



# Newsletter

Margaret McMillan

Primary School

October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back to school after the summer break. The children have settled in well and are busy with their learning. I would like to welcome new families and children, particularly the new children to reception and nursery and hope that you will settle in and enjoy being part of our vibrant school community.

I would like to welcome Miss Shaw who joins us in Y2, Miss Abbas and Miss Yasin who join us in year 4 and Miss Akhtar who joins us in year 5. Mrs Johnson has returned after her maternity leave.

We have restructured our phases through school and now have 4 phases instead of 3. This will give more leadership support to each year group. Mr Bagherian is the Assistant Head for Phase 1 (Nursery and Reception). Mrs Hodge is the Assistant Head for Phase 2 (years 1 and 2), Mrs Johnson is looking after Phase 3 and Mrs Mullholland is Phase 4 leader (years 5 and 6). You can read what their phases have been up to over the page. Mrs Iqbal (SEND/CO), Mr Walker and myself make up the rest of the leadership team.

Unfortunately we had to lose some of our staff last year due to budget cuts. Mrs Lister's pastoral role will be absorbed by the assistant Heads for each phase. Mrs Begum will still be your first port of call for attendance, term-time leave and parental support.

Can I remind you that school starts at 8:45am. We will open the gates by 8:30am every morning. Children should be outside cloakrooms ready to enter school when the doors open at 8:45am. The children who arrive after this time are late for school. We understand that it is very busy outside of school in the morning but suggest that you either walk if possible or park further from school and walk. The first 15 minutes every morning is valuable reading time for your child. Children who arrive late miss 1 hour 15 minutes reading time every week. This adds up to 49 hours a year – 10 school days of reading every year! If your child is not in school – we cannot teach them. Please help us to help your child.

Lorraine Martin

Head teacher

## Phase updates

### Phase One: Mr Adam Bagherian

As we access outdoor learning in all weathers in Phase 1 please make sure your child has a warm coat and sensible footwear.

The **Nursery** team would like to thank all parents for supporting with the settling process into school. Now children are in a routine, Parent Play will begin after the October half term. The first session will take place every Wednesday at 8:30 for Moon children and 12:25 for Stars children starting on Wednesday 7th November. During this time, you will have the opportunity to share some learning with your child for the first 15 minutes of the session. Rhyme time will start on Friday 9th November. This takes place at 11:05 for Moon children and 3:00 for Stars. We will be singing familiar rhymes and songs the children have been learning. Baking will begin after the October half term at a cost of £10.00 for the academic year—you should have received a parent pay letter. We are really looking forward to having a visit from the owls on Friday 19th October, linking to our topic on Owl babies. Children will visit the school library after the half term break. Your child will be able to bring home a book each week - you can buy a book bag from the school office.

The children in **Reception** have made a successful start to their school life and have settled in well. Parent Play begins every on Tuesday the 30th October at 8:45 and continues each week. During this time, you will have the opportunity to share some learning with your child for the first 20 minutes of the day.

Reception will be starting P.E. after the half term break. Please make sure your child has a labelled P.E. kit in school before we break up.

Help your child be successful by reading with your child every-day, signing their diary to indicate this and by practicing Bear words 1. Once your child can consistently read all the Bear words on sight, they will receive a certificate and the next set of words.

In reception, the children will have the opportunity to bake each half term. Parent Pay letters have been sent out for £5.00 for the academic year.



### Phase Two: Mrs Sarah Hodge

The children have made a positive start in Phase 2 and are all enjoying their new year groups.

**Year 1** have been looking at the story of Hansel and Gretel this half term and have been building their own giant 3D versions of the gingerbread house from cardboard which involved talking about the 2D shapes we would use to construct them. In maths the children have been working on understanding numbers to 10 and talking about the numbers which are 'hidden' within 10. In literacy the children have been focussing hard

on improving their handwriting and using capital letters, finger spaces and full-stops consistently.

**Year 2** have been working on an exciting topic all around dinosaurs and the children have even made their own fossils out of salt dough which involved some excellent independent work by the children. In literacy they have been describing dinosaurs and reading the book 'The Dinosaur that Pooped a Planet' which has really enthused and

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### Phase Three: Mrs Sarah Johnson

Year 3 have been busy learning about The Stone Age, they have been reading and writing all about the adventures of Littenose. During topic time they have been finding out about fossils, rocks and soils - it's amazing what they can tell you about metamorphic rocks!

Year 4 have started the year reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory , they have been focusing on story settings and interesting descriptions in their writing. During topic time they have been learning about early law makers and have learnt some interesting information about the British Parliament. Year 4 have also started swimming at Bingley Pool on a Wednesday, the children are really enjoying the opportunity to learn to swim and are already making great progress.

On Tuesday evening eight Year 4 girls took part in an U9 football tournament at Beckfoot Thornton School. They played 5 games and won them all so came away as the champions! The girls had a brilliant team spirit and showed great sportsmanship with the other teams.

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### Phase Four: Ms Clare Mulholland

This half term Year 5 have been preparing for their upcoming Northern Ballet workshops. The first workshops will be taking place next half term. The Northern Ballet group will be visiting school and conducting a workshop based on the story of Puss in Boots with the Y5 children. Some of the Year 5 girls have been selected to compete in a U11's football tournament which takes place next week at Beckfoot Thornton.

The Year 6 children started off the year with a Hook for learning Day linked to their literacy unit based on a Utopian world. They have also had the Sports UK team in, coaching them ready for the Frisbee tournament and some Year 6 boys are set to compete in an U11's boys football tournament at Beckfoot Thornton before half term. All Y5 and Y6 children have had a very positive start to the year within their new year groups and are all motivated and working hard. Keep up the good work!

## Attendance

The whole school attendance for September is **95.75%**. The national expectation is for the attendance to be above **96%**. Please support us in our quest to achieve this.

## Diary Dates

7th September	Y5 Northern Ballet
2nd October	Y4 football tournament
10th October	Mental health Awareness Day
12th October	Non uniform day for Mrs Akhtar
16th October	Y4 Museum visit
16th October	Y5 Northern ballet workshop
17th October	Parents' evening
18th October	Parents' evening
18th October	Y5 Northern Ballet workshop
19th October	Y4 Museum visit
19th October	Nursery Owl visit
19th October	BREAK UP
29th October	BACK TO SCHOOL
29th October	Spooky Stories—whole school
5th November	Y5 Ballet Performance
6th November	Primary Music Live
6th November	Fluoride tooth varnishing N, R Y1

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