



Our Christmas Newsletter a celebration of the past term



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends

DATE: 18th December 2009

As we come to the final school week of 2009 I would like to take this opportunity to look back to some of the highlights we have had over the past term.

It is hard to believe we have packed so many things into such a short length of time!

Centenary Celebrations

I would like to say how proud I felt to be Head Teacher at Blaydon West Primary School during its centenary. I am sure that you will all agree that the programme of events put together to celebrate the school's birthday was fantastic. It was lovely that so many members of our local community joined us in our celebrations, including parents, past pupils and teachers, school governors and the local MP, Dave Anderson. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about life in the past from the early 1900's, through the swinging 60's to the present day.



Once again, through the hard work of children and school staff, our production "Blaydon West Through The Years" was the best performance I have seen for a very long time. Our time travellers did us all proud!

Beamish Visit

Our children and a number of our parents and grandparents shared a wonderful day at Beamish Museum, partly funded by a grant from Gateshead Council. It was lovely to see so many people involved in this activity. I am sure everyone will remember this day for many years to come!



Thank you to the Friends of Blaydon West who applied for funding to ensure that this event could take place.

Tea Dance

Mrs Watson's class worked extremely hard to learn how to waltz, lindy hop and jitterbug to enable them to dance for older members of our school community at a very successful tea dance. We had a very special guest at the tea dance. A former pupil, called Janet, who is aged 101, entertained the children with tales about Blaydon over the past 95 years.



Pantomime

Early in December all of the children went to see a pantomime.



Nursery and Reception went to see The Prince and the Penguin. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 went to see Cinderella.

For many children this will have been their first theatre experience. The children were so excited by the visit that they were still talking about all of the wonderful things in the Pantomime for a number of days!



The Friends of Blaydon West subsidised the cost of the pantomime through funds raised during the year.

Geordie Night

I would like to thank Mrs I'Anson-Clough who has worked extremely hard with our Year 4 and 5 children, teaching them traditional Geordie songs and about their local history and culture.

Mrs I'Anson-Clough has also formed the Blaydon West Clog Dancing Club.

Some of the Year 5 and 6 children and our "cloggies" put on a very entertaining performance last week for family and friends, who enjoyed pies and peas after the performance! Thank you to all of you who came along to support this event and to the children who came back after school.



Nativity Productions

Thank you to everyone who attended our Nativity Productions. It is lovely to see so many people attending these productions. I am sure you will agree that the children all performed extremely well with confident speakers, beautiful singing and superb acting.



Christmas Fayre

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Blaydon West for organising our Christmas Fayre.

I would also like to thank the local business who donated prizes for our raffle.

The money raised from the Fayre will go towards subsidising trips etc for all of the children in school.

Congratulations to all of you who won a prize at the raffle!

If you would like to become an 'active' member of the Friends group please come along to the next meeting to be held early in January.



Polite Reminder

As we strive to improve our attendance, and reduce our lateness, can you please try to ensure your child your child arrives in school at the correct time. The school day starts at 8.55am and ends at 3.20pm.

I would also ask you to report absences first thing in a morning.

As mentioned to you on last week's Newsletter the telephone system we now have in school enables messages to be left both for attendance and other reasons.

You do, however, have the option to speak to a member of school staff.



Major Refurbishment

We are delighted with the recent refurbishments and painting that have been carried out around the school.



I am also pleased to announce that our Dance Drama Studio is now completed and ready for the children to use. We will be holding an official opening ceremony in the new year.

Now that the children have somewhere to practice we can look forward to many more fabulous productions!

We already have a dance group who are preparing to perform at The Sage in Gateshead in March.

AND FINALLY

I would like to thank you for all of your support this year through attendance at our centenary celebrations, productions, parents evenings and attendance at workshops and family learning events. Your support is greatly appreciated and through working in partnership we can ensure that all of our children receive the best possible education and opportunities.

I can assure you that we will strive to continue to enrich your child's learning next year with more exciting opportunities for everyone!

I am sure you will all join me in wishing Miss Ford every success as she leaves us to join Fordley Primary School as their new Deputy Head. She will be missed by everyone!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

PM Bailey

Head Teacher

CENTENARY GIFT

Your child should have received a framed class photograph which was taken during our Centenary celebrations. I am sure you agree this is a wonderful reminder both of the celebrations and of classmates in 2009! The children were asked for some ideas for a souvenir gift and a photograph was what the majority of children wanted. I hope you like it!

REMINDER

School closes Friday, 18th December at 3.20pm
School re-opens Monday, 4th January 2010 at 8.55am

REMINDER

Due to Mrs Storey carrying out Home Visits, Nursery will not re-open until **Thursday, 7th January 2010**

