



NEWSLETTER

25th October 2017

SCHOOL NEWS

Well we cannot believe that the first half term has passed already. It really does seem to have flown by! Not many days go by when something exciting isn't happening around school and that is certainly true of this half term.

We spent the first few weeks getting used to our new toilets in Y3 & Y4, some early issues but these now seem to have all been resolved. Our new boilers are also now in use, just in time for the colder weather. This should make us much more energy efficient as we endeavour to help the United Nations achieve Sustainable Global Goals 7 & 13. Please check out www.globalgoals.org to find out how you can also help. We would like to get local businesses and organisations involved in this project. Please contact Mrs Frost via the school office if you have a link to a local organisation that would like to get involved.

PARENTS MEETINGS

These will take place during the week beginning 6th November and will give you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher to discuss how your child has settled in to their new class and look at their work for the first half term. Please bring your child along to these meetings, we find it very beneficial for them to be part of the discussion.

The online booking system will be live from Tuesday 31st October using the link on our school website. If you have any problems accessing this then please don't hesitate to contact the school office where Mrs Sibbald and Mrs Fletcher will help to secure appointment slots for you.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council have been really busy this half term looking at how healthy we are in school, in particular in what we are eating. They are also currently co-ordinating the spending of some additional funds provided by the Tesco blue token scheme to support our outdoor learning area. This is already being well used by both pupils here at the Juniors and from the Infant school.

BOYS ACHIEVEMENT

Pupil questionnaires were carried out in the first couple of weeks of term to look at how our boys and girls view the school. The results were really interesting. Please see the attached sheet for the results. If you would like to be involved in the Boys Achievement Parent Group that will now look at these results and consider how we can all best support our boys to achieve then please contact the School office. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 21st November at 6:30pm-7:30pm.**

DOJOS AND HOUSE POINTS

The changes made to our behaviour policy over the summer have now had a few weeks to begin to make a change around school. The children seem to be responding well to the new system of earning rather than losing dojos and 73 'Extra Mile Awards' have also been awarded to pupils who have gone above and beyond the school's Golden Rules. These also turn into House points for the pupil achieving the award as well as a postcard home sharing the good news.

Houses have now been named after well-known global contributors chosen by the children. The scores at the end of the first half term are:

Greens (Steve Backshall House)-26

Blues (J K Rowling House)-24

Reds (Malala Yousafzia House)- 12

Yellows (Roald Dahl House)-11

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Our school development plan has been reviewed and revised and will soon be on the school website. Our priorities for the curriculum this year are maths, the achievement of disadvantaged pupils, boys writing and Science. We are also continuing to focus on global learning opportunities, the use of the outdoors, feedback and pupil well-being.

We have already been busy in many of these areas looking at the following things:

1. The use of practical apparatus to support understanding in maths. All staff have undertaken training on this and lesson observations in Maths are focusing in on how our pupils are supported practically and visually with number. We are developing links with the Infant school with a view to develop joint practices in this area.
2. Individual plans are being produced for those pupils in receipt of 'Pupil Premium' funding. This includes any pupil who is currently receiving free school meals or who has done so at any point in the past 6 years, children from service families and those pupils classed as 'looked after'. If your child falls into any of these categories then their plan will be shared with you at Parents meetings.
3. We are already seeing some fantastic writing from our boys this year who are really rising to the challenges set by their teachers. It is clear to see that the work that has been undertaken over the past 2 years is really beginning to make a difference for a lot of our boys. Teachers are constantly reviewing their curriculum offer with a view to ensuring that topics are engaging and opportunities for writing are purposeful. All staff accessed Talk for Writing training on 1st September to consider how children need the chance to talk and act out their thoughts as a crucial part of the writing process.
4. Mrs Stainton is busy ensuring all classes have practical and thought provoking science experiences as they develop their skills in scientific enquiry. All staff accessed training with Hester Binge on 25th September as part of the school's Enthuse Award process. Please encourage your child to discuss their science at home with you.

The school is also currently part of a consultation on the future of Resourced Provision in the County. We currently have Resourced Provision status for pupils with physical/medical needs. The local authority is looking into whether the school retains this status or changes it in relation to local need. This is due to be debated much further at County level and will not affect the provision for any pupils with physical/medical needs already at the school.

We have recently had this half term's School Improvement Meeting with our General Adviser from the Local Authority. Once again the outcomes were positive, particularly in relation the improved results in the 2017 SATs. Our updated performance data is now on the school website. We are continuing to focus on those areas outlined above but also have some excellent analysis and evidence to show the progress that pupils make from entry into Y3. We are part of a national group of Junior Schools looking at what performance measures for Junior Schools will look like under the government's recent changes to the national assessment system for KS1 and KS2.

UNIFORM

Thank you for all your help with school uniform. The children look fantastic and it's great to see everyone keeping to the black shoe rule. Children are more than welcome to bring in trainers to change into for playtime and lunchtime. Please can we just remind everyone that hair accessories must be school uniform colours- red, navy blue, black or grey.

We are still finding some items of clothing around school that we cannot re-connect with their owner. **ALL SCHOOL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

ATTENDANCE

Can we please remind everyone that holidays during term time are not authorised and may incur a fine. Persistent absentees will be placed on an attendance plan with Mrs Thwaites to closely monitor absence from school. This includes any child whose attendance is below 90% (in line with government guidelines). This may involve the intervention of the Local Authority Inclusion officer.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018

Events coming up next half term:

Monday 30th October: Halloween discos (Yrs 3&4 5.30-6.30pm, Yrs 5&6 6.45-7.45pm)

Thursday 2nd November: School photos (Individual & Sibling)

Friday 3rd November: Gymnastics competition

Wb 6th November: Parents meetings

Monday 6th November: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes to be returned to school

Monday 6th November: 4LS to Senhouse Museum Maryport

Tuesday 7th November: Flu Jabs for Y3

Thursday 9th November: Y6 to Imperial War Museum Manchester

Monday 13th November: 4G to Senhouse Museum Maryport

Tuesday 14th November: Governors Finance & Resources Committee

Wednesday 15th November: Y5 & Y6 High Five Netball Competition

Friday 17th November: Children in Need Day

Friday 24th November: Non-Uniform Day for Christmas Fair donations (Yrs 3&4 Chocolate, Yrs 5&6 Bottles)

Wednesday 29th November: Christmas Fair

Wednesday 6th December: Whole School visit to Theatre by the Lake

Friday 8th December: Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December: Carol Service at St Johns (pm)

Friday 15th December: Break up for Christmas (3.15pm)

Thursday 4th January: Return to school

Responses from the boys and girls questionnaires completed by the children in school during the 2nd and 3rd week of the Autumn Term.

Question 1: What do you love most about school? Top Ten responses			
Boys	%	Girls	%
PE	21%	Friends	26%
Maths	15%	Learning	14%
Learning	13%	Everything	10%
Friends	9%	Teachers	10%
Playtime	9%	Maths	7%
Literacy	6%	PE	7%
The teachers	5%	English	5%
Science	5%	Art	3%
Everything	4%	Playtime	2%
Topic	4%	Science	2%

Question 2: Is there anything you hate about school? Top 5 responses			
Boys	%	Girls	%
No	50%	No	66%
English	7%	Maths	5%
Lessons	5%	Dinner	3%
Topic	4%	Falling out with friends	3%
Maths	4%	PE	3%

Question 3: Who is your favourite teacher and why? Top 3 reasons	
There was no difference between the reasons given by boys and girls.	
Kind	
Funny	
Helps me	
Most children put their current teacher as the person they liked the most.	

Question 4: What is your favourite subject? Top 6 responses			
Boys	%	Girls	%
Maths	40%	Maths	24%
PE	19%	English	20%
Science	14%	Art	15%
Writing	12%	PE	13%
Topic	5%	Science	13%
Art	3%	Topic	11%

Question 5: Is there anything that makes you unhappy? Top 5 responses			
Boys	%	Girls	%
No	58%	No	76%
People being unkind	12%	When people fall out or are unkind	15%
Topic	3%	Not having many friends	5%
Football	2%	Being told off	4%
Writing	2%	When friends aren't in	3%
Having no friends	2%	Boring playtimes	3%

Question 6: Is there anything you find exciting? Top 6 responses			
Boys	%	Girls	%
PE	18%	Residentials/trips	17%
Residentials/trips	10%	Art	14%
Swimming	9%	Learning	11%
Maths	9%	Science	7%
Science	9%	PE	6%
Topic	9%	Events/treats	6%

Question 7: Is there anything you find boring? Top 5 responses			
Boys	%	Girls	%
No	48%	No	61%
English	10%	Maths	8%
Topic	9%	English	5%
Maths	6%	Reading	4%
Work	6%	Topic	4%

Question 8: What would you like to do at school that we don't do now? (There were a significant number of 'don't know' responses from girls).			
Boys		Girls	
Chemistry	Cooking	Languages	Chemistry
Magic	Spanish	Baking	
Construction	Toys	Trampolining	
Come in on Sunday	Go Karts	Forest	
Table tennis	Golf	Gymnastics	
Tennis	Archaeology	Lots of Art	
Trampolining	Forest	Dance	

Question 9: What homework tasks would you like to have? (The children were given a menu to choose from and were told they could tick more than one).		
	Boys	Girls
Spellings	14%	16%
Times tables	20%	14%
Making things/ craft activities	27%	31%
Research	15%	15%
Projects	12%	11%
Maths	12%	12%

Question 10: How do you feel when you lose a dojo?	
Three main answers from boys and girls were: Unhappy Sad Ashamed of myself	

Question 11: Do you think boys and girls are treated the same or differently?		
	Boys	Girls
The same	59%	65%
Differently	28%	25%
No response	13%	10%