

July 2021 Newsletter

We have almost reached the end of an incredibly busy year, and school closes for the summer on **Friday 16th July**. Despite the challenges that our pupils have faced due to COVID over the last 17 months, they continue to amaze us each day with their resilience and achievements. We know that the pandemic has been a very difficult time for so many of our families and members of staff too, and we hope that the summer will give everyone the chance to have a break and spend time with family.

PE Kits

Over the last year, the children have been coming into school on PE days wearing their kit. Although this was put in place as part of our COVID risk assessments, we have found this to be really successful as everyone has been able to fully participate in PE lessons because there have been no incidents of children forgetting their PE kit. Also, PE lessons are able to start promptly as we are not having to wait for children to get changed. Therefore, we are going to continue with this provision in September, so your child should come to school on their PE day wearing their kit. If your child would like to bring a spare t-shirt to change into after their PE lesson for hygiene reasons, they are welcome to do so. PE days will be confirmed by the Team Leader in each phase of school.

Start and Finish Times

We anticipate that start and finish times will return to normal in September, with all pupils starting school at 8:50am and finishing at 3:15pm with the exception of Nursery. If there are any changes to this during the summer holidays following government announcements, we will inform you as soon as possible.

Lifting of Restrictions

In September, we also anticipate that the current COVID measures that we have in place, such as the bubble system, will no longer be required as we move towards a more 'normal' routine. We will continue to maintain high levels of hygiene throughout the school day, but the children will not be limited to only mixing with their bubble. Again, if there are any further updates, we will keep you fully informed.

Robinwood Residential

Our annual residential visit to Robinwood Activity Centre is taking place from Monday 6th to Wednesday 8th September 2021. We have the highest ever number of children attending this year which is fantastic, and we hope that they all have a brilliant time. For any children who are thinking that they might like to attend in 2022, further information will be sent out next term.

What Have the Children Been Doing This Term?

The children have all been very busy this term, but below we have detailed just some of the exciting things they have been doing in school.

- This term Nursery's theme has been 'How many colours are in a rainbow?' They have been painting their own rainbows, colour mixing and identifying different colours on a Nature walk.

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- In Reception, the topic has been 'Minibeasts' and the children have had live caterpillars in school. Recently, the Reception children got to go on their first school trip and had a really exciting day at the farm 'Big Sheep Little Cow'.
- Year 1 have been learning about dinosaurs, including history lessons about fossils, Mary Anning and extinction theories. They have been writing reports and inventing stories about dinosaurs and science has included learning about dinosaur teeth, carnivore and herbivores, plants and seasons.
- In Year 2 their topic is 'Technology Through Time'. The children had the opportunity to handle a wide range of old technology and had to try to identify what the object is and how it was used.
- Year 3 have been studying the history of Eston and the ironstone mines. They went on a historical trail around Eston led by our resident expert, Mrs Forde!
- The Year 4 children recently visited Beamish as part of their history topic about the Victorian era. This was the first trip to take place at Bankfields since the pandemic, so the children and staff were very excited about this.
- This term Year 5 and 6 have been learning about the Tudors in history where they have investigated the reasons why Henry VIII had so many wives!
- The Y6 children took part in the Virgin Money Enterprise event via Zoom, where they learnt about the importance of budgeting and saving for the future. They also had the opportunity to attend their Year 6 Leavers' visit to The Forbidden Corner and are looking forward to a Celebration Event day to end the term.

Farewell

As we approach the end of the school year, we say farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children, and we wish them all the very best as they move onto the next exciting stage of their lives in secondary school. We look forward to hearing about all of their fantastic achievements in the future.

At the end of the year, we also say goodbye to Mrs Barker, our specialist art teacher, who is retiring after many years of working with the children of Bankfields Primary School. We will all be very sad to see her leave as she has had such a positive impact on our children and the art provision across our school. Everyone at Bankfields wishes her the very best for her retirement!

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1 st September 2021	PD Day – School closed for children.
Thursday 2 nd September 2021	School reopens – all children return.
Monday 6 th - Wednesday 9 th September 2021	Robinwood Residential Visit.
Friday 22 nd October 2021	PD Day – School closed for children.

Be happy. Be successful. Be proud. Be Bankfields

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