

# Newsletter - February 2014

## EXCITING NEWS!!

We are delighted to announce that we now have the funding in place to build two new classrooms to replace the aging mobile building. Governors gave the green light at a recent meeting after we had completed the tendering process.



It will now go to the planners at the local authority to gain full planning permission. Subject to all their rules being met, we hope to start the ground works in July with the classrooms being ready for the start of the new school year.

We are yet to set the full timetable for the works but there may be some disruption around the KS2 yard just before we break up, but we will ensure that there is no impact what-so-ever on the learning or health and safety of our children.

We will be in touch with regular updates and news about this exciting development!

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Once again, Ballifield has been chosen to host a group of student teachers who are visiting the UK to see our teaching practices in action.



We will be joined in March by 4 students from University of Georgia in the United States. I'm sure our entire school community will make them feel very welcome.

As well as visiting school, they will get to experience the culture of our city and the surrounding countryside.

## DINNER MONEY AND TRIP PAYMENTS

You may remember in our last letter we said we were looking at an online system for parents to pay for dinners and trips.



We have agreed to take part in a contract with several other local schools which was brokered through the Local Authority. There has been some delay in the rollout but we hope to have the system ready to go after the Easter break.

In the meantime can you please ensure that any outstanding balances for school dinners are cleared by the end of the week.

**Ballifield will close for the half term break on Thursday 20th February at 3.15pm. (Friday is a staff training day)**

**We re-open to children on Monday 3rd March.**

## PTA

Thanks to everyone who supported our fashion show. This event raised over £400.



We would like to thank the PTA for paying for Pandemonium theatre to appear in school with their educational and entertaining show. The Easter fayre takes place on Sunday 6th April between 11am and 1pm.

PTA meet regularly on most Monday evenings and everyone is very welcome to join in.

## BREAKFAST/AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are delighted with the number of children which attend our breakfast club and hope that parents and carers see it as a valuable resource.



We would like to remind parents that Breakfast club does not open until **8.00am** and that children should not be dropped off before this time as there may be no one in the office to open the front door and there is no supervision available in the dining room before this time.

We would be grateful if you could reinforce with your child that due to the gates being unlocked and the site not being secure, we don't allow children outside after their breakfast. However, Mrs Pasley does a 'breakfast warm up' for KS2 in the school hall for **children attending breakfast club only** from 8.30am.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

It's been a busy start to the term, especially for our Y6 pupils who are starting their final preparations for the end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests which will take place week commencing 12th May.

There will also be assessments taking place in other year groups at the same time and throughout the first half of the Summer Term after Easter. It will be important that the children achieve a high attendance as every lesson counts!

I know many of you appreciate early notice of the holidays and training days so please find the calendar for the next academic year on the back of this newsletter. This will also be available on the website

Many thanks for all your support this term.

*Sheila Haigh*