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Balsall Common Primary School

Outstanding: OFSTED February 2014



Newsletter Number 15

Friday 6th January 2017

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Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to school for the start of 2017. We all really hope that you have enjoyed your Christmas and New Year festivities, whatever they have been.

Towards the end of the term, illness affected a large number of children and lowered the overall attendance figures dramatically, which is usually the case at this time of year. However, optimistically, we will begin to hit the higher attendance figures that this school is used to as this new term progresses. As always, I will continue to keep you all posted.

Attendance for last Term

Autumn Term	Overall
Whole school	96.4%

Meanwhile, the children continue to earn their ATL points (Attitude Towards Learning points) to win the weekly Class of the Week Certificate. At the end of each term, we count up how many times each class has won the award and the class with the most wins earns the opportunity for some free time. They decide how they want to use their free time in discussion with their teachers. Congratulations to the classes below

Head's Classes of the Term

EYFS	A draw between all four classes!
KS1	1H
LKS2	4A
UKS2	5B

Winners of the Weekly ATL Cup

Many congratulations also to the children in the table below for earning the most amount of ATL points individually for their superb attitudes in lessons, around the school and for the standard of their appearance.

LKS2	Ria P, 4A
UKS2	Elizabeth M, 5B

Swimming Lessons

The Swim School (*tss*) start their lesson programme next week. We did send out an email on the final day of last term.

However, a large number of people did not receive it. We think this was due to an error within the email system itself. Please accept our apologies if you were one of those who did not receive it. As a result, however, we sent it out again on Tuesday.

The outline for the commencement of the programme is as follows:

Week of Mon 9th Jan - Assessment Week for Grading Swimmers

Week of Mon 16th Jan - WEEK 1 - FREE WEEK

Week of Mon 23rd Jan - WEEK 2 - FREE WEEK

Week of Mon 30th Jan - WEEK 3 - First Paid-For Week

THE SWIM SCHOOL (*tss*) WILL NOT BE ASKING FOR ANY COMMITMENT TO, OR PAYMENT FOR, LESSONS UNTIL AFTER THIS FIRST 3 WEEKS' PERIOD!

tss will then run for a further 11 weeks until end of week commencing Monday 1st May 2017. Their last lesson prior to Easter will be on Saturday 1st April 2017. There will be a 2-week break for Easter, corresponding to the school's Easter Holidays, during which time they may run one of their 4-5 days 'Fast Track' courses, along with afternoon 'swim clinics', which parents are invited to attend. In all, by the end of the course there will have been 15 swimming weeks, but you will have paid for only 12 of them, costing £90.

The Swim School (*tss*) currently delivers lessons to nearly 3000 swimmers at 6 locations, plus schools' swimming lessons to around 1000 swimmers per week. **The length of lessons here will change, but the price will only change in-line with the increased lesson time.** In leading swim lessons here, one of the first things *tss* will do is deliver substantial training and support to the swim teachers, who are already known to many of you. This training has been taking place this week and concludes tomorrow. *tss* has already appointed Cathy Reekie on a full-time basis, who will teach 5 days a week, and retained the services of the Saturday morning teacher, Kyle Aldridge. These two already-popular teachers will lead the programme and will receive constant support and professional development from *tss* to ensure that lessons are always of

the highest quality. Initially, lessons will run from Tuesday to Friday evenings and all day Saturday. They plan to extend these lessons to Monday evenings and Sundays as soon as demand and staff availability permits.

Next Steps! *tss* will be in contact with you by email during this first week back to invite you to an assessment session next week. You may have noticed that *tss* has a dedicated contact email address for Balsall Common parents - balsall@theswimschool.co.uk, and we will invite you to contact them either by email or telephone to confirm which day and time you would like to attend an assessment. Their telephone number is 0845 644 8217. **We have a great pool here; we are on the doorstep for parents; parking is free! We want to offer the best possible service to you all and believe that *tss* can do just that. Please give them a try; after all, it's free for the first three weeks!**

Hockey

The hockey team which one of our Year 6 pupils, Dimitris V, plays for won the Junior Under 10s Hockey tournament the weekend before the holidays. This is the first Coventry and North Warwickshire Hockey Club Junior team to win a tournament. They beat Edgbaston 3-0, Stratford 2-0 and drew 0-0 against Warwick. Reuben S from Year 5 is also in the team. Well done boys!

Note from Admissions

'The national closing date for Reception entry into school for September 2017 is 15 January 2017. Solihull parents can apply online at www.solihull.gov.uk/enrol. Those living outside of Solihull can still apply for Solihull schools but must submit this through the online system provided by their home authority.'

Head's Fish and Chip Quiz

Three weeks today, 27th January. Watch out for the booking forms!

Happy New Year and have a great weekend
GT Burgess

Robin's Stars of the Week

Phoebe H, RK Luke R, RC

Writers of the Week

Phoebe H, RK Toby W, RW
Zac A, 1R Trinity P, 1H

Maths Wizards

Daisy B, 1R
Lewis S, 2L Harrison N. 2M

Good Choice Stars of the Week

Jenson L, 1R	George H, 2L	Isaac S, 3D	Hannah M, 4A	Alex R, 5B	Maeve D, 6W
Imogen T, 1H	Gabriel O'D, 2K	Jonty D 3C	Scarlett N, 4C	Lucas W, 5K	Miles P, 6P
	Sadie G. 2M	Alex W, 3B	Lola B, 4W	Hannah C, 5M	Ettienne W-S, 6J
		Sam W, 3B			

DIARY DATES ~ Spring 2017

Friday 13 January	9:05	Class Assembly	2K
Friday 20 January	14:45	Class Assembly	6W
Monday 23 & Tuesday 24 January	Toymaker to Year 1		
Friday 27 January	9:05	Class Assembly	2M
	14:45	Class Assembly	6J
	19.30 - Headteacher's Quiz		
Friday 3 February	9:05	Class Assembly	1R
	14:45	Class Assembly	6P
Saturday 4 February	PTA Ball		
Friday 10 February	9:05	Class Assembly	2L
	Dads Scalextric		
Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 February	Parents' Evenings		
Monday 20 - Friday 24 February	HALF TERM		
Monday 27 February	Term Resumes for Pupils and Staff		
Friday 3 March	9:05	Class Assembly	1H
Tuesday 7 March	M&M Theatre Productions visit - Pinocchio		
Friday 10 March	9:05	Class Assembly	1D
	14:45	Class Assembly	5B
Friday 10 March	9:05	Class Assembly	1D
	14:45	Class Assembly	5B
Friday 17 March	14:45	Class Assembly	5M
Friday 24 March	Mothering Sunday Assembly Disco		
Friday 31 March	9:05	Class Assembly	1S
	14:45	Class Assembly	5K
Tuesday 4 & Wednesday 5 April	Year 4 Production		
Friday 7 April	Easter Bonnet Parade FS and KS1		
Friday 7 April	TERM ENDS FOR EASTER HOLIDAY		