

WELCOME

The new year has brought some new faces to Ballifield. Mr McLagen has filled the gap left by Mrs Mirza.



Mrs Ingall and Mrs Reid will be combining to cover the absence of Mrs Watkinson who is on adoption leave.

We would also like to welcome Mrs J Bailey as a parent governor as well as all our new starters who joined Foundation 2 in January.

STARTING SCHOOL

You may be aware of recent changes to the dates at which 4 year olds can start full time education in Foundation 2 (Reception).



To summarise, if your child is 4 years old on or after the 1st September 2011 there will be a range of options open to you as to when your child starts full time education.

If you require any further information please feel free to ask any of the staff in our Foundation 1 unit (Nursery) or call in at the school office.

Notifications as to which school you have been allocated are currently being processed by Primary admissions. Parents should receive notification of the allocated school by Easter.

REMINDER - COUNT ME IN

We would like to remind parents of this government Initiative. For one year only we have a pot of money to help pupils who have free school meals to take part in enrichment activities.



£160 is available to each eligible pupil. This can be used for various sports and activities but it must be spent by the 31st August.

If you require any further information, if you have misplaced the paperwork, or if you have only just been granted free meals, please call at the office who will be happy to help you.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

These dates may not be on your calendar sent out earlier in the school year. These extra days are:



Fri 29th Apr - Public Holiday (Royal Wedding)
Fri 27th May - Staff Training Day (Additional Curriculum Training)

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING and PTA

We are delighted to announce that the Christmas raffle raised an enormous £849.73 even though the Fayre was cancelled due to the snow at the beginning of December.



We are in the final stages of getting the Ballifield Parent Teacher Association up and running. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will be inviting you all to join us at our 1st official meeting here at Ballifield School.

Every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA when their child starts at school. With your help and support we hope to build on the huge success we have already achieved with our fund raising events and other social events.

Ballifield PTA is for everyone, we look forward to meeting you at our next meeting. Further details will follow shortly.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

The start of a New Year is always a busy time in school as we continue the hard work in preparation for SAT Tests as well as looking forward to the residential visits to Caythorpe.

We achieved excellent SATS results last year, climbing to an amazing 11th out of 144 in the local league tables, and in the top 13% nationally. I know everyone is keen to do even better this year. We know you will support your children especially in making sure that they achieve full attendance this term.

Thank you for your responses to the educational visits consultation. We have collated all the results which are on the back of this letter. We are currently designing a new exciting curriculum. If any parents would like to be part of a working party to 'weave in' suitable visits, please contact Mr Clayton in Y5.

Sheila Haigh