

# KERESFORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL - JANUARY NEWS LETTER

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school and a warm welcome which I know you will all give to our new members of staff, Mrs Jones and Miss Byrnes. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are ready for the next few months ahead. I would like to thank you all for your continued support over the last term, events held in school such as the concerts and Christmas Fayre were a huge success and that is all down to your continued support and generosity. We have just spent some of this money on purchasing new playground equipment for the children at lunchtime. Please ask them about this as they have seen it during a recent school assembly.

It has been brought to my attention that there are lot of parents waiting outside the school gates for their children and are catching up with friends and neighbours whilst they wait. Please can I ask that you take care not to block the pavement for the children to pass. I know the pavement is very narrow but we do have several children who are now stepping into the road to go around the parents who are waiting. The traffic outside school can be very fast and children stepping into the road can be an accident waiting to happen. Please be considerate and think about where you stand whilst waiting.

Thank you.

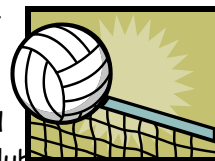
H. Otley

## After School Clubs

Over the year we try to organise a wide range of after school clubs for the children to participate in. No club is ever limited to just boys or girls, they are always open to all pupils to participate in. We use a wide range of outside providers to help run these activities which come at a cost to the school, including Barnsley FC, cricket coaches, and dance instructors. Over the past few months lots of the out of school activities have been running at a loss with not many children wanting to participate, and school has needed to fund many of the activities.

Unfortunately we soon will not be able to do this and this will then reduce the number and range of after school activities we are able to offer. We are so sorry if we have had to cancel an activity that your child wished to participate in, we can only hope that next time round more children take up the offer and the club runs.

We do still have a few places for many of the activities running after school this half term. Please can you contact the school office if your child is interested in any of the activities?



## Music lessons

At the end of last term the children who receive music lessons performed a variety of pieces for the whole school. It was fantastic to hear all the hard work and practise the children have been putting in towards their music lessons and having the opportunity to perform for an audience.

**Music tuition payment is now due for the spring term of £42.50 plus £13.00 instrument hire (if applicable).**

## Dinner / Milk Money

A school dinner costs £1.70 per day and £8.50 per week and should be paid for in advance. Paying for your dinner in advance does avoid the weekly debt letters being sent out by the school office.

**Milk money is now due and is still only £8.50 per term and payment is due by 20th January. Cheques should be made payable to Barnsley M.B.C.**

Can I also remind parents that children who bring their own packed lunch to school should not have sweets or chocolate bars in their lunch box? We aim to be a healthy school and encourage the children to eat a healthy packed lunch during the school day. This has been part of the schools healthy food policy following local and national guidelines. Thank you for your continued support.



## School Uniform

As inclement weather approaches the need for an alternative pair of footwear may be needed for school. Many children are needing to come to school in boots to keep their feet warm and dry, can I suggest though that they bring their black school shoes to wear in school during the day. They will be allowed to change into them at break and lunch times, but it is not healthy for your child's feet to be encased in warm boots all day.

Please also ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on the designated PE days. The children do all look smart and ready to learn when they are in the appropriate clothing. Black shorts and white t-shirt for indoor PE and a tracksuit and outside trainers for outside games sessions.

## Governors Update

First let me wish you all a belated "Happy New Year" from the Governors of Keresforth School.

We want you to get to know us and the work that we undertake within the school and thought that a slot in the newsletter may be a way to do this. You may already know that there are different types of governors who are either Local Authority reps, parents, staff and community governors. We all have different backgrounds, views and ideas but work together to help make this school a safe place, where children feel valued and get a first class education. We meet as committees to discuss finances, personnel and curriculum and as a full governing body to ratify any decisions made within these committees, receive info from the Local Authority and get updates on issues of importance from the Headteacher. Now that I have retired from my paid employment with Barnardo's I feel more able to devote more time to the school and meet regularly with Mrs Otley who keeps me updated on what's happening within the school. Being part of a governing body allows us all to have our say, discuss issues openly and honestly and sometimes we have to make tough decisions but no one has the power to influence these. Our job is to make sure that these are implemented and Mrs Otley and her team will ensure that the school will continue to function smoothly.

Over the past year the school has undergone a lot of change which I know that this can be unsettling not only for the children but also for you as parents and carers and I'd like to reassure you that we will always strive to keep changes to a minimum. If there are any issues that you'd like to discuss with me as chair of governors or with any other governor you can contact us through school. I look forward to hearing your views.  
Maggie Clarke. Chair of Governors

## Diary Dates

5th January	Year 6 One to One starts for selected pupils
11th January	Kingswood Parents meeting 3.30pm in class NG
16th January	Year 5 and 6 FA respect programme BFC
29th January	Kingswood Year 5 and 6 returning 3rd February
10th February	Valentines disco organised by Friends
10th February	Break up Half term
20th February	INSET day
21st February	Children return to school



Advance notice Parents evenings for the Spring term will be held on 20th and 21st March.