

Bankfields Primary School



**Be happy
Be successful
Be proud
Be Bankfields**



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Headteacher: Mrs P Petrie

January 2017

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Sainsbury's are launching their Active Voucher scheme again. A voucher is given for every £5 spent in store. We use these vouchers to get new PE equipment and play equipment for break times, so we would be very grateful if you would collect on our behalf. Thank you.

Site Security

In our efforts to further improve our site security, we have placed a member of staff on each entrance gate. This is to ensure that all children are safe once on the site and no child is able to leave the premises once their parents have left.

During February half term, we have arranged for a perimeter fence to be fitted along the edge of the school field. This is to prevent any member of the public that enters the school site, from gaining access to children at break and lunchtimes. It is also to create a barrier between the field and the road as deliveries often occur during break times. Can I please reassure parents that there have been no concerns regarding the safety of our school or any of the children, but is simply a measure to increase our security and to prevent any potentially hazardous incidents from occurring.

Attendance

Unfortunately, we have had a significant dip in children's attendance across school. At the end of last year, the school fell into the bottom 10% of schools nationally for the number of persistent absences (those who have an attendance of below 90%). This is obviously a huge concern for the school and we must take swift action to improve this. We understand that many absences are genuine and due to illness and this cannot be helped. However, there have been many incidents that have been unnecessary and we urge our parents to support the school in ensuring our attendance improves. Poor attendance can have a significant negative impact on the progress of children and the overall success of the school and undermines the hard work and dedication of the children and staff.

All parents of children whose attendance falls below 90% will be contacted by the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer and all those who fall below 95% will be contacted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss how we can support in improving attendance. The Government's minimum attendance target set for schools is 96% and this is something I hope we can all work together to achieve. Many thanks for your support in this vital matter.

January's Events

January has been a very busy month for our Reception children who have visited all the shops in Eston to see what they sell and experience purchasing items from each shop. They have also visited Tom's café to experience selecting from a menu, being served their order, paying their bill and gaining a receipt. The children have visited Tesco and spent time observing how they prepare and cook the food. All reception children have received 'balanceability' training to support them in riding bikes safely.

Our Y5/6 children have received visits from the NSPCC and attended workshops to help them 'speak out and stay safe'. This is to support our children to recognise when other people behave in an inappropriate manner and where they can go to get support.

Some of our older children have been carrying out a project with Durham University arranged through the Aspire Learning Partnership. They have attended seminars, workshops and completed written assignments. On Wednesday 25th January, the children attended a graduation ceremony where they were rewarded for their dedication and hard work. All children graduated with either a 2:1 or a first classification and we are all very proud of them.

We have continued to enjoy a large number of sporting events and competitions this month such as: a swimming gala, football tournament and table tennis competition and our children have performed extremely well. We were delighted to be presented with our Silver Active Sports Award' on Friday 6th January which is currently displayed in the entrance.

We would like to offer our huge congratulations to one of our Y6 Table Tennis champions Katie Bates who has been selected for the England squad. She will represent the nation in April. Well done Katie, we all wish you the very best of luck.

We have enjoyed a number of very successful family learning events during January. Please see our website for a list and dates of all family learning activities for the year, as well as all the extracurricular clubs that are on offer.

Collection of Children

We have a large number of children being collected from school and after school clubs late, often up to 25 minutes and without any explanation. We understand that occasionally emergencies occur and this is unavoidable. However, we are unable to leave children in the entrance as reception staff are very busy and unable to supervise the children, and teaching staff are either attending meetings, running after school clubs or carrying out their other daily duties.

Therefore, if children are not collected by 3.25 or within 10 minutes of the end of extracurricular clubs, they will be placed in after school club where they will receive adequate supervision, but parents will be charged for this provision. Please ensure that you arrive promptly to collect your child or contact the office as soon as possible if you have an emergency that makes you unavoidably late. Many thanks.

Outdoor Learning

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Anthony Kelly from 'Lonza Wood Protection' for the very generous donation of 8 picnic benches to refurbish our outdoor learning areas. This has resulted in a huge saving to the school and means that our children can begin to enjoy our recently developed outdoor teaching areas as soon as the weather permits. We are extremely grateful and will ensure that our children are able to take full advantage of this facility.

School Photographer

On Monday 6th February, the school photographer will be visiting to take year group pictures of our Reception and Year 6 children. If you would like to purchase any of the photographs, please bring your completed order form to the main reception where you will be provided with a receipt.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 31 st January	Governor 'drop in' session for parents
Monday 6 th February	School Photographer – Reception & Y6
Friday 10 th February	School closes for half term
Monday 20 th February	Children return to school
Tuesday 28 th February	5 Year Old Oral Health Survey
Monday 13 th & Tuesday 14 th March	Consultation Evenings

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