the Junior School

Following an initial consultation period at the end of July with over 90% in favour of the merger, it then went to the Council Cabinet and received their support. We are moving another step closer to the opening of Brackensdale Primary School in January 2018.

We will keep you informed of any further developments as the term progresses.

Both schools will be working together this term in preparation for the merger. We will be looking at new logos and mission statements, but please don't worry the uniform will remain as red, so there will be no extra expenditure.

It is an exciting time and one that will allow continuity from Nursery to Year 6 for your children.