

# Breakwater Academy Newsletter



No. 2

*Work together, learn together, achieve together.*

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the second half term at Breakwater Academy draws to a close, I would again like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all your support and encouragement since STEP Academy trust have started working with the school in September. We have seen children really flourish in their academic and in their social education. We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

## Remembrance Day

It was really amazing to see so many familiar faces at the Newhaven Remembrance Day memorial on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. I was very proud to attend the event alongside our Head boy and Head girl, who laid a wreath from the school to show our respects to those who died in the war.



## Attendance

Our overall attendance for this term stands at 94.2%, which is below the target we set ourselves at the beginning of the year of 96%. It is incredibly important that children attend school on a regular basis so that they are not missing out on learning that could lead to gaps in their later school lives, so please endeavour to send your child in unless they are unwell enough to attend. If your child is unwell enough to not attend school, please can we ask all parents to ring the school office before 9.00am.

It is also very important that children arrive at school on time so that we are not wasting any learning time. If a child is just five minutes late each day, that is 25 minutes of learning they miss each week, which then equates to two and a half hours of learning time over the course of a half term.

Can you please also ensure that we have up to date contact details for you in case your child is unwell at school and we need to contact you. We sent out contact sheets to be updated a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to all of those who have returned these already.



## Staffing

We have made some very exciting appointments to our staff team for January 2017. Firstly, we have appointed a new teacher, Miss Holly Bishop, who is currently teaching at Harbour Primary School. Miss Bishop is a very experienced teacher and will be a member of our Senior Management team.

We have also appointed a new Sports Coach to work alongside Mr Bailey so that your children get a whole afternoon of high quality Physical Education every week. Miss Laura Miles-Lewis is a highly experienced teacher of physical education and will bring a lot of enthusiasm and energy to our staff team.

Mrs Carly Jones, will be our new permanent SENCO, who will also start with us in January. Mrs Jones will work between both Breakwater and High Cliff Academy in Newhaven, another school within STEP Academy Trust. She is again a very highly skilled and knowledgeable practitioner who will add a wealth of experience to our staff team. We would like to thank Mr Henrik Winther, who has worked with us for the term as SENCO. He has done an exemplary job in supporting the children and staff since September.

Finally, we have to say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Pam Edwards, who has worked at the school as Family Liaison Officer since June. Sadly, Mrs Edwards will be leaving us at the end of December for a role within the local authority supporting parents with autistic children. She will be greatly missed but we understand that the opportunity she was offered was too good for her to turn down!

## Celebration Assembly

It has been delightful to see so many parents starting to join us for our Friday celebration assemblies. We have

an assembly at 2:30pm every Friday which any parent is welcome to attend. If your child gets Star of the Week, you will get a specific text inviting you along, but **any parent is welcome to any Friday assembly.**



Each week some children from one class will share some of the learning they have been doing in class. Not every child in the class will speak in each assembly, but we will ensure that every child gets the opportunity to share some of their work over the course of the academic year. Next term the following classes will be sharing their work on the following dates:

Date	Class
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Rubies
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Diamonds
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Topaz
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Jets

### Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who dressed in spots or bought cakes to support Children in Need on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. We raised a grand total of £210.88!

### Christmas Fair

It was wonderful to see the hall packed with so many children, parents and other family members on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December for our Christmas Fair. We raised a staggering £405, which is superb! A huge thank you to Clare James for organising the event as well as to all the parents who supported Clare by running or organising stalls. It is lovely to see this community spirit in action.



### Football

Mr Bailey has been very generous by giving up his time to take some of the Year 5 and Year 6 children to football games against our other local Primary Schools. The children have lost two and won one game, but have gained in confidence every time they play and, under Mr Bailey's expertise, I can see the team going from strength to strength over the next couple of years.

### Parent Voice

Thank you to everyone who responded to the parent questionnaire that was given out at Parents Evening. The results were very pleasing:

Question	Strongly agree or agree	Disagree or strongly disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at this academy.	96%	4%	0%
My child feels safe at this academy.	98%	2%	0%
My child makes good progress at this academy.	94%	0%	6%
My child is well looked after at this academy.	96%	2%	2%
My child is taught well at this academy.	92%	4%	4%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	89%	11%	0%

This academy makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	86%	2%	12%
This academy deals effectively with bullying.	80%	9%	11%
This academy is well led and managed.	84%	4%	12%
This academy responds well to any concerns I raise.	77%	3%	20%
I receive valuable information from the academy about my child's progress.	87%	11%	2%
Would you recommend this academy to another parent?	87%	2%	11%

Without feedback from you we cannot make improvements to the service we provide to you, so thank you for the honest responses we received. If at any point you have any concerns you would like to raise please always contact a member of school staff who would be very happy to support you in any possible way.

### Year 3 and 4 trip



Opal class, Sapphire class and Jets class attended Brighton Museum on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November as the end to their topic of learning about the Ancient Egyptians.

The children took part in a session that took them back to a tent in Ancient Egypt, where they learnt about mummification...so watch out! They removed the organs from a dead body (doll!), dried it out and wrapped the body in bandages to prepare it for the afterlife.

They then had the opportunity to walk around the museum and look at real artefacts from Ancient Egypt and find out information like real archaeologists!

## Diary Dates

### Junk

In the new year, Year 3 will be needing lots of 'junk' for their new topic. If you have any of the following spare after the Christmas break, we would love to take it off of your hands:

- Cardboard boxes
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic lids
- Clean margarine tubs
- Old newspapers
- Cereal boxes
- Any other 'junk' that you feel may be appropriate for the children to use.

### Head Lice

Please take time to check your child for head lice on a regular basis. The link below is advice from the NHS on how to best treat head lice:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Headlice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

December 2016	
19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Performance 9:15am
20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Performance 9:15am Christmas Lunch
21 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term
January 2017	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET day
4 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
February 2017	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term
10 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day
20 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school