

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends

DATE: 5th September 2008

WELCOME BACK!

I hope that you all had a good summer and that, despite the weather, you enjoyed the break. Your children have made a great start to the term. They have returned to school full of enthusiasm and good humour and we have admired all the lovely new uniforms, shiny shoes and new hair do's. They are an absolute credit to you, to themselves and to our school.

A very 'special welcome' to those of you whose children are joining us for the first time; I am sure the children will settle in well and that this will be the start of a very positive partnership between home and school.

We are all looking forward to an exciting new school year at Blaydon West Primary School. You will receive a Curriculum Newsletter next week, outlining the areas of the curriculum which we will be developing further this term.

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

Mrs Watson—who is our new Deputy Head Teacher!

Mrs Watson, who is teaching in Year 2, brings with her a wealth of experience and skills. She has joined us from Harlow Green Primary School where she was a member of the senior leadership team. I am sure she will be a great asset to our school!

INVITATION TO YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 PARENTS

Mrs Watson and Miss Benison would like to invite you to attend a reading workshop to discuss how you can help your child at home with their reading. There will be an opportunity for you to have a look around your child's classroom and meet your child's new teacher. Mrs Watson's workshop will be held on Tuesday, 9th September at 2.30pm and Miss Benison's workshop will be held on Wednesday, 10th September at 2.30pm.

PE SESSIONS—Please find below details of your child's PE sessions:

Reception	Wednesday am/Friday pm
Year 1	Wednesday pm/Thursday am
Year 2	Tuesday am/Friday am
Year 3	Tuesday pm/Friday pm
Year 4	Monday/Thursday swimming
Year 5	Tuesday/Thursday
Year 6C	Monday/Thursday
Year 6F	Wednesday/Thursday

Can you please ensure your child brings their PE kit!

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, 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.

We intend to introduce a number of exciting rewards and incentives to encourage 100% attendance, including Bobby Bee and the chance to win tickets for a Newcastle United game. More details to follow!

YEAR 5 - ROALD DAHL DAY

Miss Donnelly's class will be holding a Roald Dahl day next Friday as part of the Roald Dahl celebration to be held nationwide on Saturday. The children will be taking part in cross-curricular activities connected to Roald Dahl and his books.

I am sure the children will have a wonderful day!

SHADOW GOVERNING BODY

A new shadow governing body has been appointed by the local authority effective from 1st of September. They will be working alongside the IEB for a minimum of six months. Following a suitable embedding period a permanent constituted governing body will replace the shadow governing body.

The shadow governing body is made up of the following:

Parent Governors	Dr David Bassett Ms Jill Chaplin Vacancy
Staff Governors	Mrs Paula Bailey Ms Claire Ford
Local Authority Governors	Cllr Malcolm Brain Cllr Kathryn Ferdinand
Community Governors	Mr Steve Williamson Vacancy

We have a **vacancy for one parent governor**. You will receive a letter and nomination forms on Monday if you are interested in taking on this role.

I am very much looking forward to working with the new shadow governors for the benefit of the school community and feel this is another positive step forward for our school.

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.

SWIMMING

I would like to remind parents that Years 4 will start swimming lessons on Thursday, 13th September. Can you please ensure your child has their swimming kit. There is a voluntary contribution of £1.00 to help subsidise the cost of the bus.

ATTENDANCE

This week our whole school attendance is:

This week's attendance prize was won by

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

HEALTHY EATING

Please can I remind you about the importance of healthy eating. We do have a National Healthy School Award and we would ask you to support us in the work we do with children in school by encouraging your children to make healthy choices and develop an understanding of healthy eating **by not including chocolate bars, sweets, chocolate biscuits and fizzy drinks in your child's packed lunch.**

JEWELLERY AND TRAINERS!

Jewellery

Thank you to parents who have conformed with our new policy regarding jewellery. Further to the information you received prior to the school holidays we request that children do not come to school wearing jewellery, including earrings, rings, necklaces etc, however, it is acceptable to wear a wrist watch.

This policy has been introduced in line with local authority Health and Safety guidance.

Trainers

Can you please ensure that your child comes to school wearing sensible school shoes? Trainers are not allowed. If your child comes to school in trainers you will be contacted and asked to bring suitable footwear.

Well done!!!!!!