



# BELL LANE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## December 2016



### Let's celebrate!



In October Wakefield District Housing asked Bell Lane pupils to support them in designing site safety posters and creating a street name for the new housing development near the war memorial. Class 1/2P's suggestion of 'Blue Bell' as a street name was chosen. The full name will be Blue Bell Gardens. The children submitted this name as it links to the blue of our uniform and the bell in our name. Class 1/2P won a digital camera.

Six children (Millie Holmes, Jacob Pinder, Evie Anderson, Erin Brook, Lily Fretwell and Jennifer Robinson) each won a £10 voucher, a certificate and a selection box for their poster designs which will be on public display around the construction site.

Our Foundation children have completed four performances of their nativity which every audience has thoroughly enjoyed. Along with our Key Stage Two French themed Christmas assemblies and the forthcoming choir performance at St. Cuthbert's church on Friday afternoon, we are definitely feeling full of Christmas spirit!

The school council sent 86 Christmas shoeboxes to the Samaritan's Purse charity thanks to your generous donations. They also made £36 for their funds with their 'Guess the number of sweets in the jar' stall at our Christmas Fayre. The Christmas fayre raised £600 in total. Many thanks to the Friends of Bell Lane P.T.A for their continued support.



### What's changing?

From January, children in Key Stage One (Miss Hodgson's, Miss Page's and Miss Haddon's classes) will no longer need indoor shoes. This is something that we will be trialling as these classrooms are not fully carpeted. This should enable a quicker, more settled start to lessons for our younger children.

We will be introducing a new spelling programme after Christmas called 'Read, Write, Inc.' for children in Years 2-6. As part of this programme, each child will have a spelling homework book. We will be sending out more detailed information about this shortly.

### Uniform

As we are now into winter, please ensure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat for break times and appropriate black school shoes. Boots and trainers are not allowed, with the exception of wellington boots on the very rare occasions when there is snow. Please note that KS1 children will not be able to wear wellington boots inside when they no longer have indoor shoes so they will need to bring their school shoes with them. Our uniform policy is available on our website or from the academy office.

### Photographs



As you are aware, the academy allows parents to take photographs at academy events on the understanding that no photos are uploaded onto the internet (unless your child is the only one in the picture). Unfortunately, some parents/carers/relatives are not following these safeguarding procedures. If this continues, then the academy will be forced to adopt a 'no photography' policy. We ask for your support in policing and reporting any concerns to us, whilst ensuring that everyone you know is aware of the academy guidelines regarding this.



### Attendance

We continue to work closely with our Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) to improve attendance at Bell Lane. With your support, we are currently trying to reduce the number of children arriving late in the morning. Please ensure that your child is on the premises before the bell rings at 8:50am. They can then line up with their class and be taken in by staff for a prompt start to the academy day. For safeguarding reasons any children arriving late must be taken to the main office and signed in by an adult.



## Website

WCAT have completed our website update and it is now live at: [www.bellaneacademy.org](http://www.bellaneacademy.org)

As always, any feedback is welcomed.



## INSPIRE

The two INSPIRE sessions for parents this half term have been very successful with some positive feedback:

"Working together to create something was very rewarding"

"I enjoyed being able to watch the children put their ideas in to practice."

"It was good to see the reading activity as it gave me more idea what the children are expected to do for SATs."

From January, most INSPIRE sessions will run from 9:15 - 11:15am on a Friday rather than in the afternoon.



## Dates for Autumn Term 2016-17

(Please note that there may be additional events to those below and more detailed information will be sent out for specific events)



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December (1:30pm) - Academy Choir singing at St Cuthbert's Christmas Celebration.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day (If your child would like a Christmas lunch and you are not already signed into the lunch system please call into the office. Wear academy uniform but swap your sweatshirt or blazer for a Christmas top!)

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Assembly by Reverend Paul Fox

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December (pm) - KS1 Christmas Parties - KS1 children can come in their party clothes (volunteers please arrive at 1:45pm)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December (pm)- KS2 Christmas Parties - KS2 children can come in their party clothes (volunteers please arrive at 1:45pm)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December (6:30 - 8:00pm) - Christmas Disco - no pointed heels or mobile phones. Entry cost £2.50, drinks, sweets, doughnuts and hot dogs available to buy. Not for nursery children and children under 7 to be accompanied by an adult (18+).

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - INSET Day - Academy closed for staff training



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

## Dates for first half of Spring Term 2016-17

SPRING TERM BEGINS on TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January - 'Snow Queen' performance for all children in Reception to Year 6

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Healthy Lifestyles session with School Nursing for Year 4 children

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Assembly by Eamonn Reilly (Children's author). Copies of his books will be available to buy (more information to follow)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January - School Council International Non-uniform Day (more information to follow)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January (9:00) - E-safety information session for parents with P.C. Blunt

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February (9:15 - 11:15am) - Class 4/5F INSPIRE session for parents



**EVERYONE AT THE ACADEMY  
WISHES YOU ALL A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!**