



# Newsletter

February  
2019

## A Message from Mrs Frost

We hope that you have all had a lovely half term break and managed to get out and about as the weather improved. Hopefully this new spring weather will blow away the nasty bugs we have all been dealing with over the past couple of months. Staff illness and pupil attendance was affected last half term by flu and sickness bugs with attendance for the half term at 96.4%. We have been talking to the children about the importance of washing their hands to ensure that we keep the spread of germs down to a minimum. We would be really grateful if you could also discuss this at home.

Even so we still managed to have a really busy half term with lots going on both in and outside school.

**Trips & events:** A group of children represented the school at the announcement event for the Rugby League World Cup 2021. This took place at the Carnegie Theatre where we were treated to breakfast and free promotional goodies for supporting Workington's bid to be a host venue. The children were fantastic, adding to the enthusiastic atmosphere!

1st February saw us celebrate our TT Rockstars in school and helped to raise money for the NSPCC at the same time. Well done to all the children for their fantastic efforts and special congratulations goes to the final 32 who all earned points for their house. Yellow team (Dahl House) were the victors.

Thank you to everyone that could join us for our Reading Week earlier this month. There was a brilliant turn out for every day and it was lovely to see such a wonderful atmosphere generated from reading together! We hope to repeat this again in the future.

Thank you for all your hard work and support ensuring that the children read at home. We know from all the research that this has a dramatic effect on a child's learning and development. It is absolutely vital. It is a great way to spend some time together with your child when you read to them and they read to you. Even 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference. If you feel you need any support with this then please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher.

We will be celebrating the joy of books even further during the week beginning 4th March, celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. The children can take part in our annual 'Readathon' on this day and can come to school dressed as a favourite book character.

This week we are celebrating the world of poetry as the children take part in Voice Up 2019. Thank you for supporting your child to learn their poem in readiness for this event. We look forward to seeing who makes it through to Friday's live final.

**Fundraising:** Thank you for all your support with our latest fundraising events. We are constantly overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness. Our NSPCC Number Day raised £213, Mr Gaskell's sponsored cake sale & Y5's Valentine's shop in support of homeless people raised £485 and he is continuing to gather further sponsors in readiness for his sleep out event in two weeks time. The children also continue to take the initiative in smaller fundraising projects- Morgan, Maisie & Maisy recently raised £40 for Cancer Research through their loom band shop. Lucie & Finley are currently selling Cancer Research bracelets through the school office.

On Friday 15th March we will also be joining in with the national fundraising for Comic Relief and are hoping to have a whole school dance event. Look out for further details next week. Non-uniform, dance gear and fancy dress will be welcome on this day.

**Sports & Clubs:** The children have taken part in a number of sporting events against other schools. Recent weekend football competitions for both boys and girls saw our children take part and compete successfully against other schools from across the county. Our Dodgeball team also did well before the half term break and Y5 are taking part in the Workington Bowls event again this year.

Thank you for all your support for the children during these events and please continue to send in medals, trophies and certificates for the children to share in assemblies. We love to hear about everything they do outside school as well as in.

**School development:** There have been a number of CPD activities that staff have been engaging with. Four staff members are already working through various leadership development opportunities with two more staff due to begin courses this term/next term. All staff have been involved in safeguarding, mental health and dyslexia training and individual staff have also developed their knowledge in maths, reading, assessment, History, Pupil Premium, Kidsafe, IT, PSHE & Science. In January we were also joined by 50 colleagues from local schools to discuss LGBT issues and how we ensure all our children, parents and carers feel welcome and included in our schools. This session was led by Mat Richards from Cockermouth School.

We have taken a lead role in establishing two new groups in the town to improve collaborative working. A new Maths Subject Leaders network group is up and running based here at Ashfield and a joint Workington School Councils group has been set up to allow pupils to work together on joint issues across the town.

Homework project returns continue to be amazing with many children achieving tokens for their house due to producing excellent pieces of work at home. We are so excited to see the work when it comes into school and hear the stories on how these pieces have been put together often as joint efforts with someone at home. We know that these projects hugely support the children's ability to become learners and help them to make links between what they are learning at school and the world around them. They clearly have an excellent grasp of the knowledge they are learning as well as developing a huge range of skills along the way. Y4's Roman shields were impressive again this year and are now once again being displayed at the Senhouse Museum.

**Catering:** After 14 years working with Dolce to provide the school's lunches the governors have decided to award the contract for the next year to Orian Solutions Ltd. We have enjoyed working with Dolce and now look forward to a new relationship as we develop menus with Orian. Our kitchen staff will remain but our menus will change slightly as we gather views from the children about the most popular school meals. The online payment and pre-ordering system will also change but we will send out more information about this before the Easter break so you can change direct debit arrangements. We are very happy that the new system will be easy and simple for everyone to use and will ensure the children chose their meals in advance to help our kitchen staff. Further information about this will follow. If you have questions in the meantime then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**50th Birthday:** We have begun thinking about ways to mark the school's 50th birthday this year. These include a special 50th themed Summer Fair/ Tea Party. Any suggestions or support from families is also welcome. If you have old photos or newspaper clippings that you could share with us that would be appreciated. We plan to put together an Ashfield across the years display in readiness for the Summer Fair and would ask you to contact the school office and speak to Mrs Sibbald if you can help us with this.

Finally, just some reminders about school procedures:

- \* School uniform - please ensure your child continues to wear the correct school uniform. Shoes must be plain black. If your child repeatedly wears shoes that do not match the school policy they will be asked to change into a pair of shoes during the school day. These are taken from a bank of boys and girls shoes that we loan to children in school if needed.
- \* Jewellery - no jewellery should be worn to school other than stud earrings. These should not be worn on PE days or should be removed by the child on the day, before the lesson.
- \* If you are thinking of buying a uniform summer dress our dress is red not blue.
- \* Packed lunches should contain a healthy balance of foods – if bringing a snack for break time this must be separate to their lunch box as lunch boxes are not accessible at break times.
- \* Scooter/Bikes – should be walked down the school path both at the beginning of the day and again at the end of the day to ensure the safety of other pupils and parents.
- \* Children not to be on site before 8.35am as there is no supervision.
- \* The school car park is only for the use for those parents/carers who have a school permit.
- \* Attendance – all absences are to be reported on a daily basis using the attendance line.
- \* Where possible medical appointments to be made outside of school hours. If this is not possible then please provide a copy of the appointment card/letter.

Thank you for your co-operation with these matters. It helps us to run a better school and keep everyone safe.



TT Rockstars  
finalists.

Reading  
with Dad.



## Diary Dates

- |                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 7th March         | - | World Book Day (come to school dressed as your favourite character from a book) |
| Tuesday 12th March         | - | UDance, Yrs 3 & 4 at Carnegie Theatre, Workington 5pm & 7pm                     |
| Wednesday 13th March       | - | Tempest Photography in school for Class Photographs                             |
| Friday 15th March          | - | Comic Relief 'Red Nose Day' Non-uniform (Dance Theme)                           |
| Friday 22nd March          | - | Yrs 5 & 6 Football Tournament (in school)                                       |
| Tuesday 26th March         | - | Y3 Residential meeting for parents 5pm  |
| Thursday 28th March        | - | Choir Performance for parents—2pm, school hall                                  |
| Friday 29th March          | - | Break for Easter Holidays, 3.15pm   |
| Monday 15th April          | - | Back to school 8.35am   |
| Friday 19th April          | - | School Closed (Good Friday)   |
| Monday 22nd April          | - | School Closed (Easter Monday)   |
| Tuesday 23rd April         | - | 4S to St John's Church to 'Experience Easter                                    |
| Wednesday 24th April       | - | 4LJ to St John's Church to 'Experience Easter'                                  |
| Mon 29th April—Wed 1st May | - | Y5 Residential  |
| Wed 1st May—Fri 3rd May    | - | Y3 Residential<br>Y4 Residential  |
| Monday 6th May             | - | School Closed (May Bank Holiday)  |
| Mon 13th –Fri 17th May     | - | Y6 SATs Week  |
| Friday 24th May            | - | Yrs 5 & 6 Girls Football Tournament (in school)                                 |
| Friday 24th May            | - | Break for May half Term 3.15pm  |