

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends

DATE: 4th April 2008

CONGRATULATIONS to Ryan Loftus who took part in the Civic Swimming Championships! Ryan won the backcrawl race and has been crowned Civic Champion.

Blaydon A Team won the event jointly with Dunston.

It is the seventh year in a row that the team from Blaydon Pool have won!

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER

I am pleased to let you know that we have appointed a new Deputy Head Teacher. Nicola Watson, who is currently teaching at Harlow Green Primary School, will be joining us in September.

I am sure she will be keen to meet both the children and parents.

I know everyone will work really hard to make Mrs Watson welcome!

YEAR 1 PARENTS— Miss Benison is returning to work after the Holidays.

I am sure you will be delighted to welcome her back.

PARENTS MEETING WITH THE IEB

Just to let you know that the next parents' meeting with the IEB has been arranged for Wednesday, 23rd April at 7.00pm. We look forward to meeting you there.

INFORMAL SATS MEETING FOR YEAR 2 PARENTS

Miss Lewin has asked me to inform Year 2 parents that she will be holding an informal meeting to discuss the arrangements for Year 2 SATS on Tuesday, 22nd April between 3.35pm and 5.00pm.

She will share information with you regarding these tests and will also be able to show you examples of what your children will be doing.

NURSERY VISIT TO BILL QUAY FARM

Our Nursery children and some of our parents enjoyed a visit to Bill Quay Farm yesterday. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful and the children had a fabulous time.

Entrance to Bill Quay Farm is free so if anyone is looking for a venue to take their children through the holidays Mrs Storey would recommend it!



INDUSTRIAL ACTION

As you may already be aware the NUT have arranged a day of industrial action for Thursday, 24th April.

At the minute we are not sure whether the school will be closed but I wanted to let you know it is a possibility.

Once a decision has been made I will let you know the arrangements no later than the Monday when we return to school.

RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO KINGSWOOD

I am sure the Year 6 children are already getting excited by the visit to Kingswood from Friday, 25th to Monday 28th April. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to experience many activities they would not normally have to chance to take part in.

We hope they all have a wonderful time and look forward to hearing about their experiences on their return!



ATTENDANCE FIGURES

This week's attendance figures are:
Reception— 82.2%, 1B— 93.6%, 2L-93.6%, 3D- 92.5%,
4O—89.4%, 5JC—93.6%, 5KC— 87.1%, 6D— 96.7% and
6F— 91.9%

The attendance prize was won by Miss Donnelly's class. Our whole school attendance is 91.17% which is well below our school target of 95%. We will continue to monitor the situation after the Easter Holiday. By working alongside parents our aim is to improve our attendance.

A REMINDER—A FAMILY CEILIDH in aid of Blaydon West Primary School.....

Will be held on Saturday, 17th May 2008 between 7.00pm and 10.00pm at Blaydon and District Club, Garden Street, Blaydon. Tickets cost £5.00 per adult and £3.00 per child.

Tickets are available from Cassie and Claire in the school yard.

HEAD LICE

We have had a few parents reporting that their child/ren have recently had head lice. Can you please take the opportunity to check your child's hair and treat appropriately to help eradicate problems with head lice.



I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME NEWS REPORTS FROM OUR YEAR 5 CHILDREN WITH YOU!

Reporter: Bailey Lamb

YEAR 5 BOOK BONKERS

Children in Year 5 are crazy about books! A woman came into Blaydon West and told Year 5 how important it is to read. Jennifer Maughan works for the Library in Gateshead. She came to school to talk about books and the classes chose one of a good variety of books that she spread on the table. It linked very well with World Book Day a few weeks ago. She lives in Ryton and visits all of the schools in Gateshead. She goes into Primary and Secondary Schools. She read a book called Tomy Bones. It was very interesting. She went to Year 2 too and they did exactly the same. There were lots of different authors. She talked about lots of different books and authors. She came in at 11.00am and left at lunchtime so she spent an hour with the class. Mr Cradock said it was very exciting because all of Year 5 are crazy about books!

Reporter: Robbie Palmer

ROOF RIP

Last Wednesday, Mr Graham, Blaydon West's Caretaker, noticed that the lead on the school's roof had been ripped up and bent back! The Caretaker reckons that the lead on the roof could have been loose and the wind had got under and blew the lead upwards. Mr Graham called the Council immediately. He is now debating on when it happened. He thinks it happened on Tuesday night as he noticed it on Wednesday morning at 9.30am. Mr Graham wasn't the only one who noticed the dangerously flapping loose lead on the west end of the school. Mr Cradock, teacher of class 5KC commented "I noticed it on Tuesday when I was standing outside with parents. We thought someone had tried to steal it as lead is very valuable. At the moment the Caretaker is now thinking that the damage is so bad the lead is going to have to be replaced. The previous night a miniature hurricane had taken place near the school and it is most likely responsible for this stunning bit of damage. Mr Graham explained that his first worry was for the safety of the children in the playground. He estimated 2-3 weeks of repair time. It remains to be seen whether the old roof will survive or a new one will have to be ordered.

Reporter: Rosemary Plummer

NO MORE DODY STUFF FOR 5JC

On the Wednesday before half term 5JC lost one of their best members, Dodgy. The week old fish was found dead behind a plant pot. Only just over a week later Stuff, their remaining fish also died. The two fish were bought at Pets at Home on 6th February. Fish experts tell us that she died of dropsy. Zoe Taylor, who chose Dodgy, said that he had always looked a bit weird and old. Dodgy was a telescopic fish. He had black eyes and an orange body. Stuff outlived Dodgy by 11 days. He died on 24th February. Dylan, who looked after Stuff over half-term told us that Stuff had been off colour for several days. Catherine, a fish expert, said that their tank is infected with white spot. It is suspected that this is the disease that killed their fantail. 5JC will clean their tank out until it is free of white spot.

Reporter: Dylan Kelly

YELP FOR HELP

On 25th February 5JC went to the Salvation Army. Catherine Edmunds is the one who invited them to find out about the Salvation Army. There are lots of different Salvation Armies but we went to the one in Winlaton. The 24 year old member started going to the Salvation Army a couple of months after she was born. Her mum and dad took her. When she got older she wanted to help people who were poor. The Salvation Army is like school" she said "I have had to work with people I wouldn't call my friends". Year 5 were split into two groups. They took turns to do activities. They had a choice between music, a game or puzzles. Since it was a church they have to be very careful. Alison said that she would work in the music room. The children had juice and biscuits.

Well done Year 5—look out for more reports soon!
AND FINALLY—Have a lovely holiday.
PAULA BAILEY—Head Teacher