

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends

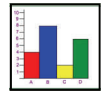
DATE: 18th September 2009

WELCOME BACK!

We hope you had an enjoyable break over the summer. This promises to be an exciting year for everyone at Blaydon West as we make plans to celebrate our Centenary. We are in the process of planning a variety of events to celebrate the school's centenary in October. Early next week you will receive dates for the events planned.

Our school improvement priority for this year includes making changes to our curriculum to ensure that learning is enjoyable and fun for the children. We plan to continue to develop links across the areas of the curriculum and to make more use of outdoor learning in the local environment.

You will shortly be receiving information about the topics your child will be studying this term.



WE WISH TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO.....

Mrs Davison, who is our new Year 1 teacher.

Mrs Davison has replaced Miss Benison who has resigned from her post. We wish Miss Benison every success in the future.

INVITATION TO MEET YOUR CHILD'S NEW TEACHER

Everyone from Year 1 to Year 6 should have received an invitation to meet their child's new teacher. This is an informal meeting and will be an opportunity for you to see your child's new classroom and discuss how you can best support your child's learning in the coming year.

Arrangements for Nursery and Reception visits will be made later in the term.

FUNDRAISER BY THE FRIENDS OF BLAYDON WEST

The Friends of Blaydon West have arranged a fundraiser for Saturday, 26th September from 8.30pm at the Black Bull in Blaydon.

They have arranged for a local band, The Amazing Barter Brothers, to play at the event.

Tickets, costing £3.00, are available from Cassie on the infant yard.

Contributions towards the buffet and raffle would be very much appreciated.



ABSENCE/ILLNESS

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, therefore, improving their chances and choices in adult life.

If your child is ill, please contact the school on the first day of absence to inform us of the reason your child will not be in school. We will attempt to contact you if your child is not in school and we have not received a reason for absence. If your child is ill on one day we will assume he or she continues to be absent for the same reason on subsequent days.

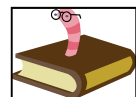
When your child returns to school they will need to bring a note explaining the nature of their illness, with documentation, if required.



NURSERY BOOK DRAW

I would like to say thank you to the Nursery parents for their continued support for our Friday Book draw. All of the money received goes towards funding new reading material for the Nursery children.

This week we raised £5.00. The winner of this week's book draw is Oliver Vowles. Congratulations to Oliver!



UNIFORM

First of all I would like to thank all of the parents who ensure that their children **always** come to school in their correct uniform. It is important that the children take pride in their uniform. The governors, staff and I would appreciate your help in maintaining high standards and a good attitude from all of our children with regard to our school uniform.



Our agreed uniform colours are: -

- School sweatshirt or plain royal blue sweatshirt
- Yellow polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Grey skirt, pinafore or grey trousers (no jeans)

Track suit bottoms and hoodies are not acceptable.

Footwear

Sensible shoes should be worn, preferably black. These need to be practical rather than fashion items.

Coloured boots, shoes with a heel and fashion boots are not suitable for school wear. Trainers should only be worn for PE/ sporting events.

Jewellery

In line with the majority of schools in Gateshead, and all of our cluster schools, we introduced a no jewellery policy last year. This was due to Health and Safety concerns. No earrings, facial/body piercings, bracelets, necklaces and rings are allowed in school.



PE Kit

PE is an important element of your child's curriculum. Your child should have their PE kit in school each week. Ideally it should be left on their peg in a bag from a Monday until a Friday when it can be taken home, washed and returned to school on a Monday.

A PE Kit should consist of:

- A plain t-shirt
- Shorts
- Jogging bottoms/track suit top for outdoor lessons
- Pair of sandshoes and trainers
- No football tops, leggings or strappy tops should be worn

Contact Details and Medical Details

As you will appreciate it is very important that we have up-to-date information on each child in case of emergency. We must have at least one contact number that can be reached during school hours in case of illness or emergency. You will receive a data collection sheet for amendment next week. Please ensure you return this as soon as possible.

You will also receive a medical information form for completion. Can you complete the form and return it to your child's class teacher, even if your child does not have any medical condition we should be aware of.

HOMEWORK ARRANGEMENTS

This term all children will receive their homework on a **Thursday** and it should be returned to school on **Tuesday mornings**. The amount of homework will depend on the age of the children. The following is a guide:

KS1 - Reading, phonics and maths weekly

KS2 - Weekly reading task eg reading journal/ comment book or comprehension, spelling activity or writing activity, numeracy activity.

In addition to weekly tasks the children will be a set a homework project each half term linked to their class topic. This will give parents and children an opportunity to work together on a range of activities.

READING INCENTIVE REWARDS

We would like to encourage more children to read for pleasure. In order to encourage this we intend to introduce rewards for children who read at home on a regular basis.

We would like to encourage reading at home at least 3 times per week.

Your child will receive a sticker each time they have an adult comment and signature in their reading record books.

In Year 6 the comment may be written by the child but must be signed by an adult. As your children become more fluent, independent readers you may like to discuss the book they are reading with them rather than hear them read out loud.

- 25 stickers = certificate and book mark
- 50 stickers = certificate and wrist band
- 100 stickers = certificate and book token or book

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have a few items of school uniform left from our previous supplier. If anyone would like to purchase these items we are selling them at a reduced price. Both sweatshirts and polo shirts have been reduced to £5.00. Obviously, these items are not embroidered with the child's name. Please call to the school office to enquire about availability.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

This week's attendance figures are:

Rec – 92.7%, 1D-91.8%, 2L- 98.3%, 3D—88.0%, 4C—90.9%, 5W— 89.7% and 6F— 94.7%

The attendance prize was won by Miss Lewin's class. Our whole school attendance is 92.3% which is way below our school target of 95%! With your help we will work to continue to improve our attendance.

As a reward the class will receive 10 minutes free time and will have the attendance rosette, cup and mascot for the week.