



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

High Hesket, CARLISLE, Cumbria CA4 0HU TEL: 016974 73386

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Monday 23rd January 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a frosty few days but we are hopeful some signs of Spring may soon be arriving! Whilst the snow has created some fantastic learning opportunities and fun, I think we are all ready for some warmer weather!

Parent Survey

The parent survey closed last Friday and I would like to thank everyone who has participated. It has been extremely useful to gain an overview of the responses and we are very grateful for the kind words and messages we have received. We will be analysing the survey over the next few days and all suggestions and feedback will be taken into consideration. As always, if there is ever anything you would like to share or discuss further, please do contact school and we can arrange an opportunity for you to do so.

National Strike Action – Wednesday 1st February 2023

You will have seen in the news that one of the teaching trade unions, the NEU, has announced that members of the NEU are expected to undertake industrial action over the course of the next couple of months. The first day of striking will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023 and this will then be followed with further strike action on the 28th February, 15th March and 16th March 2023.

As a result, we are currently preparing contingency arrangements for the proposed strike action as there are statutory ratios and minimum requirements that we have to legally adhere to. Our staffing numbers may be affected by teachers who are undertaking industrial action but also by staff members who will have subsequent childcare difficulties. It is likely that we will need to close some classes as a result of the strike action. We will endeavour to keep you updated further as soon as we know more but please be aware that the nature of industrial action means that we will be uncertain about the full impact of the strikes until the day itself. I hope to be able to provide you with further information at the end of the week.

Smart watches / mobile phones

As technology evolves, we are aware that children are now presented with some fantastic digital opportunities and have access to devices and equipment that can do some amazing things! However, we do also have to be conscious of the safeguarding risks that some of these devices can present. We currently request that mobile phones are not brought in to school and, if they are needed for an emergency reason, are stored in the school office during the school day. More recently, it has come to our attention that a few of the children have smart watches which can act in a similar way to a mobile phone. We do request that, if the children are wearing a watch in school, that it is not connected to the internet and does not have the facility for any audio or image recording.

School Money

Please can we politely remind parents to log on to their School Money accounts and clear any outstanding payments from previous terms. Feel free to get in touch if you would like any support with this.

Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 7th February 2023 – Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 14th February 2023 – EYFS 'Stay and Play' session for parents 8.45 – 10am

Wednesday 15th February 2023 & Thursday 16th February 2023 – Year 6 Parent's Evenings

Friday 17th February 2023 – Last day of term

Monday 27th February 2023 – School reopens

Monday 27th February – 10th March 2023 – Fairtrade fortnight

Wednesday 1st March 2023 – Year 3 Play in a Day

Thursday 2nd March 2023 – World Book Day



Wednesday 8th March 2023 – Year 6 U Dance performance

Friday 17th March 2023 – Red Nose Day

Monday 27th March 2023 – Year 3 trip to Vindolanda

Tuesday 28th March 2023 & Wednesday 29th March 2023 – Nursery – Year 5 Parent's Evenings

Friday 31st March 2023 – Last day of term

Monday 17th April 2023 – School reopens

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher