



Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 20: 10th February 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

We break up today 10th February, school reopens on Monday 20th February

Choir performance with Grimethorpe Colliery Band ~ the date is now confirmed as 11th April and the initial plan is for the children to perform with the band in the View Tube of the Olympic Park in London. The band and choir will perform at approx. midday, then there will be a brass workshop for other young people in Newham to attend, when we will have a gallery tour of the park and finally a concert at the end. It is anticipated that we will set off from school at 7am and head back at 6pm (travel time is about 4 hours each way). The event will also be filmed and put onto YouTube. We have secured funding for the cost of the coach for the children; we are also planning on taking a further coach (costing £950) so that parents and friends can accompany us, for which there would be a charge. What an exciting opportunity for our school!

The improvements to the outdoor area are expected to be complete for after half term. I am now trying to ask someone important to attend 'The Grand Opening'!

Chickadee ~ on Friday 24th February we will have a delivery of a batch of eggs which we will keep incubated in school until they hatch out in approx. 21 days. The children will have the opportunity to learn how chicks develop and see a growing and living embryo inside the egg. Thank you to Mrs Gough for organising this opportunity for all of the children.

Foundation Stage ~ the Paediatric Nurse, Rachel Constable will be visiting school on Monday 20th February (the first day back after half-term) to advise and support parents with any health concerns, particularly around head lice.

The Nurse will be in school 9 - 9.30am and 3 - 3.30pm to support both Nursery sessions

F2 Sunflowers ~ will be having their eyes tested by the School Nursing service on Monday 20th Feb from 10.30am onwards. **Please remember to return your consent forms.** Thank you.

Foundation Stage Open Day/ Easter Bonnet parade will take place on **Thursday, 22nd March** at 10.30am (to include morning Nursery children) and 2.00pm (to include afternoon Nursery children). Parents can attend either session. This will also be an informal opportunity to have a chat with a member of staff about your child's progress.

Open Evening for Years 1 ~ 6 Thank you to all those parents who attended on Monday evening and for your support. Overall attendance was 54%, so that's over half of parents attended and some classes were as high as 84% and 83%, this clearly shows the commitment of a large number of parents to the education of your child/ren which is a joint responsibility. Thank you.

Year 1 Leopards Class Assembly on Tuesday was just wonderful! The Assembly included Science experiments, stories, Maths, an alphabet song and an amazing performance of 'Please Mrs. Butler'. The children were wonderful and clearly enjoyed sharing their work with the whole school and a

large number of our supportive parents. Very well done to all of our Year 1 Leopards including Miss Horne, Mrs. White, Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Taylor for their first ever Class Assembly.

Year 3 will commence swimming lessons on Tuesday 21st February ~ please see separate letter for details.

Year 4 had a wonderful day on Tuesday on their Heritage Trail with Malcolm Hanson, Mrs Winwood and [Sian's Mum](#). They enjoyed the walk through to Grimethorpe and visit to St. Luke's Church. Father Peter was very impressed with the children's behaviour, knowledge and respectful manner in Church, so much so that he wants to come and visit them in school! Mrs Winwood was especially proud. Well done to everyone.

After Easter children will have the opportunity to take **guitar lessons in school**. Please see Mrs Sutton if you need further information.

The Disco on Tuesday was a great success! Over 120 children attended and had a great time, it also raised **£211.45** for school funds. I will let you know about the **Bingo Evening** after half-term. We always use monies raised from these events to subsidise trips and visits.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs White, their family, Mrs Alison Smith and Abbie plus other Friends of Birkwood for organising these events.

Parents' Forum ~ the next meeting will be on Thursday, 23rd February at 2.30pm

You would be most welcome to join us for the following Class Assemblies:

Year 1 Tigers Class Assembly ~ Wednesday 28th March at 2.45pm

Year 2 Class Assembly ~ Wednesday 21st March at 2.45pm

Year 3 Class Assembly ~ Wednesday 14th March at 2.45pm

Year 4 Class Assembly ~ Wednesday 29th February at 2.45pm

Year 5 Class Assembly ~ Wednesday 7th March at 2.45pm

Sainsbury's Active Kids Tokens ~ we are now collecting tokens, please ask your family and friends to collect for us too. Thank you.

With kind regards and many thanks for your continued support.
Have a lovely half-term break,

Mrs Julie Allen
Headteacher