

February Newsletter

Striving for the Best

Every day that children are at school is a chance to learn something new or apply a new skill. We always talk about 'learning time' and what the children are learning about and you being involved in your child's learning can really help the progress that they make. Through our School Development Plan, we aim to raise standards even higher through the way we teach and assess the children's learning. Getting them to reflect on what they have been learning in school is a great way that you can help at home.

We also discuss the importance of always having a 'Growth Mindset'. It is really important for the children to open up their mind to learning and to understand that it is ok to get things wrong. One of the strategies we have been implementing is the power of 'yet'. If the children say they can't do something or understand something, we respond by saying 'not yet'. We then explain that the children will be able to complete their learning when it is explained again – it just takes time. Do try this at home.

2019/2020 Calendar and Training Days

	August 2019					September 2019					October 2019					November 2019							
Mon	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30			7	14	21	28			4	11	18	25	
Tues	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24			1	8	15	22	29			5	12	19	26	
Weds	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25			2	9	16	23	30			6	13	20	27	
Thurs	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26			3	10	17	24	31			7	14	21	28	
Fri	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27			4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		
	December 2019					January 2020					February 2020					March 2020							
Mon	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24				2	9	16	23	30
Tues	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25				3	10	17	24	31
Weds	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26				4	11	18	25	
Thurs	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27				5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28				6	13	21	27	
	April 2020					May 2020					June 2020					July 2020							
Mon		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29				6	13	20	
Tue		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30				7	14	21	
Weds	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24				1	8	15	22	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25				2	9	16	23	
Fri	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26				3	10	17	24	
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					BANK HOLIDAYS					TRAINING DAYS - 5 days TBC													

The importance of regular school attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital to helping children achieve and get the best possible start in life and children who frequently miss school often fall behind. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results. For example, only 12% of pupils with below 80% school attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*- C (or equivalent), including English and Maths, compared to 68% for pupils with attendance greater than 95%. Good attendance at school shows potential employers that a young person is reliable. Young people who are frequently absent from school are more likely to become involved in, or be a victim of, crime and anti-social behaviour. All schools in Leeds have their own attendance policies and are responsible for keeping accurate records of pupil attendance. They will contact parents directly if they have any concerns about a child's attendance. Leeds City Council offers a range of services to support families who encounter difficulties in ensuring their children attend school regularly.

Here at Allerton Bywater Primary School, although we have a flexible registration time, it is important that the children are in before 9:00am. Between 8:45am and 9:00am, all the children work on completing targets that have been generated from the teachers marking the children's work from the previous day. We call this 'Target Time' and it really helps with the day's learning if the children have had time at the start of the day to complete these targets.

Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club

It is amazing to see so many happy, contented children at our Breakfast and Tea Time clubs before and after school. The children have a great time eating, playing and learning – all in a safe environment. One of the extra special parts of the both clubs is that the children can get their homework and reading done with help from the support staff. Breakfast Club opens daily from 7:30am and Tea Time Club runs every day after school until 5:15pm (4:45pm on Fridays). Please contact the office for more details.

This Half-Term

This has been an amazing one in school with Topic Launch Day back in January right the way to the Year 4 Residential last week and lots of learning in between, it has been a really busy and exciting term. We also have the Year 6 children and staff working really hard preparing for their SATs in May. We know that they will keep up the effort even during the holidays.

Next Half-Term

After half-term is equally busy right from the start with our school Readathon in the first week, Year 6 Residential during week 2 and Science Week during week 3. Don't forget, Parent's Evenings are taking place on the last week of term: information will be sent out about these shortly after the holidays.

Updating personal details

I cannot stress the importance of **keeping your details up-to-date** with the school office enough. Recently, we have tried to contact several carers and parents using the details that we have been given only to find that the numbers have been changed. The implication of this is that we often have to keep children in school who need to go home, for whatever reason. If any of the following have changed, then school needs to know as quickly as possible: your personal phone number, work phone number, home address or email address.

Celebration Assemblies

Our Celebration Assemblies on a Friday afternoon are a great opportunity for us to celebrate the successes of the week together. Every week, we look forward to hearing about all the marvellous learning experiences and opportunities that the children have been involved in and having family members and carers there to celebrate this with us is always a real bonus. Please see below for the dates of this half-term's assemblies:

Date	Reception/KS1	KS2
1 st March	Reception	Years 3 & 6
8 th March	Year 1	Years 4 & 5
15 th March	No assembly - Red Nose Day	
22 nd March	Year 2	Years 3 & 6
29 th March	Reception	Years 4 & 5
5 th April	No assembly - Last day of term	

Reading Champions

Congratulations to all the children who have been mentioned as one of our Reading Champions in assembly. It is really easy for the children to be a Reading Champion - all they have to do is read to an adult at least four times a week and have their planner signed each time. The children can read anything from their school reading book to a magazine or even a story on an iPad or Kindle and now that the Library Bus stops outside of school on a Tuesday afternoon there is definitely no shortage of reading materials!

Year 6 Transition Evening

On Wednesday 13th March, Mr Truscott from Brigshaw High School will be visiting school at 5:45pm to discuss transition details with Year 6 parents and carers. Please put this date in your diary. More information will follow regarding this meeting.

Open Door Policy

Just a quick reminder to let you know that if anyone has any worries, issues or concerns regarding school please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. We will always endeavour to work with people to solve whatever the concerns may be.

Expectations – the small things matter

Presentation of work, laces undone, book bags not brought in, sparkly earrings continually worn and reading not done: these are some of the little things that we are constantly reminding the children about in school. Having parental support from you really helps and allows the same consistent message to be heard at school and from home. We hope you join in with us encouraging the children to follow these simple requests.

Recently, some children have been wearing Fitbit/smart watches. For safeguarding reasons, and also because of their cost, we ask that these are kept at home and not worn in school. The last thing we want is that they get lost or go missing.

A Message from the Head Teacher

Being a Head Teacher is the best job in the world. There is nothing better than knowing that the decisions that I make will have a positive impact on so many lives. With that in mind, we encourage all the children to apply themselves in school and to try their very best. One of the big challenges for parents, which I know from personal experience, is ensuring that this effort continues at home with reading, learning times tables or developing ICT skills. However, if children continue to apply themselves and put in effort they will eventually succeed at whatever they want. Successful people achieve by trying hard regardless of how challenging the task may be, which is what I want for all the children here at school.

As I walk around the school, I see adults and children engaged in learning activities and trying hard but I also see children enjoying their learning which is vital for them to develop and grow. I am immensely proud to be the Head Teacher of such a wonderful school and would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Last of all, please don't forget that 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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