



February Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been such an amazing half term with a wide range of interesting and exciting topics, visits and events. From learning about space in Reception to Year Six's Exhibition of Hope; exploring the World in Year 1 and chocolate-filled Roald Dahl adventures in Year 2. Year 3 have loved learning about China, including today's wonderful assembly, and Year 4 have enjoyed a brand new topic, all about music. Overall, Saltaire Primary School continues to be a fun and exciting place to learn. I hope the children get lots of rest over the half term holiday – they've definitely earned it. School closes today and reopens on Monday 25th February.

Young Voices

Year 4 and the school choir went to Sheffield on 15th January to take part in Young Voices 2019. We have been going to this amazing concert for several years now and this year was the best yet. With live performances from the lead singer from Basement Jaxx and Tony Hadley, it was a truly magical evening. Our children did us proud, not only at Sheffield Arena but also at the concert performance they gave back at school last week. Many thanks to Madame Thakker and Mrs Matthews for preparing the children so well.



Lunchtimes

Many thanks to the children who have taken to our new approach to lunchtimes so well. It has taken several weeks to work out the best way to make new systems work but we are really starting to see the benefits. I think it is fair to say that children are now eating much more, with less waste and more time to chat and enjoy their meals. I have been working closely with the school meals service to ensure the quality of food is good and the menu is as advertised. I hope you are starting to hear positive feedback from the children about this but, as always, do let me know if you have any further comments or suggestions.



FOSPS

Many thanks to the Friends of Saltaire Primary School who continue to work hard to raise additional funds for school. 2019 has got off to a flying start, with a family disco and bun sale completed already – thanks to Katie Bell (and mum) in Year 2 for organising Thursday's Valentine bun sale. Thanks to the work of FOSPS, we will soon be getting a new, high-definition screen for the hall and some new library furniture.

After School Clubs

Following the half term holiday, we will be changing the times for after school clubs. From Monday 25th February, all after school clubs will end at 4:15pm. This is to ensure that children are collected safely before the office closes at 4:30pm.

Chinese Lantern Festival

Year 3 hosted a wonderful Chinese lantern event at Hirst Wood Nature Reserve on Wednesday night this week, displaying their art work as produced with our resident artist, Sharon Snaylam. We had fantastic support from parents, who turned out in droves to follow the lantern trail. Huge thanks to Mr Breeze and Miss Fletcher for their hard work in preparing the event (they even ran out of Freddos), to Sharon and to the ever enthusiastic volunteers from the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group, all of whom made it an evening of light, adventure and pigs.



Letters home

It has come to my attention that there have been some issues with the publication of letters when sent on certain platforms. In particular there seems to be a problem with certain Android phones. This has resulted in errors within the text with missing letters which means that words end up being misspelt. This is a highly unusual situation and one which I am not at all satisfied with. I want to make it clear that I insist that letters are very accurate in keeping with the high standards we have. We have raised the issue with the email company and hope the matter will be resolved. If you do receive any letters which have large quantities of errors, please let the office know.

Parking

Once again, please can we politely ask that parents and carers park carefully around the streets of Saltaire when bringing children to and from school. We have had several complaints recently about cars being parked across drives, on pavements and across the yellow zig-zag lines. We work hard to ensure our neighbours are happy and I'm sure you'll understand how frustrating parking issues can be for them.

Book Deposit

If you have any books that you would like to donate to school that you no longer require, we will be providing book deposit boxes after half term. There will be one box in each of our sheds (the covered areas where children line up) and in the Reception entrance. We are particularly keen to receive picture books but any books would be gratefully received and used in our library.

Attendance

So far this year, children have been at school for 106 days. We continue to celebrate and promote good attendance and punctuality and our aim is to achieve 98% attendance overall. This is equal to just two days off school. Currently our overall attendance is 97%. If you are concerned about your child's attendance and would like to discuss ways to improve it, please get in touch with Mrs Patterson, our Parent and Pupil Participation Officer. Our current attendance figures by class are as follows:

RA	1H	2G	3B	4J	5H	6E
96.4	95.4	98.3	97.8	97.8	97.6	96.8
RKA	1M	2K	3F	4N	5SW	6W
94.8	96.8	96.7	97.9	97.2	96.1	96.0

Meet the Governors

Each month, we ask one of our governors to share some information about themselves with you. This month, Misbah Khan introduces herself and has also shared some information you might find useful.



Hello, my name is Misbah Khan and I am one of the parent Governors at Saltaire Primary School. I have held this role for just over a year now and during this time have experienced two very successful Ofsted inspections which have shown me just what a wonderful school we are all a part of. I am link governor for RKA and thoroughly enjoyed my visit to them in December last year, getting stuck in with helping the children make some lovely sparkly calendars. I also saw what enthusiastic and independent learners our youngest pupils are - a testament to the hard work of all the Reception team. I also sit on the Teaching and Learning sub-committee where we discuss all

aspects of the children's learning and progress to ensure that they are fulfilling their potential and making the most of their time at school. One of the things I am personally very passionate about is children's mental health and wellbeing. Saltaire Primary already does a lot to promote this during the school day and I would like to extend this good practice to include parents and carers. To this end I will be contributing to Mr Whitehead's monthly newsletters with some resources to help develop resilience, a growth mindset and other important qualities within your children. I hope you will find these useful alongside all the things you already do as parents and carers.

Kind regards,



Rob Whitehead