



Be happy
Be successful
Be proud
Be Bankfields

Key Dates for term:

- Monday 6th January 2025 - PD Day. School closed to all children.
- Friday 21st February - school closes for the half term break.
- Thursday 6th March - World Book Day.
- Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th March - Parent Consultation Evening.
- 10th April - Easter Bingo.
- 11th April - school closes for the Easter Holidays.



December 2024 Newsletter

It's been a half term filled with lots of new learning, shows, parties, charity events and much more. Thank you for all of your support over this busy half term!

PD Day

We would like to remind all parents and carers that school is closed to pupils on Monday 6th January 2025 as this is a training day for all staff. The children return to school on Tuesday 7th January.

OPAL

We're excited to announce that the first of our new OPAL Play Zones will be opening after Christmas so that the children will be able to enjoy playing together across year groups each lunch time. Thank you to all parents and carers who completed our play survey. We have tried to incorporate lots of your suggestions about how we can improve playtimes for your children. The new play zones that will open after Christmas include:

- A brand new mud kitchen - aprons included!
- A wheels zone (where children can use scooters and go-karts).
- A balance and movement zone where children will have access to skips, space hoppers, sit on scooters, ankle skips, the bars and much more.
- A ball games zone - where the children can continue to play football and basketball, even in the winter months.
- Trim trail - where children can balance and climb as they work their way across the activities.
- Showtime Zone- where the children can listen to music, dress up and create performances and dances with their friends.
- Arts, crafts and games zone - where children can play giant connect 4, Jenga, build Lego or use the arts and crafts materials.
- Willow maze and den building zone - children will be able to explore these areas and enjoy running around the willow maze or building dens under the trees. **The children will require their wellies in this zone during the winter months.**

We would like to offer our thanks to the Woodsmith Foundation who kindly supported school in our development of outdoor play by giving school a grant of £1000.



STEEL RIVER ACADEMY TRUST

We are also incredibly grateful to the Teesside Charity who gave us a generous grant of £2429 towards our development of Outdoor Play and Learning too. Without these generous donations, it would not have been possible for us to develop as many play zones as we have in such a short space of time. As the year progresses, we hope to add further play zones for the children to explore.

Christmas Market

Thank you to all parents and carers who supported our Christmas Market - we raised an incredible £1325.82 which we will be using towards our trips and visits for all of our children over the next year.

Attendance

I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for trying their hardest to get your children into school each day. I know that this has been challenging at times, as there have been so many illnesses circulating over the last few weeks. However, despite that, our weekly school attendance was 95% last week, and that is well above the national average of 92.7%. If you ever need any advice or support around attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our school office as we want to work together to support you and your family.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who completed the parent survey during our recent consultation evening. These are currently being reviewed so that we can respond to any feedback. If you did not get chance to complete a survey and would like to, please collect one from the main office.

Merry Christmas!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and hope that you have a good break together. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year when the children return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025!

