



NORBRIGGS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Spring 1, Week 6
Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a term!

I remember writing to you and saying that this term had the least distractions, which means the children can focus on their work and make the most progress.

How wrong I was!!

In the last 5 weeks the children have:

- Year 5 have had weekly swimming lessons.
- Year 2 and Year 4 have been perfecting their dance ready for the Dance Festival at the Winding Wheel.
- Breakfast Club was inspected by Environmental Health and received a 5 star rating
- Kitchen was then inspected by Environmental Health and also received a 5 star rating.
- Breakfast club is always well attended with over 40 children most days.
- Children have attended Lego, dodgeball, football and gymnastics after school clubs.
- Year 5 went to Graves Leisure Centre to play dodgeball and ultimate frisby.
- Year 2 had a space day. They all came dressed in the most amazing space suits and alien costumes.
- Year 4 performed a concert to parents on their trumpets and trombones.
- Ofsted paid us a visit.
- It snowed heavily and we had to close the school.
- The Reception classroom internal ceiling collapsed due to a leaking roof.
- A group of KS2 children went to Sheffield Arena to sing at Young Voices
- Year 3 invited the parents in to build Roman Catapults.
- Parents Evenings were very well attended, thankyou.

It is only when we write it all down that we realise how many fabulous opportunities the children get and how much we do to develop their all-round skills and ability, with the resources and staffing available to us.

We couldn't do this without your support and the hard work and dedication from the staff.

We also couldn't do this without high expectations of our children. Everywhere we go we are always complimented on how sensible, well behaved and well-mannered the children are.

I know a small minority of you grumble about some of our school policies but I make no apologies for wanting the best for your children.

Thankyou

P. Scragg
Head Teacher

• **Newsletter Subscription**

- If you would like this newsletter to be emailed directly to you please subscribe to Newsletters on the schools website:
- www.norbriggs.derbyshire.sch.uk

Round up of this Half Term

- **Year 4 trumpets and trombone concert**

The Year 4s have only been playing trumpets and trombones since the end of September. They put on a concert for their parents and the rest of school and we were all blown away by how good they were.

In the summer we will take them to Derby Arena to play with the world famous Halle Orchestra. It is an incredible opportunity which I know they will love.

- **Young Voices at Sheffield Arena**

This is one of my favourite events of the year. To sing in a massed choir of 5000 children, in front of an audience of 7000 people, with a live band, dancers, backing singers and full on light and sound is just unbelievable. The children are literally rock stars for the day.

- **Year 3 Roman Catapults**

Last week the hall was full of children and their parents all working together to build Roman Catapults. The concentration was incredible, the atmosphere was tense as the finished items went into battle to see which could fire a marshmallow the furthest.

- **Reception classroom ceiling**

Thankyou to the children, parents and all staff who have been very patient and understanding. The Reception class have been in the hall and learning has carried on. I think the children have enjoyed being in a different space for this short time.

The local authority have promised me that the roof will be removed and replaced so that this does not happen again, however I do not yet have a date for this.

The local authority also said they would fix the immediate problem, which is a split in the waterproof rubber membrane but they need a specialised roofing company to do this. Again no date has been set for this minor repair.

I got fed up of waiting. I need my Reception class back in their own classroom. So, myself, my caretaker and Mr Thompson, under the supervision of Miss Needham, bought some tape designed to seal leaks in rubber roofs and sorted the problem ourselves. We're not allowed to due to working at height policy but sometimes you just need to get the job done. It's a temporary fix but it means the children can get back to normal.

- **Ofsted**

We were expecting a visit from Ofsted but it is always a shock when they come. I am pleased to say that the visit was very positive. There are targets for our further development, which is fine. I am not sure a school can ever be perfect, there are always going to be areas where we can improve.

As soon as the report is published I will send you a copy.



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- **Concerns for the future**

As positive and proud as we are of our school I want to let you know about my concerns for the future.

- The Local Authority is in debt by approx. £39 million. This is as a direct result of government policy. Unfortunately the government have just announced that they intend on cutting public sector funding still further.
- What this means for schools is that there is less funding available for support services and therefore schools have got to find the money out of our own budget.
- If you have a child with Special Educational Needs you will already know that we are constantly battling, often without success, to secure services and funding for individual pupils. School provides a high level of support for SEN children, again from our own budget. Without this support there are a number of children who would not be able to learn effectively or control their behaviour.
- If your child has social, emotional or mental health issues you will know that it is virtually impossible to access services to help your child. School have a pastoral care manager, we have taken a teaching assistant out of class and trained them to deliver emotional literacy activities to younger children. School employ a counsellor to work with KS2 children. All of these have to be found from our school budget.
- We have just learned this week that the Local Authority intend on reducing down their Social Care service to the minimum legal requirement. Again, this means that school will now have to divert resources away from teaching and learning to ensure that children are safe at school and outside of school in the community and the family home.
- As you have seen from my Reception Classroom roof, our building is quickly falling into disrepair due to a lack of investment in public buildings by the Local Authority and the Government. Again this means that we are having to divert resources from teaching and learning to keep our building safe and watertight.

I am genuinely worried about how Government policy is going to impact education.

I do not know how we will continue to offer the same level of education with significantly reduced funding and services.

I am telling you this to let you know the challenges we currently face and how these are going to increase over the next few years.

I spend a lot of my time lobbying the Director of Education at Derbyshire and passing on my concerns. If you have any concerns about the quality of education we provide I suggest you get in touch with your local councillor so that they can keep lobbying government on the impact of their policies on your children.

Week beginning Monday 26th February	
Monday	9am; SEN Festival of Sport at Graves Leisure Centre 1pm; Year 5 swimming at Healthy Living Centre
Tuesday	1pm; Year 4 brass lesson 3.15 – 4.15; Lego Club
Wednesday	Lunchtime dodgeball club 3.15 – 4.15; Football
Thursday	3.15 – 4.15; Gymnastics



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Important Dates

Spring 2024

- **Week beg Mon 19th Feb**
- Mon 26th Feb
- Mon 26th Feb
- Thurs 7th March
- Tues 12th March

- Fri 15th March
- Fri 15th March
- Weds 20th March
- Weds 21st March
- Weds 27th March
- Thurs 28th March
- Thurs 28th March
- **Fri 29th March – Sun 14th Apr**

Summer 2024

- Mon 15th Apr
- Thurs 18th Apr
- Mon 22nd Apr
- Weds 1st May
- **Mon 6th May**
- **Week beg Mon 13th May**

- **Mon 27th May – Sun 2nd June**
- Mon 3rd June
- Week beg Mon 3rd June
- Week beg Mon 10th June
- Mon 17th June
- Tues 18th June
- Tues 25th June
- Weds 26th June
- Thurs 27th June
- Mon 1st July
- Tues 2nd July
- Weds 3rd July
- Week beg Mon 8th July
- Tues 16th July
- Tues 16th July
- Weds 17th July
- Weds 17th July
- Thurs 18th July
- **Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd July**

Autumn 2024

- Weds 4th September
- Thursday 5th September

Half term holiday

Back to school
SEN sports festival at Graves leisure Centre
World Book Day
Year 2 & 4 Dance Festival at The Winding Wheel – please not this date has changed
Comic Relief / Red Nose Day
Year 1 / 2 Animal Day
Football team at Staveley Miners
Governors Award Assembly
KS2 Cross Country
Easter Bonnet parade for Nursery – Y3
KS2 Easter Disco

Easter Holiday

Back to School
Year 4 sports summer at Sheffield Institute of Sport
Year 1 Gymnastics at Graves Leisure Centre
Year 3 Tag Rugby at Chesterfield Panthers Ground

Bank Holiday – School closed

Year 6 SATs week – all Year 6 children must be in school all week, do not book a holiday this week

Half Term Holiday

Back to School
Year 4 multiplication check
Year 1 phonic screen check
Y5 Water Polo at Graves Leisure Centre
Y4 to Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Y3 to Heights of Abraham
Year 4 to play with the Halle Orchestra at Derby Arena
Summer Fair after school
Year 2 & 6 sports summit at Sheffield Institute of Sport
Children visit new classes, Y6 visit secondary school
Y6 second transition day
Sports Week
Year 5 Tag Rugby at Mount St Mary's
Year 6 leavers performance
Year 4 cricket at Mount St Mary's
Year 6 leavers meal
Year 6 Olympics at Mount St Mary's
INSET Days – school closed to children

INSET day – school closed to children

Back to School



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