

April Newsletter

Parent's Evening

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who attended this year's parents' evenings. There was a very positive atmosphere in school on both evenings and it was great to see so many happy people leaving school after having heard positive information about their child's learning. If you have not yet managed to see your child's teacher, please make a convenient appointment for after Easter. Thank you.

Celebration Assemblies

Celebration Assemblies on a Friday afternoon are a real highlight of the week for us all and we are very pleased with the amount of visitors who have been attending. If you have not managed to join us yet, we would love to see you at the next assembly. Please see the parent timetable below:

Date	Reception/Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
26 th April	Year 1	Year 4 and Year 5
3 rd May	Year 2	Year 3 and Year 6
10 th May	Reception	Year 4 and Year 5
17 th May	Year 1	Year 3 and Year 6
24 th May	Training Day	Training Day

Silver Friends Update

Our Silver Friends are a group of 70 and 80 year olds who come into school every other Wednesday morning to work with Year 5 on the comparisons of growing up now compared to 60 years ago. All the children and staff love our Silver Friends and are always excited to see them in school.

The Silver Friends normally arrive in school at about 9:30am, have a coffee and a chat with staff and then have their session with the children until 11:00am when it's time for another coffee. If you have any older relatives or neighbours who like to talk, are interested in Living History and would like to contribute to school, please ask them to contact us on 01977 522 620 and ask for Mrs Oldroyd or myself. They will all be made very welcome.

Staffing Update

Mr Hayes, our current Year 6 teacher, left Allerton Bywater Primary School at the end of this half-term to take up a post at another school in Leeds. We also sadly said goodbye to Mrs Parker who has been a Teaching Assistant in Early Years for the past few years and is leaving us to work at a school in Castleford. We would like to thank them both for their efforts and wish them all the best in their new roles.

We would also like to let you know that Mrs McPhillips is expecting her second baby at the end of September. Mrs McPhillips will be with us until the end of this academic year when her maternity leave starts.

Fare Share

Every week, school gets a delivery of food from a charity called FareShare. FareShare are one of the country's biggest food charities and focus on fighting hunger through the distribution of fresh, in-date, good to eat surplus from the food industry, all of which would otherwise go to waste. Last year, they managed to distribute 16,992 tons of food; from fruit and vegetables to fresh meat and ready meals, milk and cakes. From Easter onwards, the FareShare delivery date to school will be Thursday afternoon. If you would like to receive some of this food, please do hesitate to call in at 3:15pm on Thursdays and ask to speak to Mrs Oldroyd.

Calendar Updates

Tuesday 23 rd April	School Re-opens after the Easter Holidays
Wednesday 1 st May	Individual Photos
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday: school closed
Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATS
Tuesday 21 st May	Stay and Learn F1-Y6 9:00 - 10:00am
Tuesday 21 st May	FAB Movie Night KS1 3:15 – 4:15pm
Wednesday 22 nd May	FAB Movie Night KS2 3:15 – 4:45pm
Thursday 23 rd May	Last day of the half-term
Friday 24 th May	Training day School closed
Monday 3 rd June	School re-opens after the half-term holidays

Clubs

At the moment, we are putting together the list of clubs that will run over the coming half term and this will hopefully be published by the end of the week. We are aware that there have been times when clubs have been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. We will try very hard to make sure that this does not happen this half-term: staff who take clubs will endeavour to be aware of any potential date clashes when the club may be cancelled and will make this clear at the start of the club running.

Y6 SATS week: Monday 13th - Thursday 17th May

I am sure everyone will join me in wishing the Year 6 children all the very best for their tests during the fourth week of next half-term. They have all been working really hard over the course of the year and we are very proud of them all.

Remember, over the course of SATs week, Year 6 are invited to come to Breakfast Club for free. If there are any issues around getting to school, please ensure you contact us as soon as possible on the day.

Breakfast and Tea Time Club

Our Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club are brilliant. The children are looked after from 7:30am in the morning and then from the end of the school day until 5:15pm (4:45pm on a Friday). They are given a hearty breakfast or teatime snacks and then have the opportunity to play, draw or even complete homework. The costs are minimal and it is great way for the children to start and end the school day. If you would like to know more or to book into the club, please speak with Mrs Oldroyd or Mrs Allanson or call in at the office. I can guarantee that you won't be disappointed and your child will have a great time.

Sporting Opportunities and Successes

Sometimes it is difficult to keep up with all the sporting events that the children get the opportunity to take part in - from swimming to athletics, dance to football and more for nearly every year group, I am sure we must be one of the fittest and healthiest schools in Leeds! A big thank you to Mr Turner, our PE Leader, for all his effort and organising and huge congratulations to all the children who have been representing school recently.

I would also like to wish Mr Turner and Mrs Hopes all the best with the London Marathon on Sunday 28th April. Their running event in school on Friday was fantastic, with an incredible £349.30 raised for their chosen charity, Henshaws. Thank you to all who attended and donated. A Just Giving page has been created for any further donations, big or small, which can be reached at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lads-running-london.

Certificates

So far this year, we have given out *hundreds* of certificates to the children who have made great choices at school. It is great to see how proud they are when they receive their certificates in assembly. I know that you will continue to support us in encouraging the children to do their homework, be in school on time and to be kind and gentle whilst at school. So far we have given out three Platinum Certificates which is incredible as it means that the children who achieved these have collected an incredible 1,400 stamps for 1,400 right choices in school. I wonder who will be the first person to get a Diamond Certificate!

Contact Details and Communication

It is incredibly important that we have current, up-to-date phone numbers, email addresses and contact details for every child in school at all times. We must also have two contacts for every child so we have a second option if the first is unavailable. If any of the contact details change for your child, you must let us know as soon as possible. Failure to do so can pose problems when we need to contact you regarding your child.

Keeping Safe at all Times

Keeping the children safe at all times is our top priority. Therefore, children **should not be left unsupervised** before 7:30am in the morning if coming into Breakfast Club, or before 8:40am if waiting for school to open. Older children who come to school on their own should not arrive on the premises before the times mentioned above. To ensure no-one gets hurt, I would also request that outside the new building where Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 congregate in the morning children are supervised and encouraged not to run around.

Due to the proximity of the road to the front of school and the amount of people about, the front of school is not suitable for play. I would ask that children are adequately supervised at all times to prevent any unfortunate accidents from happening.

With the weather becoming slightly warmer, we would request that all children bring a fresh bottle of water with them each day. As always, please do not send juice as it only attracts ants into school and can get very sticky. Children should also have a sunhat or cap on when the weather is very warm and have sun cream applied at home before coming into school.

Open Door Policy

We work hard in school to ensure that any issues or concerns that people may have are dealt with privately and quickly. If you have any concerns, I would ask that you come and discuss these in school face-to-face rather than posting them on social media. Using social media can fuel things that otherwise could be dealt with quickly and with less anxiety and upset. We will always endeavour to work with people to solve whatever the concerns may be.

Changing the school dinner option for your child

If you'd like to change your child's dinner option, please send an email to: ainswot01@brigshawtrust.com.

If you wish for your child to change from packed lunches to school dinners or from school dinners to packed lunches, please ensure you include the following details in the email:

- your child's name
- your child's class
- what dinner option you would like them to move to

Please note, we now only require one week's notice to change the meal pattern for your child. All changes to dinner patterns will commence on the first Monday after the one-week notice.

Message from the Headteacher

We all remember things that are funny or when we are having fun and enjoying ourselves. The same can be said for school and when children are learning – laughing, smiling and enjoying lessons is important if they are to learn to the best of their abilities.

Research tells us that fun is serious business for children. Playtime helps young children learn to solve problems, get along with others, express their creativity and develop their physical dexterity and language skills. It is through play and having fun that young children experience the joy of learning.

At home, learning can be enhanced through play, and board games are a great way to get families together. They can also be great fun. Games like Monopoly and Scrabble can really help develop counting, understanding money, word recognition and spelling patterns. Making time to have fun at home is important and can really enhance and support the work and learning that happens on a daily basis in school.

Recent studies have shown that children also learn faster while they are having fun. The brain is 68% more active when they are doing something they like and with that activity the brain can absorb more information by up to 84%. That is why we actively seek to create an environment in school that is calm and focused but also one that has a large dose of fun and laughter planned in.

If there is anything in this newsletter that you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact school.

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