

Bankfields Primary School



Be happy
Be successful
Be proud
Be Bankfields



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December 2021 Newsletter

It has been a very busy half term and the children have all worked incredibly hard. They continue to impress us every day with their love of learning, excellent learning behaviour and the progress they are making. The support from parents and carers is a key part of this and we are grateful for your continuing support. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our staff. Despite a number of illnesses this half term, they continue to do their very best every day for your children.

Christmas Performances

Although we are not able to invite parents and carers into school this year to watch our Christmas shows, the children have all still been working hard in their year groups to put a performance together. A link to the recording of your child's performance will be sent home via ParentMail by the end of the day on Wednesday 15th December. All children will be given a cone of sweets to take home with them to enjoy whilst you watch the performance together. We are hoping that things will look very different as we move into the New Year and that we will be able to share these wonderful events live with you all again. We thank you for your understanding and support in the meantime with the restrictions that have been implemented to keep our school community safe.

Attendance

Our whole-school attendance is currently 94.4%. The government target is 96% for all pupils. Our school staff are always here to support good school attendance and we ask that parents and carers always remember to notify school on a morning if your child is going to be absent in line with our attendance policy.

Queries

We are happy to respond to any questions or queries sent to school via Facebook or email as additional methods of communication, however, we are finding that responding is taking quite a lot of staff time outside of working hours. Therefore, going forward, staff will respond to questions and queries on weekdays only during working hours, so please bear with us if you are awaiting a response. We will always ensure we reply. If you need to get a message to school quickly, please make contact by phone.

Farewell

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Mrs Stevenson, our Nursery teacher, as she leaves Bankfields Primary School to spend more time with her family. We wish her all the very best for the future and thank her for her hard work and commitment to Bankfields. Mrs Tilling will be taking on the role of Nursery teacher from January 2022.

Dogs

Please could we remind parents that dogs cannot be brought onto the school premises at any time.

What Have the Children Been Doing This Term?

- Our Reception children have been learning about Autumn. They went on a walk to Flatts Lane and looked for signs of Autumn. During the visit, they collected natural materials and used them to create sculptures inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy. Reception also received a letter from the Gruffalo, inviting them to his birthday party and the children had fun when he visited us at school!
- In Year 1, the children have been learning about the United Kingdom. They have learnt the names of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and learnt some interesting facts about each country. In History, they have learnt about the 'Great Fire of London' and Samuel Pepys who witnessed the event and recorded it in a diary.
- In Year 2 the children have been learning more about famous explorers and in science they have been learning about materials. As part of their RE work, a vicar from a local church visited school to work with the Year 2 children and deepen their knowledge and understanding.
- Our Year 3 children have continued with their Stone Age topic in history whilst the Year 4 children completed their Mountains topic before moving onto the Anglo Saxons in history. Our Year 4 children were fortunate to be able to work with Mr Stogdale from Spark Aspiration Tees Valley to create virtual Christmas cards, thinking carefully about the audience and purpose of their product.
- The Year 5 and 6 children have been engaging in a range of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges this term and staff were very impressed with their ideas presented for reducing our carbon footprint using the internet. Twelve children from UKS2 have been selected to complete a STEM mentoring course so that they can be STEM ambassadors in school.
- As part of our Careers Curriculum, children are taking part in the Skills Builder project that looks at teaching and securing the eight vital skills needed for a successful working life in the future. This term's focus has been on understanding the importance of listening and we have completed a range of short exercises to sharpen our listening skills.

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

