



## **Blackhall Primary School**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the half term break it is hard to believe that we are already towards the end of February. It seems like 2 minutes ago since we were preparing for Christmas! It has been a busy half term in school with many additional events including Independence Day, Children's Mental Health Week, a KS1 visit to the Centre for Life, EYFS library visits, learning about potential jobs in the future, bus trips to the local shops and many forest school adventures to name a few.

Although next term is only a short term, I am sure it will not disappoint with activities already planned for World Book Day and the build up to Easter, where we are looking forward to welcoming you as parents/carers into school.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and enjoyable half term break with your families and I look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Kind regards,  
Mrs R. Leonard  
Head Teacher

### **Strike Action Reminder**

You will remember the letter sent earlier in the term regarding the planned strike action that affects certain classes. The next planned date for strike action is **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**. This action is not against our school but is part of a national industrial action organised by NEU.

This does mean that unfortunately we have to close some classes on the date above. The table below gives you information on whether your child's class will be open or closed. There are many teaching unions in the UK and it is only members of NEU that are involved in the strike action. This is why you will see some teachers in school on those days.

Class	Teacher	Class open or closed
Butterflies	Miss Pilkington	Open
Bluebells	Mrs Sergeant	Open
Reception Yellow	Miss Ridley	Open
Reception Blue	Mrs Miller	Closed
Year 1	Miss Gilhespy	Open
Year 1/2	Miss Hall	Closed
Year 2	Mrs Law	Closed
Year 3 Yellow	Miss Hope	Open
Year 3 Blue	Mrs Lowes	Open
Year 4	Miss Ramm	Open
Year 5 Yellow	Mrs Baker / Miss O'Neil	Closed
Year 5 Blue	Mrs Thompson	Closed
Year 6 Yellow	Mrs Inchliffe	Open
Year 6 Blue	Miss Grayson	Open

### **2 Year old Provision**

We would like to remind parents to spread the word that if you have or know anyone with a child who is due to turn 2 years old, they may be eligible for a free child place in our 2 year old nursery. Any parents who would like to see if their child may be eligible should contact the school office.

### **Blackhall Bright Stars**

Just a reminder that Blackhall Bright Stars baby and toddler group continues to run every Tuesday morning, 9am – 10:30 (begins again Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February). There is no need to book a place – everyone is welcome.

### **Coffee Morning**

Our parent group will run their coffee mornings from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. The coffee mornings will then continue to run every other week.

### **Attendance**

Our school attendance is a key area for improvement and I would like to thank all parents for your continued support in ensuring your children maintain good attendance. However, current whole school attendance is currently 92% which is just below the national average.

We have therefore launched an incentive this week to the children which includes rewards for attending school over a 2 week period. The children were excited about this in assembly and prizes include: additional break, afternoon tea with myself, a trip to the park and a £10 Asda voucher, amongst many others.



### **Year 2 and Year 6 Booster**

A huge thank you to parents and carers for your commitment in ensuring your children take part in the booster sessions. This will make a huge difference to their progress across the year and in preparing them for the tests in May.

### **Year 2 SATs**

Year 2 SATs take place throughout the entire month of May. Children do these tests in small groups and therefore the full month is required.

### **Year 6 SATs**

Year 6 SATs take place from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Tests are timetabled for set days and therefore must be completed on this day.

### **Reading**

As you know reading is one of our main priorities in school. Staff work very hard to support children daily with this and children are making progress. Please can we ask for your support with this at home and listen to your child read as much as possible, regardless of their age. Even our oldest children love reading aloud to an adult. We recommend at least 3 times per week for as little as 10 minutes. The children earn rewards in school for the number of times they read at home.

### **After School Clubs**

It has been lovely to see so many children attending a range of after school clubs this term. Children certainly appear to be enjoying the clubs and we look forward to many more across the year. Booking details for the Summer term will be released before we break up for the Easter holidays.

### **World Book Day**

Just a reminder that we have an action-packed day planned for World Book Day this year (information sent by separate letter). The parents' group will be hosting a coffee morning on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February for any parents to come and take part in a costume swap. Even if you do not have a costume to give, please come along and

have a look at the costumes on offer. They are free for any parents to take for their children.

### **Morning Drop Off**

Please can we ask all parents and carers to closely supervise their children on the school yard first thing on a morning. For health and safety reasons, children should not be on the play equipment or on the benches / bins during this time.

### **Online Safety Updates**

Please look out for our online safety updates sent out via Parent Mail. There has never been a more important time to ensure your children are safe online. Please let us know if there is anything additional you require information on and we will ensure we do everything we can to support.