

Talbot Primary School Newsletter



February 2017



Ready, steady...



...off we go!



...and the winner is...



KS1 pupils using new playground equipment



KS2 outdoor classroom is nearly complete

Dear Parent/Carer,

With Christmas a distant memory, the pupils are enjoying their new Creative Curriculum topics: The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch (**Reception**), Barnaby Bear: 'Adventures Around the World' (**Year 1**), 'Where will Mr Ben travel next?' (**Year 2**), 'Should Talbot open a pizza shop in Street Lane?' (**Year 3**), 'Anglo Saxons and Viking Invaders' (**Year 4**), 'Rivers and Mountains' (**Year 5**) and 'Lines Around the World' (**Year 6**).

We have been taking a close look at our Creative Curriculum topics throughout January – checking planning, observing lessons, looking at books and talking to the children about them. As a school leader, it was very satisfying to learn that the Creative Curriculum approach is popular with pupils of all ages. Linking subjects together into interesting and coherent topics both motivates and helps contextualise the new learning. For the overwhelming majority of pupils, they also enjoy extending their knowledge through home learning – there are some incredible Learning Logs throughout school every term.

The new year has also led to a new fitness craze in Reception. Most mornings, straight after registration, the 90 Reception pupils and their teachers run a complete circuit of the school grounds. This energetic start to the day helps get the circulation going and prepares the children for learning. The overwhelming majority of pupils love it.

Many parents and carers might remember collecting 1000's of Sainsbury's Active School vouchers before the summer holidays and wondered if anything ever came of them – it did. Your efforts have been rewarded with three large boxes of outdoor equipment that is making playtimes more enjoyable and getting the children more active. We are now learning to make sure the equipment stays on our side of the fence more!

The outdoor classroom for KS2 is near to completion and it looks terrific; it is situated in the corner of the school grounds next to our Nursery outdoor area and I would encourage you to have a look if you haven't seen it yet (the photo doesn't really do it justice). The pupils have been very interested to see how the design (based on ideas put forward by the School Council) is taking shape and many of them have said how much they are looking forward to having lessons outdoors. The space will be ready for the first week after half term.

There are a few staffing changes to inform you about: Mrs Adele Mitchell has started her maternity leave. Her teaching role has been taken up by Mrs Kate Liddington and Miss Brett Loeppky. From February half term, Mrs Parm Gill will be responsible for SEN/D.

After February half term, there will be a new face in the office, as we welcome Caroline Jones. She will be working every afternoon; this is due to restructuring within the office team. Also from February half term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Jacque Jackson in Reception, who is leaving us for a career change.

Miss Claire Jenkins will be working in RHJ and her roles will, in turn, be picked up by a new colleague, Abigail Marshall. Lastly, while Mrs Russell is retaining her HLTA role at Talbot, she will no longer be supporting Year 6. We are currently making arrangements to fill the role, to ensure continuation of this support.

This will be my final newsletter as Acting Headteacher, as Mrs Parm Gill will be returning from maternity leave after half term. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, governors and PTA members who have helped me keep such a busy school running smoothly and, I hope, provide the continuity our families deserve in the first half of this year.

While it doesn't always feel right to single people out, a particular mention needs to go to Kate Liddington who has been my steadfast right hand in her role as Assistant Headteacher – thank you.

Being Acting Headteacher has sometimes been a testing, frequently rewarding and always interesting job, which has helped me develop many skills and learn some entirely new ones too. Overall, I think it is lucky that I have been indoctrinated by Talbot's Growth Mindset approach to learning, as this has undoubtedly helped me out with a steep learning curve. I now look forward to resuming my post as Deputy Headteacher, including doing some teaching, which I have missed more than I thought I would.

Kind regards,
Mr Jude Rivers (Acting Headteacher)



Young Voices (extract):

On Wednesday the 11th of January 2017, our KS2 Choir (led by Mrs Liddington) went to Sheffield Arena to perform in the largest primary school singing concert in the world, consisting of 5,066 children and their teachers. For the past 5 months the choir prepared for the concert. We had practices weekly and running up to the date we had two per week! The rehearsals were manic and were hard to fit in with our busy schedules, especially for Year 6!

The performance was amazing and we had the time of our lives! It started with us singing one of our favourite songs then the dancers did an amazing routine to the song "Seven Years." All of us in the arena were gobsmacked and in awe of their amazing talent. Then we sang more songs and our favourite part of the performance was the amazing beatbox collective.

We got back to Leeds after 11:00pm; tired but happy.

By Madeline (Y6) - to see more photos and to read the full article, visit the School Website – Latest News.

Travel Plan

When Talbot Primary School agreed to take the bulge cohort this year, we were aware that it would add to Talbot's congestion and parking issues. Therefore, we have signed up to a travel plan initiative with Leeds Council and are participating in a project called 'Mode Shifts'.

The aim of this plan is to discourage car use and increase green, healthy and community-friendly approaches to travelling to school. We would like to see more car sharing, walking, scooting, skateboarding and cycling. I am going to be leading a range of initiatives in school to coincide with the improving weather. If any parents or carers would like to be involved, please send me a message and we might even get a working party together.

Mr Jude Rivers

Attendance:

Historically, Talbot Primary School has always enjoyed excellent attendance rates of over 97% - with the majority of pupils managing to attend school between 98-100% of the time. While illness is unavoidable, like the vomiting bug we experienced over December, we need to do better. Recently, the school average has slipped to 96.9% and we want to make sure this trend is reversed. Here are three ways you can help make a difference:

1. Organise holidays and trips during school holidays (there are 175 non-teaching days a year to pick from)
2. Organise doctor and dentist appointments after school wherever possible (this is often possible for non-emergency appointments)
3. If your child is feeling a bit under the weather, send them in and let us know. In our experience, they can often get a second wind and, if they can't manage the day, we will call you and let you pick them up.

Good attendance and punctuality, ensures your children start the day calmly, their learning isn't broken over a week and the other pupils are not disrupted as the teacher helps someone catch up on work they have missed. Most importantly, there is a direct correlation between attendance and progress.



New KS2 goalposts for playtimes

- KS2 pupils said they wanted new goal posts for the playground as the old ones were falling apart. Now they have them and they are extremely popular! Thanks to Finn (Y6) and Thomas (Y6) for putting them together with Mr Rivers.
- Feedback from our previous SPaG and Maths parent/carer briefing was that the whole school approach wasn't specific enough. This year we did them by phases to make the content more relevant to your individual children. We hope you liked this approach.
- Although the Key Dates letter is extremely popular and we send text reminders about upcoming events, we have also had a request to put additional notifications on the school website's homepage. We have begun to do this.

Additional Information

Parent/Carer Briefings

Thank you to those of you who came to the KS1, Lower KS2 and/or the Upper KS2 parent/carers briefings this month on Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar and for Maths. These were run by our Phase Leaders Mrs Kate Liddington, Mr Tom Youdan and Mr Jimmy Middleton. Many thanks to them and their teams for giving up their time. If you were unable to attend, the information is on the school website – Parent/Carer Zone – SPaG and Maths Briefings 2017.

Thank you also to our Year 6 parents/carers who attend the KS2 SATs briefing two weeks ago, where we shared information about the SATs exams, what the children need to know and ways to help them revise. If you were unable to attend, the information is on the school website – Parent/Carer Zone – KS2 SATs Briefing 2017.

Lastly, Mr Rivers and Miss Ambler ran Online Safety briefings, outlining how we keep your children safe in school. This was designed to coincide with school's Online Safety Week in February. If you were unable to attend, the information is on the school website – Parent/Carer Zone – Online Safety.

"Parental involvement is the most powerful school improvement lever that we have" - DCSF Research report

The Office Team

We're not just here to greet visitors or take late children, forgotten PE kits and musical instruments to relevant classes. The role of school secretary has moved on!

First and foremost, we adhere to the safeguarding policy and help keep your children safe; for example, by checking who enters the school. We answer telephone enquiries, manage the school email correspondence and monitor attendance.

In addition, we administer all the money coming into the school (including banking and balancing accounts), manage school dinners, organise nursery and primary admissions, staff absences, voluntary placements, order school supplies and support our online systems like Tapestry and ParentMail. We also keep family details up to date, organise staff training, support recruitment, manage after school activities and help organise educational visits.

Our jobs are frequently very busy but we all really enjoy working at Talbot and feel rewarded. If you have a question or a problem that we can assist with, we are more than happy to help.

The Office Team: Mrs Manota, Mrs Readom and Mrs Starbuck

Advisory Note re Head Lice Treatments

The Schools Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team has asked us to circulate this message that they received from the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service:

"We would like to remind parents and carers to always read and follow the instructions carefully when using chemical insecticide products, typically sold in chemists, to treat head lice. This is because these treatments contain flammable elements. You should not therefore use hair dryers, or any other ignition source such as matches, lighters and candles near anyone during the treatment process whilst the product is being used.

This advisory note follows a recent incident in West Yorkshire in which a child's hair was accidentally set alight during treatment resulting in the child sustaining serious injuries."

Talbotto and 100 Club Winners

100 Club

Sep	1 st Prize	Halkier	2 nd Prize	D. Marshall
Oct	1 st Prize	Pisacane	2 nd Prize	L. McCabe
Nov	1 st Prize	Halkier	2 nd Prize	M. Beech

Talbotto

Sept	C. Weir
Oct	Hewitt
Nov	L. Reid

Academic School Year Calendar 2017-18

Follow this link to see the 2017-18 calendar <http://www.talbot.leeds.sch.uk/files/approved-school-calendar-2017-20181.pdf> so you can book your holidays early.