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Key dates:

- ❖ Christmas fayre & family afternoon
Thursday 20th
December
1.30 – 2.50pm
- ❖ Half day closing
Friday 21st December
(school finishes for pupils at 12.10)
- ❖ Return to school on
Monday 7th January
2018

Brackenfield News



Message from the Headteacher

What a busy half term it has been! The children have been looking at the theme of Around the World and have now moved on to Habitats and Homes as of the beginning of December. As always all learning is planned to meet the young people’s functional needs and you will see in the class updates some of the exciting activities they have been undertaking.

Since our previous newsletter- the Playground surface adjacent to the Communicate and Comprehend Pathways has been dug up and re-laid. This has made this area a more usable space for our children with accessibility needs. We must leave it for a few weeks for the surface to settle and will then be adding markings and resources to support the children’s play and learning.

All the children have been involved with getting the school ready for Christmas, they have all contributed by choosing and hanging a bauble on our tree in reception. We are really excited for the Christmas Family Afternoon which is taking place on Thursday 20th and we are looking forward to you joining the children and staff to celebrate the end of a fun packed year.

I would like to welcome back Miss Batten- Holdway from maternity leave and say a fond farewell to Mrs Sohel who has been Acting Deputy Head this year. She has worked to support all our staff and students, not to mention leading the designing and installation of our two hi-tech sensory environments which are benefiting all our young people on a daily basis. She will be relocating up north later on in the new year with her husband to take on further professional challenges. We wish them both the very best.

That just leaves me to wish you all a restful break over the holiday period. Thank you for your ongoing support this year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2019!

Trish Turner

In this issue:

- Message from the Head Teacher
- School news
- Wage slip winners
- Coming soon
- News from Communicate
- News from Comprehend
- News from Decode
- Staffing



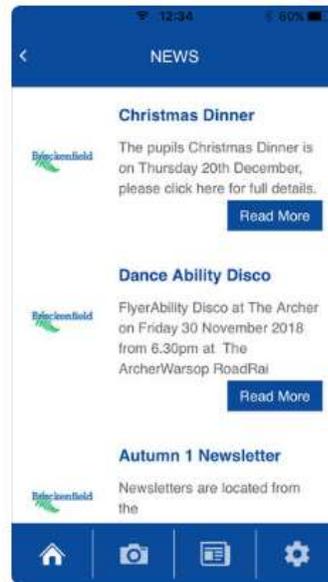


School News

The Year 10 and 11 students that have attended Derby College since September are working really hard and most of them are well on track to achieve their Entry 3 City and Guilds qualification in the summer. Next term they will be participating in painting and decorating. Paint brushes ready!



We now have our very own Brackenfield smart phone app! You can download it for free in the app store or by visiting our website at <http://www.brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk> The smart phone app is an easy way to stay up to date with all the latest news, events, galleries, newsletters and more.



“Pop Up” Wage Slip shop



The "pop Up" Shop returned this term and the children were able to cash in their wage slips. There were various items for the children to choose from and the shop supports them with their numeracy and understanding of money as well as the process of shopping. The children did not

have to spend all their wage slips and were able to buy multiple items as long as they didn't exceed their total. Children were allowed to take their purchased items home and they are now for them to keep. Enjoy!



Wage Slip Award Winners- Autumn 2

<p style="text-align: center;">Bronze</p> <p>This means you have been awarded 25 wage slips!</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">COMMUNICATE:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">COMPREHEND: Jenson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DECODE:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	COMMUNICATE:	COMPREHEND: Jenson	DECODE:		<p style="text-align: center;">Silver</p> <p>This means you have been awarded 50 wage slips!</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">COMMUNICATE:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">COMPREHEND: Dean Arim Seth Alex Elliot Kyle Raymond Matthew P Malachy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DECODE:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	COMMUNICATE:	COMPREHEND: Dean Arim Seth Alex Elliot Kyle Raymond Matthew P Malachy	DECODE:	
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<p style="text-align: center;">Gold</p> <p>This means you have been awarded 75 wage slips!</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">COMMUNICATE:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">COMPREHEND:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DECODE: David Grace Carter</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	COMMUNICATE:	COMPREHEND:	DECODE: David Grace Carter		<p style="text-align: center;">Platinum</p> <p>This means you have been awarded 100 wage slips and had lunch with the Head Teacher!</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">COMMUNICATE:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">COMPREHEND:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DECODE:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	COMMUNICATE:	COMPREHEND:	DECODE:	
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Communicate:

Yew Class

A brilliant half term in Yew class. We have focussed on social engagement with other peers and on a 1; 1 basis. Embedding communication using symbols. During PE all the students have enjoyed exploring the climbing equipment. We have spent time in the sensory room using the new immersive software and particularly liked the winter theme.

Acorns Class

It's been a fantastic half term in Acorns class. We have been enjoying what's in the bucket and taking part in lots of sensory art. During these sessions we have been encouraging the students to make marks and be as creative as they want and they have produced some fantastic work. As part of our topic All around the world we have been looking at Christmas and how is it celebrated. All the students in Acorn class have tried really hard in all their lessons to use signs and words to communicate and learning to share and take turns. Great job!

Willow Class



Willow class have had a fantastic half term, we have really enjoyed our daily bucket sessions where we have been exploring our creative sides and learning to communicate through fun and stimulating experiences.

We have done some work this half-term on keeping ourselves safe in the community. As well as our weekly trip to the fruit shop and library we have been taking walks around the local area and practising crossing the road using the green cross code.

We have been cooking a variety of food from around the world and also some simple classics. One of the class favourites was beans on toast where we mostly created our snack independently. Well done Willow class.

Comprehend:

Elm Class

It has been an exciting half term in Elm. Pupils have enjoyed our topic 'Around the World' and the start of our new topic 'Habitats and Homes.' Within English lessons we have read stories from around the world and looked at different story settings. Pupils have predicted what will happen in the story and used descriptive language to describe the setting.

In maths pupils have been learning about money and the different coin values. They particularly enjoyed role playing shops and taking on the role of the



shopkeeper and a customer. They used coins to make amounts to buy items from the shop.

As part of our Community Participation lessons pupils went for a walk around the local area looking at different features. Whilst on our walk we found a post box to post our letters to Santa.

We have also learnt about different religious festivals including Diwali and Hanukkah. We created Diva lamps using salt dough and made hand print Menorahs.

As part of our Independent Living lessons we have been learning about personal hygiene focussing on washing hands, brushing teeth and dressing independently. Pupils have sequenced steps for washing hands, brushing teeth and dressing themselves. During Expressive Arts lessons pupils have used

musical instruments to play alongside different types of music. They have also created dance sequences to move in time with different musical rhythms and beats.

Conkers Class

Conkers class have enjoyed a very busy half term. Our around us looking at food, around our planet. students have worked out the how much it costs shopping from the making an Indian inspired toasted

Our topic research took us through History looking at the world wars and Remembrance Day, we visited the Cenotaph in Long Eaton and a war exhibition at the Erewash Museum.



We have learned lots about life in the trenches, and read stories about evacuees.

In employment lessons we visited local shops and spoke to business owners, they gave us lots of tips on how to set up our own small enterprise. Together with Beech class conkers had a fabulous visit to the Guildhall Theatre Derby to watch The Dinosaur who came for Christmas.

We have had a wonderful half term and are now ready for Christmas.



enjoyed a very busy half the world topic has had festivals and cultures In Healthy Living, the found their own recipes; ingredients we need, and before fetching the local store. We loved curry and Scandinavian sandwiches.



Ash Class

It has been a practical term for Ash class, as we continue to complete components towards our AIM Awards. Our topic has been 'around the world', which gave us and reason to cook up some tasty treats including pitta bread pizzas, vegetarian fajitas, and meatballs.

We have been learning about remembrance day, and how to honour the 100 years Armistice, Ash class have created a collection of poppy artwork to commemorate this.

The class has made fantastic progress in their core skill subjects. In Maths we have been improving multiplication skills, and recognising numbers in different styles. In English the focus has been writing accurately, including handwriting and spelling. We have continued our measuring module in Science, focusing this term on different ways we can measure weight.



Ash class has been participating in weekly badminton lessons, and have been playing a range of singles and doubles matches, forming their own friendly championship. It has been great to see students' skills developing each week, and students are setting their own targets weekly. In the run up to Christmas, Ash have been creating

their own decorations for the classroom, and painting their own glass candle jars to sell at the Christmas Fayre, to help raise money for the school. We wish all students and families a fantastic holiday, and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Decode:

Rowan Class

During independent living sessions we have been planning a meal, visiting the local shop and following instructions to cook a range of simple meals. So far we have cooked ham and cheese croissant, sweet and sour chicken and sausage rolls made with handmade pastry.

During PE the class have enjoyed developing their skills in badminton, boxing, pool and table football. We have also played games of boccia and curling and the students are working on taking turns and keeping score.

In maths we have been working on using directions including clockwise and anticlockwise, 90 degrees, forward, left and right to plan a route on a sheet and direct a robot in a game called lightbot. The class have also collected different data and made these into pictograms and bar charts.

In English pupils wrote some fantastic Remembrance Day poems, two of which went onto the wall of excellence – well done Chris and Sinead! We have also been developing our story writing skills and proof reading. Pupils have enjoyed typing some of their work into Communicate in Print in order to support the reading of other pupils.



Oak class

It has been a busy half term for Oak class. We have enjoyed lots of practical lessons in Science, including making our own electrical beat the buzzer games. We have learnt a lot about electricity and have built our own circuits, we then measured how much current went through using a voltmeter.

Oak class have been shocked during our healthy living lessons, when learning about the awful effects of smoking and drinking on the body. We learnt lots of facts such as smoking one cigarette takes eleven minutes off your life.

In PE we have focused on team building skills. This has included playing badminton, bench ball, hungry hippos and mat games. Some pupils made fantastic progress in badminton and challenged each other to many single and double matches.

In art we have been doing pencil sketches and shading. Pupils drew playing cards, animals and we also did 3D drawing using perspective. Pupils produced brilliant pieces of art work, some were put up on the wall of excellence!



Beech Class

It has been an excitable half term in Beech Class as we prepare for Christmas. Beech pupils hosted a fundraising day and made a profit of over 100 Pounds! We have been out in the local community visiting cafes, the library and local supermarkets which has helped with our community participation lessons.

In English we have been working on our creative writing techniques and have produced some excellent work that is being displayed on the Brackenfield wall of excellence.

On Thursday the 12th we went with Conkers to the Guildhall Derby to watch The Dinosaur who came for Christmas. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and joined in with the sing a long at the end.

Staffing:

Goodbyes:

Mrs Kamal Sohel

Welcome:

Mrs Ross – Family Support Worker starting in January

Vacancies:

- PA to the headteacher and clerk to the governors (one role). See the DCC website for more details
- We also require parent governors. If you are interested please contact Mrs Turner for more information.





Other News

Parental Voice

Thank you to all parents who feedback to the school on what the school does well and areas for development.

97% of parents reported that their child is happy and safe at school. 100% of parents felt that they received valuable information about their child's progress and 94% of parents would recommend Brackenfield.

23% of parents reported that they were unsure how the school deals with bullying. Brackenfield School's Anti-Bullying Policy was created through the involvement of the whole school community and we are fully committed to an anti-bullying culture whereby no bullying will be tolerated.

Supporting Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss or express their feelings about the experience with their teacher or a member of staff of their choice
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence as appropriate to the pupil's needs
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened and establishing the concern and the need to change
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child
- Providing appropriate education and support
- If online, requesting content be removed and reporting account/content to service provider
- The opportunity for restorative justice or peer mentoring as appropriate
- Sanctioning in line with school behaviour/discipline policy as appropriate. This may include official warnings, detentions, removal of privileges, fixed-term and permanent exclusions.
- Speaking with police or local services

If you require further information about Anti-Bullying please email Jessica Lacey (Deputy Headteacher) on jlacey@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents.

Previously Looked After Children

It is coming to the time of year when we complete our census. In order to ensure we receive all funding entitlements for pupils at Brackenfield please let the office know if your child was Previously Looked After. If you require more information about whether your child falls into this category please contact Jessica Lacey (Designated Teacher for LAC) jlacey@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk.