



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

Autumn Newsletter October 2023

STEEL RIVER

A C A D E M Y T R U S T

Back to School

It's been a busy term so far and the children have been working hard. We've had lots of exciting trips, events and visitors taking place already this year.

Key Dates for Autumn Term 2023

- Friday 27th October - school closes for the half term break.
- Monday 6th November - all children return to school.
- Friday 17th November - Children in Need Fundraising Day - children can come to school in spotty or Pudsey themed clothing.
- Friday 8th December - Christmas Market at 2pm.
- Tuesday 5th December - Nursery Carols around the Tree.
- Tuesday 12th December - Reception Nativity.
- Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Lunch
- Friday 15th December - KS1 Christmas Production.
- Thursday 21st December KS2 Christmas Production
- Friday 22nd December - PD Day (School closed to all children).



- Year 2 have enjoyed a trip to Captain Cook's Museum.
- Year 6 learnt more about World War II during their visit to Eden Camp.
- We had a number of children who participated in the Redcar and Eston Cross Country Competition, showing great stamina and determination. 12 of our pupils at Bankfields even qualified for the final, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part.
- Our Year 5 and 6 football team competed in a tournament last week and qualified to represent Redcar and Eston at the Tees Valley County Finals on Friday 20th October! We are so proud of the amazing team work and sportsmanship that they displayed and wish them the very best of luck in the final.
- Family learning events have already taken place for some teams across school, and these are planned in for every year group each term. This gives parents and carers the opportunity to come into school to share your children's learning and see what we have been doing in school.
- The Year 3 children have been learning all about Road Safety as part of their Pedestrian Training.
- Reception have enjoyed Balance Bike training which was arranged by the School Sports Partnership.
- Our annual Robinwood Residential is taking place at the moment and the children are all having a fantastic time!

We have trips and visitors planned for every year group during the year, as we know how important these experiences are for our pupils and how it supports their learning. We are always looking for ways to improve the opportunities we offer the children too.

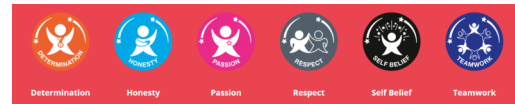
After School Clubs

In addition to the clubs our staff offer after-school, we have also been fortunate to be granted funding to increase our offer for after-

school sporting opportunities. We are incredibly grateful to the School Sports Partnership for arranging this with us and are really excited about the new opportunities we have for the children. We have the benefit of professional coaches coming into school this year to deliver Martial Arts, Dance and Yoga to children across the age ranges. I'd like to thank all of our staff who have committed their time after school to supporting these extra-curricular activities too.

We have lots of other extra-curricular activities on offer this year including Drama, Design and Technology, Gardening, Headstart (Mental Health and Wellbeing), Travel Guide Creation Club (Geography), Sewing, Invasion Games and Basketball.

We also have a rackets club (Rackets Cubed) running in Upper School which not only offers table tennis coaching, but also the opportunity to participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities as well as having a hot meal provided free of charge at the end of the session too! We are grateful to the Rackets Cubed project for providing this opportunity for our pupils.



PE Kits

We have continued to ask children to come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days as this has made things much easier for the children. However, we do encourage children to wear a plain white or Bankfields blue t-shirt and plain shorts or jogging bottoms for PE where possible. Please can I remind all parents and carers that children should not wear any strappy, sleeveless or cropped tops for PE days.

Social Media

We always encourage parents and carers to speak to us directly at school if you have any concerns or queries. We ask that parents do not discuss members of staff or post information about them on social media as this is not an appropriate way of raising any concerns that you may have. When we are made aware of such posts, it can be very upsetting for individual staff members who all work incredibly hard. All staff have the right to be respected in their role, and to have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have in person. This information is covered by our Parents, Carers and Visitors' Code of Conduct which is on our school website.

Bikes and Scooters

Please can I remind all parents and carers that we do not allow any bikes or scooters to be ridden on school premises, particularly e-scooters. Riding these on school grounds is incredibly dangerous and could lead to the serious injury of a child or adult.

Staffing Changes

As you are aware, Mrs Petrie is stepping down from her role as Headteacher at Bankfields at the end of this half term to move into her new role of Co-CEO of Steel River Academy Trust. We wish her every success in her new role. She will be greatly missed here as Headteacher at Bankfields and we are incredibly grateful for all that she has brought to the school during her many years here. However, we are pleased that she will still be working closely with us through her role in the Trust.

Mr Sidgwick, our PE teacher, is also sadly leaving Bankfields in December, at the end of term. We are so grateful to Mr Sidgwick for the commitment he has brought to enhancing sport and PE across our school and the opportunities that he has provided for our pupils.

Attendance

Our staff have been working really hard to promote good school attendance. We have a number of things in place to promote good attendance (see below) and encourage you to speak to us at the earliest opportunity if you need any support with ensuring your child attends school every day.

Weekly:

- Name generator wheel and prize draw in our Monday assembly for all of the children who had 100% attendance in the previous week.
- The class with the best attendance for the week are rewarded with an extra playtime.
- 'Beat the clock' sticker chart used in classes to encourage children to be in school on time.
- 'Every Day Counts' slips sent home to children at risk of becoming persistently absent.

Termly:

- Children who have 100% attendance for the term receive a certificate in assembly.
- Children who have **significantly improved** their attendance from the previous term are awarded with a certificate in assembly.
- Children who have excellent attendance (above 97%) for the term receive a certificate in assembly.

Yearly:

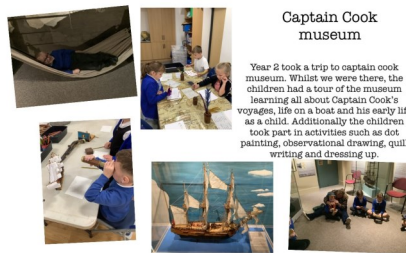
- If a child has 100% attendance for the whole school year, they are rewarded with a trip to Hollywood Bowl and an end of year 100% attendance certificate.

When needed:

- Daily phone calls are made by the office staff for children who are not in school if absence has not been reported by parents or carers.
- Home visits are conducted when needed.
- School will always offer support to families if needed to improve school attendance.
- Supportive attendance meetings are held when needed with our Educational Welfare Officer.

We are pleased to say that our whole school attendance has continued to improve since the beginning of the school year and is currently 94.4%. However, we want to keep the government target of 96%.

on improving and get this much closer to target.



Captain Cook museum

Year 2 took a trip to captain cook museum. Whilst we were there, the children had a tour of the museum learning all about Captain Cook's voyages, life on a boat and his early life as a child. Additionally the children took part in activities such as dot painting, observational drawing, quill writing and dressing up.



PIC-COLLAGE



School closes for the half term break on Friday 27th October and re-opens on Monday 6th November.