

Newsletter - February 2015

KS2 PLAYGROUND

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we have now finalised the plans for the site of the old mobile classrooms in the KS2 playground and we will be installing a brand new play area for the children.



The area will consist of a high quality trim trail, low ropes course and roll over bars all on a specially designed safety surface.

We would like to thank the PTA who have made a significant contribution to the costs of the installation.

PTA

Thanks to everyone who supported our fashion show. This event raised over £400. The Easter fayre takes place on Sunday 22nd March between 11am and 1pm.



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

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

We hope that you are finding the new online payment system for school dinners useful. We will be rolling this out to the rest of school in the coming months for school trips.



Please note that from Easter we will no longer be able to accept cheques for any payments due to the high processing costs.

If you need a fresh copy of your initial setup password, please ask the school office for a copy.

Ballifield will close for the half term break on Thursday 12th February at 3.15pm. (Friday is a staff training day)

We re-open on Monday 23rd February

EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

We are extremely proud of the range of activities provided for our children after school.



The children have enjoyed Gymnastics, Dance, Cheerleading, Cross Country Running, Art, Science, Basketball and Football to name but a few.

Our Y3/4 gym squad came 2nd in the city heats and have now qualified for the South Yorkshire finals (they narrowly missed first place by 0.1 points!)

PARKING

Can we please remind parents to park considerably when picking up and dropping off children. We have received many complaints from our neighbours regarding blocked drives and restricted access to properties.



The police have asked us to warn parents that due to the number of complaints received they will be stepping up patrols and issuing fines.

Can we also please remind parents not to park or drop children off on the yellow zig-zag lines. They are there for the safety of **ALL** children.

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 11th 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!

We are all looking forward to milder weather. I am sure you will agree that Mr Jenkinson and Mr Andrews did a great job of keeping the pathways safe during the recent cold spell.

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