



# NEWSLETTER

## 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### **School Events**

Happy New Year!

It has been lovely to hear all about your fantastic Christmas holidays from the children. They have all returned with a really positive attitude and have got back into their learning straight away last week. It is good to see them so keen to get going!

Term has started with exciting things already. Yesterday we hosted the 'Stardome' for Years 5 & 6 which was a huge success. The children had the opportunity to work inside an inflatable planetarium and learn facts about space and our planet. There was great feedback from the children as they all emerged from the darkness!

Next week is our second Assessment week of the school year. The children will have the opportunity to show how their reading, grammar and maths skills have progressed since their previous assessments in October. We will then use this information alongside our teacher assessments to ensure that all children are making good progress and additional support will then be provided where it is needed. Maths groups may also see some changes following these assessments. It is important the children attend school next week so they can show us what they know.

This Homework Projects for this term will come home with the children on Friday this week to be returned at the end of March. We are all really looking forward to hearing about how everyone approaches these tasks over the next couple of months. You will find some Maths activities included this time and a covering letter to explain how they should be used.

We say 'Bon voyage' this week to 3 pupils from Year 6 who are taking part in the Cumbria Primary Schools Ski Trip to France. We can't wait to hear all about their experiences when they return the following week.

Our themes this term are Courage, Creativity and Fairness. We have already started talking about examples of courage in assembly and how we can develop creative thinking.

### **School Development**

Work continues on our School Development Plan. A summary for Parents will be on the school website on Monday. Work this term is concentrating on opportunities in school for staff to share good practice between classes. We have a number of meetings scheduled over the next few weeks where we will be looking at the teaching and learning in different classrooms around school. Your child may come home and say that their lesson has been videoed as we use our IRIS technology to support this process.

In staff meetings we are currently developing our English Curriculum in order to ensure that we are effectively providing opportunities to stimulate the reading and writing skills of all pupils. In Maths we are looking at developing our teaching of reasoning across all areas of the maths curriculum.

We have a number of opportunities this half term where staff will be working alongside colleagues from other schools to look at the provision of additional support, phonics and subject leadership. This is extremely beneficial in developing our own practice. Joint working with the Infants school is also developing further this term and we planning further opportunities to get both the children and the staff together.

## **Parent Workshops**

This half term sees the first of our programme of Parent Workshops to provide information on teaching methods in Maths at our school and support with the Family Maths scrapbook activities. There will be one each half term and they will always take place on Mondays from 4:00pm to 4:45pm. This follows requests from some parents for advice on how to help their children with their learning at home.

**The first meeting will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February** with the second one on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Attendance**

**Our attendance so far this year is: 96.2%. This keeps us slightly below our target of 97%.**

**Class winners during December were: 4LP, 4S and 5H.** Our winning class will receive £50 at the end of the year to spend how they wish. Past winners have had a class party and invited the ice cream van in to school!

**Individual 100% attendance lottery winners are chosen weekly. They receive a £5 prize.** All pupils with 100% attendance for this term will receive a certificate and prize on the final day of term.

Please remember that holidays during term time are not authorised.

## **Car Park reminder**

Just a reminder that the school car park should not be used for dropping off or collecting children at the start and end of the school day unless you have permission to do so (e.g. Blue Badge holders). Can we please also request that you do not use the pull-in at the front of the school to drop children off. This causes a hazard if staff are trying to pull on to the car park meaning cars are then sticking out into the road with the potential for accidents. Thank you to everyone for keeping to the school policy on this. The school grounds are now much safer for the children.

## **Important Dates this half term**

All important dates are added to the parents calendar on our school website. Key dates for this half term include:

**Wb 16.1.17:** Assessment Week

**25.1.17:** Governors Teaching & Learning Committee

**27.1.17:** Y4 Siddick Pond Bird Hide visit

**Wb 30.1.17:** Y4 Pond Hide project for Allerdale Council

**Wb 6.2.17:** Safer Internet Week

**8.2.17:** Full Governors Meeting

**13.2.17:** Parent Maths Workshop