

Victoria Lane Voice

January 2020



Welcome Back!

Welcome to our first newsletter of January 2020 and what a busy but great January it has been here at VLA! It has been lovely to have so many parents in school for different events including Year 6 SATs meeting, Reception Space Camp and our Reading Breakfasts for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We really appreciate you coming into school as it does make such a difference if home and school work together to support your child with their education. We really need your support reading regularly with your child at home and to improve attendance. Improving our reading and raising attendance in line with national average of 96% were targets school was set by Ofsted on their last visit and we cannot meet these targets and continue to be classed as a GOOD school in the future without your continued support.



Space Camp has landed!

Last Thursday, Reception class participated in our EYFS Space Camp to discover all about space! The children had great fun using Celestial Buddy soft toys to learn all about the planets, followed by a rocket testing workshop. After lunch there was astronaut training when they found out how hard it is to work when wearing a space suit. In the tents, they recreated star constellations and explored how to make shadows. At the end of a busy day the children listened to space stories and enjoyed a well deserved hot chocolate. Reception children all had a fantastic day and were a credit to their parents at our special assembly.

School Attendance

Thank you for helping us to improve school attendance by keeping appointments to after 1pm or bringing your child back after morning appointments. Attendance has risen to 95.1% but we need to continue to work towards achieving 96%. Please remember to contact school if your child is going to be absent to avoid absence letters and phone calls.

School Holidays



We understand that not everyone can always take holidays during the school holiday periods and that it is much more expensive, however the Local Authority monitor our attendance closely and do prosecute parents for term time holidays unless it is exceptional circumstances.

To help support you, school teacher training days in 2020, have been arranged a day before official school holidays begin. Prices should be cheaper on these dates and your child will not have to miss any school days. Last October half term, 20 children were absent due to holidays on the final day so school attendance dropped by 1%.

The days when school will be closed are as follows:

May half term holiday:

School closes at the end of the school day on Thursday 21st May and reopens on Monday 1st June.

Summer holidays:

School closes Friday 17th July (**Instead of the official break up day of Monday 20th July!**) and reopens Wednesday 2nd September.

October half term:

School closes at the end of the school day on Thursday 22nd October and reopens on Monday 2nd November.



Parent Consultation Meetings

Our spring term parent and teacher meetings are planned for next week so teachers are able to discuss how your child is progressing and for parents to have a look at some of the quality work they are producing. The information and booking form has already been issued but please contact the office for an appointment if you have not already done so. Thank you for your support.

1st Leeholme and Coundon Scouts

If you would like your child to join Beavers, Cubs or Scouts that are held weekly in school there are some places currently available. Beavers runs every Wednesday evening and Cubs and Scouts sessions are held every Thursday evening. Please contact Ian Johnson on 0191 3862761 or email - development@bishopaucklandscouts.org.uk if you require any further information.

Change of Phone Numbers/Address

Please contact school if you change your mobile telephone or move house as we need up to date contact details for emergencies. We must be able to contact parents at all times and there have been several cases this month when we have been unable to contact parents. Also for safeguarding reasons, if someone different to the contacts listed for your child is collecting your child from school, please inform the office or leave a message at the gate with a member of staff. Thank you.

P.E and School Sport



Please can you ensure your child has a PE Kit in school including a change of footwear as all classes have 2 PE sessions a week and there are a range of PE festivals and events planned. This month some of our Y5/6 pupils competed in the SSP Basketball festival and congratulations on reaching the semi-finals! Year 1 attended the Multi-Skills festival at Newton Aycliffe leisure centre, where they participated in a range of throwing, catching and bouncing activities.

Swimming

Class 3 are currently swimming every Friday morning until Friday 14th February, which is their last session this year.

Class 4 (Mr Blake's class) will begin swimming lessons after the half-term break on Friday 28th February and a letter will be issued shortly with all of the information for parents.

Dates For Diaries

Date	Event	Information
Friday 31st January	Primary Sportability Festival	Letter issued to Invited pupils
Monday 3rd February	Class 4/5 Trip	Letter Issued Please send in a £5 donation by Friday 31st January
Tuesday 4th February	Parent Consultation Meetings	Please return your appointment slip as soon as possible
Wednesday 5th February	Y1 Infant Games	Letter to follow to selected pupils
Thursday 6th February	Class 4 Parent Consultation Meetings	Please return your appointment slip as soon as possible
Tuesday 11th February	Y3/4 Gymnastics	Letter to follow to selected pupils
Thursday 13th February	Y2 Space Camp	Information already issued
Friday 14th February	School closes for February half term and re-opens on Monday 24th February	
Wednesday 26th February	Reception - Move with Max	Letter to follow
Tuesday 3rd March	KS2 Martial Arts Festival	Letter to follow to selected pupils
Wednesday 4th March	Nursery/Reception Trip Witham Arts Centre Green Eggs and Ham	Letter to follow
Thursday 5th March	Class 1 + Class 3 Trip Hancock Museum Newcastle	Letter to follow
Friday 6th March	Class 4 Tree Planting	Information to be issued.
Tuesday 17th March	Y3/4 Sports Skills	Letter to follow to selected pupils
Friday 3rd April	School closes for Easter and re-opens on Monday 20th April.	