

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends

DATE: 6th November 2009



Disruption on Monday!!!

Thank you to all of the KS2 parents for your understanding and co-operation on Monday when we had a problem with our electricity supply to the KS2 building. After careful consideration, and discussions with the Electricity Board, I had no alternative but to send the KS2 children home due to Health and Safety concerns. As there was no electricity supply to the building we had no heating, no hot water in the toilets and the security system which ensures that external doors lock automatically was not in operation.

Thankfully, everything is now back to normal!

Can I please take this opportunity to remind parents that we **MUST HAVE** at least one relevant contact number where someone can be reached during the school day in case of emergency.

It was apparent on Monday, when we were ringing parents to collect children when we had to close the school, that there are still a number of parents we cannot get in touch with.

I am sure you will appreciate how important it is that we can contact someone in case of emergency. Even if you give us the number of a neighbour or friend that would be appreciated. Hopefully, the type of emergency we are talking about will never occur but, while we are responsible for your child/ren, it is vitally important that we have a daytime contact number.

Please remember if your contact details change to call into school and let us know. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Once again the school is supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. All money raised by the Poppy Appeal is used to support families who have suffered bereavement or hardship through loved ones being in our armed services.



If you would like to support this cause please send your child to school with a small donation by Wednesday at the latest.

Parents Evening

We look forward to seeing you on either Monday or Tuesday evening at Parents' evening. If you have not made an appointment yet, please do so, as this is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher and for you to share any concerns or information with them.

During parents' evening, class teachers will be handing out a questionnaire. We would really appreciate if you could take the time to complete it and either post it in the boxes available, or, send it back to school with your child as soon as possible.

The questionnaire is a copy of the one used by Ofsted to seek parental views about the school. The questionnaires are for use by myself and staff at school to inform our school improvement planning.

Your views about the school are extremely important to us to help us to plan improvements to ensure the best possible education for your children.

Some parents did complete a similar questionnaire during the summer term but we only received 14 responses. Whilst we have been able to use the views expressed in these questionnaires to inform our planning it would be useful to us to know the views of the majority of the parents.



MISS FORD

After 7 years of teaching at Blaydon West Primary School Miss Ford will be leaving us to join Fordley Primary school at the end of this term as their new Deputy Head teacher.

During her time at Blaydon West Miss Ford has made a positive contribution to all aspects of school life and has been an asset to our school. I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success and happiness in the future. She will be missed by everyone.

We are in the process of recruiting a replacement for Miss Ford. As soon as an appointment has been made I will let you know.

Mrs Champion will be teaching Year 6 until a permanent appointment has been made.

Drop-in Coffee Afternoon

Helen Curry, our Parent Support Advisor, will be holding a coffee afternoon on Wednesday, 11th November. Please come along for a coffee, biscuits and a chat. This is an opportunity to meet other parents.

Helen is able to offer advice on a range of issues related to health and welfare of children and families and has access to a range of contacts and services. If you would like to meet with Helen on a one to one basis please contact me and I will arrange a meeting.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

This week's attendance figures are:
Reception— 92.2%, 1D—78.8%, 2L— 91.7%, 3D— 91.4%, 4C— 88.2%, 5W—93.8% and 6F—79.7%

The attendance prize was won by Mrs Watson's class! Our whole school attendance is 88% 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 Watson's class will receive 10 minutes free time and will have the attendance rosette, cup for a week



THE FRIENDS OF BLAYDON WEST

The Friends of Blaydon West have arranged a meeting to be held in school on Friday, 13th November at 2.30pm. Items on the Agenda include arranging a Disco, fundraising to provide play equipment for our outside areas and a Christmas Fayre.



Details of the dates and arrangements will be discussed at the meeting.

The meetings are very informal and everyone is very welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents you are all members of the Friends of Blaydon West and, as such, we always welcome help and support from the school community.



CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTIMAS PRODUCTIONS

Nursery, Reception and KS1

Wednesday 9th December - 9.30am

Thursday 10th December — 2pm

Key Stage 2

Wednesday 9th December - 2pm

Thursday 10th December - 9.30am

CHRISTIMAS PARTIES

Tuesday, 15th December—am—Nursery

Tuesday 15th December—pm - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday 16th December - pm—Year 3 and Year 4

Thursday 17th December — pm—Year 5 and Year 6

We will also be holding a Carol service at St Cuthbert's church. Once we have arranged a date I will let you know.



PANTOMIME VISIT

This year we have booked to take all of the pupils to the theatre to see a pantomime. This will be a fantastic experience for the children. We intend to subsidise part of the cost through funding raised by the Friends of Blaydon West but we will be asking for a voluntary contribution from parents. You will receive further information about this shortly.

Nursery and Reception will see The Prince and the Pauper at the Newcastle Playhouse on Friday, 20th November. This is a pantomime that is suitable for children under six years of age.

All of the other children will see Cinderella at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle on Thursday, 3rd December.



AND FINALLY

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. Please remember to have fun, but take care, if you are attending firework displays this weekend.

PM Bailey

Head Teacher

