



Newsletter

2nd February
2024

Welcome back everyone! It has been a positive and productive start to the new year with so many great things to celebrate already -from our participation in Young Voices at Sheffield Arena, to tree planting in the local community! In January, it was wonderful to see all of our children return to school so ready to learn.

Mrs Taylor

As parents and carers are already aware, Mrs Taylor has unfortunately not returned to school so far this term due to illness, which requires future surgery. I am happy to say that whilst Mrs Taylor still awaits her operation, she is doing very well and is planning a phased return to school after the February half term. Mrs Taylor would like to thank all members of our school family who have passed on their warmest wishes for her recovery. She has been really very moved by the sheer amount of concern for her over these past few weeks. Thank you so much.

Young Voices

On the very first day back at school after the Christmas holidays, some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in the 'Young Voices' event at Sheffield Arena. They sang as part of the world's largest children's choir with over 4000 attendees! Some special guests, who the children had the opportunity to perform with, included: MC



Grammar, Natalie Williams and an inspiring 13-year-old drummer.

The children really put their all into this

event, attending regular choir sessions in school and also practising lots at home. It really did pay off! They sang beautifully and were a real credit to our school. Well done everyone! Many thanks to all of the adults who organised, took part in and supported this

amazing event. It really was a long first day back at school- especially as the event finished late and the children did not arrive back at school until around 11.30 pm! It was well worth all of the effort though and something that will live in the children's memories forever.



Romano Park

On Thursday 11th January, members of our school council visited Romano Park for the official opening of the new play equipment. In recent weeks, Stockton Council



has worked alongside a private contractor to provide some exciting enhancements and significant improvements to the park - including the new 'Dragon Play Fort'. Our children were met by the



Mayor of Stockton and took part in the formal 'ribbon-cutting'. They were also lucky enough to be the first children to get to put the new equipment to the test!

Tree Planting



On Friday 26th January, members of our school council were invited by Stockton Council to take part in the planting of tree whips in the local area. Stockton Council has recently secured funding for the

planting of 1,100 tree whips and our children planted over 100 whips as part of this project. The whips have been planted on the land to the rear of All Saints School. Well done to all of our children who took part!

Communication with School

Recently, I have been made aware of some difficulties experienced by parents when they have contacted school via the main school email account. This account is often bombarded with all sorts of emails on a daily basis and when the office is under-staffed, it can be very difficult for our office



staff to keep track of every email received. As a consequence, Mrs Shildrick sent a letter to all parents and carers this week giving the email addresses of class teachers and team leaders. If parents and carers have messages to relay to teachers or any concerns or queries regarding their children, we would ask that you contact the teacher directly via email in the first instance. All emails will be answered within 48 hours. If the teacher cannot help, or if parents/carers feel that their concerns need to be escalated further, then we would ask that the next port of call is the key stage leader. All key stage leads are members of the senior management team in school and they will assist fully in solving any issues. Please look out for the letter sent via Marvellous Me which provides relevant email addresses for teachers and key stage leaders.

Morning learning



Our doors open at 8.40 am each day for morning learning and the official start to our school day is 8.45 am. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is in school for 8.40 am on a daily basis. From 8.40 am, children take part in morning learning activities and this is a crucial part of the day where your child has the chance to consolidate prior learning and address misconceptions. It is a fact that children who take part in morning learning regularly make greater progress with their own learning. I would also remind parents that registers are taken at 8.45 am and our external doors close at 8.55 am. Children arriving late to school must enter via the main

reception and be signed in by a parent after this time. Please be aware that just because the gates on the yard do not close until 9.00 am, this does not mean that external doors are still open at this time. The gates remain open merely to allow parents to exit the yard by 9.00 am at the very latest.

Cold weather

It is likely that we will have more cold weather throughout February and even March. Our school yard is a huge space and it is not feasible to grit it entirely. I would remind everyone that we have a gritting plan in place. When the weather conditions are inclement, Mrs Symmonds (our school caretaker) will demarcate safe routes into school with floor cones. Please follow these pathways as much as possible.

Lunch Money

I would remind all parents that the payment of school lunches should be made weekly via the ParentPay system. The office regularly send out reminders about payment to parents via Marvellous Me, as we do not want any parents to be faced with large lunch money debts. In this instance, we will ask parents to move their children to packed lunches until debts have been cleared. Please do not be offended if you receive a message regarding any arrears. Currently, we make every effort not to let parents/carers carry any more than two weeks worth of arrears, and so we do send out reminders. This is something that many parents/carers have requested, as in the past some families have faced rather large sums of money owed, simply because they have forgotten to check their accounts.

Lamb Lane Parking

Since our school opened in 2006, parking on Lamb Lane has always been problematic. Can I please

remind all parents/carers and those responsible for dropping off/collecting children that primarily we all have a duty to keep ourselves, each other and, most importantly, the children safe. While I



fully appreciate that parents and carers lead busy lives, some parking when dropping off and collecting is dangerous. Please avoid parking on the roundabout on Lamb Lane, blocking access to the care home and please do not park outside the emergency exit gates by Mrs B's Community Hive. These gates are to allow access for emergency vehicles such as fire engines and ambulances and they must be left clear at all times. Additionally, ground staff require regular access to the site via the double gate at the top of Lamb Lane which leads onto the field. I would remind parents and carers that we do have an arrangement with Tesco for use of their car park. It is only a short walk from Tesco to school and parking at Tesco does alleviate the pressure on Lamb Lane. Thankyou for your cooperation in this matter.

Leave of Absence Requests

I continue to work in partnership with Education Welfare to monitor and promote whole school attendance and this includes the management of parental requests for leave of absence. I would remind everyone that we must follow our full attendance management policy and procedures and any requests for **leave of absence during term time for the purpose of a family holiday may be subject to penalty notice procedures.** This applies to all requests for 5 days or more and school has a legal

duty to follow the local authority policy in issuing penalty notices. If you are considering booking a holiday during term time, please be aware that parents **must** complete the appropriate form and return it to school prior to the absence.



Spring Term 2024

6th February – Year 2 Captian Cook Museum visit.

8th February – Year 2 Captain Cook Museum visit.

12th February-16th February - Year 6 residential visit to Ullswater.

15th February- PTA pre-loved uniform and World Book Day costume sale – on school yard – 3.00pm-3.30 pm. Donations welcome.

16th February – Break up for half term.

7th March – World Book Day (Dress up day and book swap event).

11th March – National Careers Week.

13th March- Open afternoon for parents/carers-

(Reception to Year 6) - 3.15pm – 5.00pm and interim reports sent home.

15th March – Comic Relief Non Uniform Day – donations can be made via Just Giving if parents wish.

18th, 19th, 20th March- Parent Consulations via Parent Cloud.

22nd March- PD Day.

25th March – KS1 Easter Dico (4.30 pm – 5.30 pm).

26th March – Y3/4 Easter Disco (4.30pm -5.30 pm).

26th March – Y5/6 Easter Disco (5.45 pm – 6.45 pm).

26th March – Easter Egg competition – decorate an egg.

27th March – Easter raffle.

29th March- Break up for Easter.

Goodbye Mrs Gardner

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to the incredibly talented Mrs Gardner at February half term. As many parents and carers will be aware, Mrs Gardner has led our Forest School provision in school since 2022. Mrs Gardner is a NOCN Level 3 Forest School Leader and was responsible for much of the thoughtful design of our main Forest School area which was developed from a corner of under-used playing field. She has worked tirelessly, and often in her own time, to ensure that Barley Fields Primary School offers exceptional provision in this area and she has also written and implemented a bespoke, unique and progressive Forest School curriculum for our



children. Mrs Gardner leaves our Forest School provision in a strong and healthy state and we thank her for this. Fortunately, we have a number of Level 3 qualified staff who will continue the outstanding work initiated by Mrs Gardner. These include Mrs Foster, Mrs Ward, Mrs Ripley and Mrs Flores-Dominguez. We would all like to wish Mrs Gardner all the very best of luck and much happiness in her future endeavours.

National Careers Week

On the week beginning 11th March, we will be celebrating National Careers Week. We are looking for volunteers to come into school to share information about their career with our children. This event is being organised by Mrs Flores, Mrs Brand, Miss Perkin and Miss Barton and they have already sent out a Microsoft Form regarding Careers Week via Marvellous Me. If you feel you can support during this week, or you work for a company or organisation that can offer support, please complete the Microsoft Form as soon as possible. Huge thanks to Cummins Inc - and those parents in school who are employed by Cummins - for all of their ongoing support for Barley Fields.

PD Days 2024

Friday 22nd March 2024 – PD Day

Monday 24th June 2024 – PD Day

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July – PD Days so school closes for summer on **Friday 19th July 2024**.

School will be closed to children on these dates.

Many thanks for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Shildrick
Deputy Head Teacher