

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends

DATE: 15th January 2010

WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM US ALL !

Despite the disruptive start to the term due to the exceptional weather conditions the children have settled back into school well.

The decision to close the school was made after considering the health and safety and well-being of both children and staff. I also consulted the Local Authority for advice.

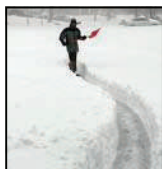
One of the issues that was highlighted last week, when we had to make the decision to close the school due to the extreme weather conditions, was communication between school and parents.

If, for any reason, the school has to make a closure due to unforeseen circumstances, information on the closure can be found on the school website, which will be updated on a regular basis. The website address is:

www.blaydonwest.sch.co.uk. Our new telephone system also allows us to record messages with up to date information.

The Council have also reviewed their procedures and, as a result of this, the council Website will be updated frequently giving up to date information. The Council have also set up an e-mail address that Head teachers can access outside of normal working hours to ensure that information is relayed to parents without delay.

We are investigating the possibility of a text messaging service to parents. The Local Authority are looking at placing a contract with a text messaging provider on behalf of schools. When we have more details I will let you know.



PARENTS OF YEAR 2 CHILDREN

Unfortunately, Miss Lewin will be absent from work next week. She will be returning on Monday, 25th January. Mr Foden, an experienced supply teacher, will be teaching the class in her absence.

ATTENDANCE

This week many of you will have received a letter regarding your child's attendance. This is in line with government and local authority policy and advice on school attendance.

All parents/carers want the best start for their children. One of the ways to do this is to make sure that your child attends school regularly and punctually. Regular attendance means your child can make the most of their education, improving their chances and choices in adult life.

The law requires that all children attend school regularly. The government expectation for primary age children is 95%. Each school is required by the Government to set an attendance target - our target for this year is 94%. **We need your help in achieving our targets.**

Obviously there are times when children are genuinely ill. Thank you to the majority of parents who do ring the school on the first day of absence to inform us of the reason your child will not be in school. Can we please remind others that this is the procedure.

We have a system of first day calling where we will contact you if we have not been informed of your child's absence. A record of calls and reasons for absence will be kept. When your child returns to school they will need to bring a note explaining the nature of their illness, with documentation, if required.

We have a number of rewards and incentives in place to encourage and reward good attendance.



Year 5 and 6 visit to Durham Cathedral

Year 5 and 6 have been involved in an exciting writing project working with Schools and Museums Together aimed at developing their writing skills. As part of the project the children are visiting Durham Cathedral on Tuesday, 19th January to take part in a Murder Mystery investigation which will be used to encourage children to develop their persuasive writing skills. I am sure they will have a fantastic time!



Please look out on the Newsletter in a few weeks time for some examples of their skills!

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

This week's attendance figures are:

Reception— 85.8%, 1D—86.4%, 2L— 91.7%, 3D— 95.0%, 4C— 94.0%, 5W—95.4% and 6C—97.2%

The attendance prize was won by Mrs Champion's class! Our whole school attendance is 92.2% which is still well below our school target. I realise there is a lot of illness at this time of year, however, with your help we will continue to work to improve our attendance

As a reward Mrs Champion's class will receive 10 minutes free time and will have the attendance rosette, cup for a week



SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBER

I have been made aware that there is a website that has the school kitchen telephone number listed as the school telephone number.

Can I please inform parents that the school phone number is 0191 4143286.

Many thanks for your help in this matter.



SCHOOL BUS

I would like to inform you that I have raised concerns with the bus company about the new bus timetable. The school has no control over these arrangements.



Key Stage 2 children who are not with a parent will be supervised by a teacher on duty to ensure they get on the bus safely. However, in cold weather both parents and children are welcome to wait inside the school.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to all of the children with 100% attendance last term. The children all received certificates to celebrate their achievement. All names were put into a draw to win book tokens which can be used at the Book Fayre week commencing 8th February. The winners were Amy McCaughey, Noah Murray and Jack Robson.

The children with 100% attendance were:

Reception

Jorja Allen

Year 1

None

Year 2

Steven Allan, Chloe Hall, Amy McCaughey, Aaron Summers and Emily Taylor

Year 3

Victoria Common, Noah Murray, Jack Robson and Matthew Taylor

Year 4

Rebecca Fuller, Dylan Palmer, Matthew Slee and Dillon Swan

Year 5

Jeb Atkinson, Jamieleigh Clabby, Ellie Johnson and Charlotte Stead

Year 6

Megan Howie and Lauren Wintersgill

Dates for your Diary!

Events organised by the Friends of Blaydon

West

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 5th March - | FOBW Meeting—2.30pm |
| 30th March | Easter Disco |
| 27th May | Beetle Drive |
| 10th June | Summer Fayre |
| 6th July | Summer Disco |



School Events

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 12th February- | Half term |
| 22nd February | |
| 1st April - | Easter holiday |
| 19th April | |
| 3rd May | Bank Holiday |
| 28th May- | Half term |
| 7th June | |

Things you may be interested in

Listed below are events in the local community you may be interested in attending. Also listed are significant dates for your diary.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 25th January | Burns Night |
| 14th February | Chinese New Year—Year of the Tiger |
| 22nd February | "Fair Trade" fortnight |
| 4th March | World Book Day |
| 12th March- | www.newcastlesciencefest.co.uk |
| 21st March | |
| 14th March | Mother's Day |
| 28th March | British Summer Time begins - Clocks move forward an hour |
| 1st April- | Easter Holiday |
| 19th April | |
| 4th April | Easter Sunday |
| 3rd May | Bank Holiday |
| 8th May | World Fair Trade Day |
| 28th May- | Half-Term |
| 9th June | Blaydon Races |
| 20th June | Father's Day |
| 3rd and 4th July | Sunderland Kite Festival |
| 10th July | Durham Miners' Gala |



Please Note: All holidays commence at 3.20pm on a Friday afternoon except the Easter Holiday. School re-opens at 8.55am on Monday mornings

AND FINALLY

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

M. Bailey

Head Teacher