

Dates for the Diary are shown on a separate letter.

Homework Timetable

Due to Government regulations, all children are required by law to be issued with homework. We recommend that children read every night as children who do so achieve much better throughout school. All children have now been issued with Bug Club and Mathletics Log in details so they can access these sites at home. Listed below is when homework is due and class 3/4/5 have spellings issued every Monday to be learned by the following week. Please can you ensure your child learns these at home.

Class	Day Homework Issued	Day Homework Due
Reception	Friday	Thursday
Y1	Friday	Thursday
Y2	Friday	Thursday
3	Friday	Thursday
4	Daily	Friday
5	Daily	Friday

Attendance



Our whole school attendance has risen to 95.4% in line with other schools nationally. Thank you for your support and please can you inform school of an absence as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary absence calls. Recently, over children, who had achieved 100% attendance last half term received their bouncy castle treat as well as an ice cream.



Victoria Lane Academy

March 2014

Bikelt Bonanaza

Last Friday, Councillor Charlie Kay officially opened the bicycle shelter and our Bikelt breakfast of bacon butties was extremely successful. Thank you to all of the parents, children and visitors who attended. The Big Pedal is continuing so if possible please allow your child to travel to school by bicycle or scooter, which may be stored on the infant yard. The yard is locked throughout the day but we recommend you use a lock as the site is open at the start and end of the school day. Many bikes and scooters were security marked by Durham Constabulary and details have now been sent out to the families involved.

Safeguarding in the School Playground

We are trying to develop the children's independent skills and ensure the school day starts as smoothly as possible. When the bell rings at 8.55, please can you move away from the tall pencils, where the children line up to be collected by staff, and exit the playground so that children can safely enter the school building. I must ask that you comply with these instructions so that the school day can get off to a good start. Please can you help us by ensuring your child is on the yard when the bell rings. There are still a lot of latecomers, who disrupt the school day as lessons start promptly at 9.05am.

Easter

As part of our Easter celebrations, all parents are invited into school on Thursday 3rd April for our Easter Eggstravaganza to decorate an egg with your child. Our annual egg decorating competition for all year groups will be judged on the final day of term. Nursery and Class 1 will also hold a Easter Egg Hunt Challenge. An Easter Quiz will be sent out for families to complete together and then please can you return them to school to be entered into a prize draw.

France Trip

Plans for the school educational visit to France are well underway. Please can you ensure full payment for the visit is received by 2nd April.

Creative Write Week

On the week of Monday 24th March, school is celebrating Traditional Tales. An author, Stuart Reid is coming into school to inspire our children to read and write. See enclosed flier for details.

SATs

Y2 and Y6 are busy working hard towards their forthcoming SATs. Any parents who were unable to attend parents evening, please could you contact the class teacher to arrange an alternative appointment to discuss your child's progress. A summary report of child's spring term results will be issued in the final week of term together with an explanation of what the levels mean.

Staffing Changes

Miss Ridley is now on maternity leave until this September. We are delighted to welcome back Miss Smart, who returns from maternity leave this week. Mrs Greenwood will start her new job next week and we wish her every success in her future career. We welcome Miss Flanagan, a new teacher, who will be working across the school to help raise standards and provide supply cover for classroom teachers.

Jamaican Joy

The final ever visit to Jamaica by Mrs Freer and staff and pupils from King James 1 Academy commences on April 3rd. This trip will enable the final resources to be handed over and the installation of the pre-school toilets that we helped raise funds for. We are intending hold a fundraising event on Friday 28th March at our school in conjunction with BATH. Last year was a fantastic success and we hope this year will be even better. Class 4 will be performing their dance from the Dance Festival and BATH will entertain staff, parents and children with a brilliant performance of various dances in the Junior School Hall. There will be an entrance fee of £1, which includes complimentary refreshments. In addition, there will be Jamaican jewellery and Tshirts on sale as well as various Tombolas and a Raffle to raise funds for this extremely worthwhile cause. Please can you send into school as soon as possible any donations of the following items:

Raffle prizes

Toiletry sets

Unwanted clothing to be weighed in

Good quality toys

Bottles of wine for Tombola

Thank you for your continued support for such a fantastic cause!

School Lunch Competition

Y5 have been invited to participate in a pilot study on how to encourage older children to stay on school dinners instead of bringing a packed lunch. In teams, the children will compete to win a prize and their ideas may be trialled.

Packed Lunches

After consultation with parents at a meeting on packed lunches, School has increased the amount of time children have to eat their packed lunch. It was agreed that sweets should not be added to packed lunch boxes.