



BELL LANE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

June 2017



What's changing?

Two new classroom assistants have been appointed for September - Mr Turner and Mrs Horobin. These staff will replace Mr Carr who left earlier this year and Mrs Bhaiyat who has recently secured a new job in an academy closer to where she lives. We wish her all the very best in her new role. One of our lunchtime supervisors, Mrs Purton, is retiring after 12 years working at the academy as well as Mrs France (of which you are all aware) and we wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Dolce Catering

Please note that from September 2017 the cost of an academy lunch will increase by 10p to £2.20. All children in Key Stage One will continue to receive a free lunch under current government legislation.

Governors

Following the elections for a parent governor, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Helen Pettitt to the governing body of the academy. The governors would also like to thank you for completing the recent questionnaire that they sent out which is in the process of being collated. The findings, along with those from a similar pupil questionnaire, will feed in to the academy improvement plan for the next academic year.

Governor Class Visit- Extract from a report by Sophie Hill - Class 6P

On Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd June 2017 two governors of Bell Lane academy (Mr Groves and Mr Brown) visited classes from Year 2 to 6 to talk about the importance of their job; they explained to us about how they volunteer and that they also have other jobs.

Mr Groves is the chair governor, he is classed as the leader, and Mr Brown is the SEND governor, this means he is lead governor for special needs in the school.

Along with the other governors they make decisions about the school budget and act as a critical friend of Mrs Ward.

All classes enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the role governors' play and to ask questions.

Fund raising

Thank you for your continued support with our range of fund raising activities over the year, your donations are very much appreciated and support several charities and the academy. The pupils enjoy making decisions via their Class Councillors, Top Team and Eco Councillors as to how some of the money is spent. £180 was raised by the School Council on their recent non-uniform day. Our stall at the gala raised £260.

You may have noticed that the process of clearing the academy garden has begun. Money raised through events organised by The Friends of Bell Lane P.T.A is paying for this much needed renovation, with the local council and staff from Sodexo Ground Maintenance volunteering their services for free to carry out the work. We are currently collecting 2 litre, straight sided empty pop bottles (lids and labels removed please) to build a greenhouse!

Peri music lessons



Unfortunately, the academy will no longer be able to offer drum lessons from September. This is due to the increasing number of pupils in the academy meaning that one of our shared areas will be used daily as a dedicated teaching space. Storage space will also become increasingly limited due to the reorganisation needed on the conversion of our computing room in to a classroom. All other peri-music sessions will continue, with additional recorder lessons being provided for all our Year 2 children during the Summer term 2018 as part of their music curriculum. The recorder lessons are being paid for by the academy.

Attendance

Although the academy generally maintains at least good overall attendance, holidays taken during term time are impacting on our overall attendance. Extended periods of absence from the academy during term time can have a negative impact on a pupil's progress and key areas of learning can be missed. Please note that the academy attendance policy is based on government guidelines. Our policy is available on our website or from the academy office.

The overall attendance for last half term was 96.5% with Class 6P winning the best class attendance award with 98.5%.

INSET days

For the next academic year, the academy will be closed on the following days for staff training: Friday 20th October 2017, Friday 22nd December 2017, Friday 2nd February 2018, Monday 23rd July 2018 and Tuesday 24th July 2018.

PE and Sport

Following our success last year in achieving the Silver Sportsmark award as part of the Sainsbury's School Games initiative, we are now going for gold! The result of our application will be known before the end of the academic year. This will be further evidence of our effective spending of the PE funding and our success in supporting children in developing active lifestyles. We are also pleased to announce that our Tri-Golf team won a local schools tournament and as a result have the chance to represent the Wakefield area at the West Yorkshire Games which is held at Leeds Beckett University in July.



Dates for Spring and Summer Terms 2016-17

(Please note that there may be additional events to those below and more detailed information will be sent out for specific events)

Friday 30th June – Eco Council 'Go Green' non-uniform Day (£1.00)

Tuesday 4th July – Morning Nursery visit to White Post Farm

Tuesday 4th July – Y6 session on drug/alcohol abuse with P.C Blunt

Tuesday 11th July – Afternoon Nursery visit to White Post Farm

Wednesday 12th July (6:30pm) - KS2 PANTO

Thursday 13th July (am) - Transition morning for children in new classes

Thursday 13th July (1:30pm) School Games Afternoon (postponed from earlier date)

Thursday 13th July (6:30pm) - KS2 PANTO

Friday 14th July (am) – Y6 Bowling treat at Xscape

Friday 14th July (pm) - Y6 workshop with P.C. Blunt on preparing for transition to high school

Friday 14th July – Reports out to parents

Monday 17th July - NURSERY CLOSED all week for reorganisation

Wednesday 19th July – Winning House Team Treat

Thursday 20th July – Investors in pupils review

Thursday 20th July - Thank you picnic for Top Team children

Thursday 20th July (6:30 – 8:00pm) End of year DISCO (No thin heels, mobile phones or cameras thank you)

Friday 21st July – Last day of this academic year.

Next academic year starts on Monday 4th September.