

No-one knows for certain how April got its name, but it may have come from the Latin word 'aperire' which means 'to open'. April is, after all, the month when in the northern hemisphere buds begin to open and things start to grow again after the winter. It seems odd then for us that school is going to be closed for two weeks of April. It was nice having a long week-end over Easter but it seems that this year's school holidays have been unusual and there has been lots of discussion in the media as to whether people think splitting the Easter week-end and the school holidays has been a good idea. Let us know what you think. You can give us your ideas and opinions by contacting Mrs Allen in the school office, by writing in or e-mailing us here at school. The address is overleaf. Whatever your opinion we hope you enjoy your 'Spring Break' and we look forward to having all of the children safely back in school with us on Monday 21st April.

**Thank – you and Goodbye!**

On Wednesday 19th March the whole school walked up to St. Barnabas church for the Easter service. We were treated to a very special performance with a unique visit from 'Thunderbirds' (aka Steve and Ian). At the end of the service we had to say goodbye to Lee who is moving away from the team at St. Barnabas and going to work in Hatton. We thank Lee for all the work she has done at Brackensdale and wish her every success in her new role.

***A new Book Contract—Coming Soon!***

Our new library is just about finished. We are just putting the



final touches to it and it should be ready to open this month! Every child will have the opportunity to borrow books from the library on their own library



**APRIL FOOL!**



April begins with a day of fun and jokes - April Fool's Day. No one really knows when this custom began but it has been kept for hundreds of years. So if any one sends you off to find hen's teeth, striped paint, a long weight or a left handed screwdriver...Beware!!!

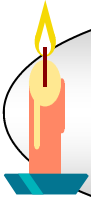


**Dates for your Diary:**

- Monday 7th - Friday 18th April -School closed. Spring Break Holiday.
- Monday 21st April - Welcome Back for the Summer Term.
- Mon 28th April - Friday 2nd May; Bike to school week.
- Friday 2nd May - Family Ride Day (see over)
- Thursday 8th May - Y3/4 Trip to Matlock Bath.
- Monday 12th May - SATs week.
- Monday 19th May - Art Week.

card (which will be issued soon). Also each child will be given a 'book contract' which will be an agreement to safe guard the new books. Children will agree to take care of the books and pay a set price should the books become lost or damaged. More details to follow soon.

## Brackensdale ER Junior School



*'A candle loses nothing of its light by lighting another candle'*

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### National Year of Reading

From the 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 it will be the National Year of Reading.

We want to join in with as many activities as possible. The launch of our library is very good timing!

The aim is to encourage everyone — children, parents, celebrities, politicians — to get reading.

It's about reading — not necessarily reading books (magazines, newspapers, web-pages, newsletters!)

It's about reading for pleasure!  
**Reading is fun!**

This is a national initiative — keep your eye out for more information in the press and on TV.

### Sport Relief Thanks!!

- We had a fun day on Monday 17th March as we wore our Sport's gear to school to raise money for Sport Relief. We had judo and karate kids. We had footballers, cyclists, rugby players and even a swimmer! Well done to everyone who joined in. We raised £160 for Sport Relief.



## National Bike to School Week

### 28th April - 2nd May

We are going to encourage as many people as possible to come to school on their bikes this week as we all go cycle friendly. Even the adults in school are going to try hard to ride to school for at least 1 day!! If you would like your child to be able to come to school on their bikes then they need to get a form from the office, complete it and then bring it back to school. They will need all the appropriate safety gear and will have to wear a helmet. As the nights are getting lighter now, we hope that they won't need lights but any fluorescent clothing is helpful so that they can be seen easily.

On Friday 2nd May parents will have their chance to join us for a family cycle ride. There will be more details to follow about this but the children will get some input on how to maintain their bikes in the morning and on the Friday afternoon the people from Cycle Derby will take the cycle children and parents on a family ride.



So dust off your bikes, get them in good working order and join us on Friday May 2nd for our family cycle ride.

### SATS COUNTDOWN!!

*A reminder that all children in school will be doing SATs tests during Week Starting May 12th. Please make sure your child is in school for this important week.*

Look out in our May newsletter for a report on the Y6 residential visit to France.

**Bon Voyage!**



**Don't forget we're on the web: [www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.brackensdalejuniorschool.co.uk)**