



# NEWSLETTER

## 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### School Events

This term certainly feels like its flying by!

The children were fantastic during our Assessment week in January. They were committed, hard-working and persevered in order to do their best. Class teachers have now looked at these results to amend groups and plan for this term. Our whole school focus areas are:

Calculations in a context and fractions, decimals and percentages in Maths;

Inference skills in Reading;

Punctuation and sentence structure in Writing.

We have also worked on a whole school writing in response to film project. The children really enjoyed watching 'Kubo and the Two Strings' (recent BAFTA winner) and then retold the story in their own words. We are planning to repeat this idea later in the year with a different film.

Year 4 have been working really hard on their Siddick Ponds project. A full week of learning and activities culminated in a presentation afternoon pitching their ideas to Allerdale Council and the School Governors. We wait excitedly to find out the next steps in this project which will hopefully lead to a grand opening of the new Bird Hide complete with information boards designed by Ashfield Year 4s in the summer. We will keep you posted with any further news.

Well done to all the children who took part in the TT Rockstars Number Day for the NSPCC. We won again! This is a fantastic achievement and is thanks to all the hard work and dedication put in by those pupils who spent anywhere from 5 minutes to 5 hours practising their times tables on the day. Mrs Gibson is extremely pleased that have retained our title and is already planning next year so we achieve a hat trick!

Last week Mrs Brown co-ordinated various Safer Internet activities around school as we took part in the national Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Please look at our website for further information for parents to ensure that our children stay safe online.

This week sees our Annual Voice Up! Competition taking place around school. This is a celebration of poetry and performance as all the children learn a poem. Pupils are busy preforming these in front of their classmates as they vote for the person who will go on to represent their class on Friday afternoon's Grand Final in front of an expert panel of judges. Good luck everyone!

The first week back after half term will see us celebrating **World Book Day** with a week full of activities linked to storytelling. We are all looking forward to working with our visiting storyteller from Sweden, enjoying our performance of 'Jason and the Golden Fleece' and seeing everyone's costumes as we **come dressed as our favourite characters on Friday 3rd March.**

## School Development

We have now reached the end of Phase 1 of our School Development Plan. Having reviewed the progress and impact so far we are pleased that we have been able to achieve the vast majority of our actions.

Work has continued this month on developing our teaching and learning further throughout school. Teachers and Teaching Assistants have worked together on new long term plans for English and Maths. Time has also been spent looking at good practice within school and discussing what we think the best teaching and learning should look like in our classrooms. All rooms now have a checklist of good practice. Our focus at the moment is on pupil talk and developing reasoning within lessons.

£3000 has just been spent on new reading books to ensure there is a breadth of reading material for all pupils.

We have been continuing to work closely with the Infants school and St Patricks as we all develop our assessment techniques by jointly moderating work. This is proving to be extremely useful for all schools concerned and we will shortly have another school who will be joining us. The following training has taken place in school this month:

Whole school development of the English Curriculum	Global Literacy- Mrs Smits and Mrs Frost
Development of Teaching & Learning 'non-negotiables'	Level 2 Safeguarding- Mrs Frost
Whole school development of Maths long term planning	Phonics- 15 members of staff
Primary Liaison with Workington Academy- Mrs Frost	Teaching & Learning visit to St Patricks- Y4 teachers
Effective Teaching Assistant support- 9 members of staff	Developing Outstanding Teaching- Mr Bishop & Mrs Frost

## Parent Workshops

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and relatives who joined us for Monday's Maths session after school. This is the first of what we hope will be a half termly event as we endeavour to support you with your child's learning in maths. If you have any suggestions for future sessions then please let us know.

**The next session will take place at 4pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March.**

## Attendance

**Our attendance so far this year is: 96.3%. This continues to keep us slightly below our target of 97%.**

**Class winners since New Year are: 4LP, 4S and 5S.** 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! 4LP are currently in the lead!

**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

Just a reminder that the gate is now closed from 3:15pm to 3:25pm. This is to make sure that all the children can safely leave the site at the end of the day. Please make sure that you are not using the car park unless **absolutely necessary. Please also keep your vehicle stationary whilst pedestrians are on or near the car park.**

**Please check the calendar on the school website for important dates for next half term.**