



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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

Head teacher: Mrs A Harvey

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Wednesday 10th January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

The new year is in full swing and the children have had a productive few days already! This is only a short half term but there is already lots to fit in and we are very much looking forward to our Spring term adventures!

Value of the term

This term, we are focusing on the value of 'happiness' and will be using this as the key theme for our Collective worship sessions and discussions in class.

Playtime snacks

The children in Nursery – Year 2 receive a piece of fruit for morning snack as part of the government free fruit for schools scheme. If the children are in Year 3 or above or are not accessing this snack, they are welcome to bring their own item of snack to have during morning playtime. Traditionally, we have always preferred that these are fruit based but, if required, we do allow for a slightly wider range of items such as plain crackers or another healthy option. Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack which should not contain nuts, sesame, mango, melon (watermelon is allowed) or kiwi. Fresh or dried fruit, cereal bars (not chocolate covered), crackers or breadsticks are ideal examples of alternatives.

Our school website

I wanted to draw your attention to our school website which has recently been updated to include lots of useful information about our curriculum. If you navigate to our curriculum pages (INFORMATION – CURRICULUM), you will be able to see a page for each of our key subject areas with helpful information about what is taught across the school. In addition to this, our class pages (PUPILS – CLASS PAGES) contain overviews for the children's year groups and any additional information you may need.

Edinburgh residential – Year 6 parent's meeting

Mr Andrews will be holding an information session for parents of the Year 6 children about the upcoming residential visit to Edinburgh on Monday 29th January 2024. A letter with further details and a form to complete will be sent out separately.

School Money

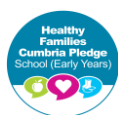
We will shortly be closing our end of year accounts ready for the new financial year in April. Please can we politely request that any outstanding amounts are paid by the end of February in preparation for this. If you would like any assistance or further information, please feel free to contact Mrs McCullough in the school office.

Absence procedures

A brief reminder on the protocols for notifying school if your child is absent. We are duty bound to contact parents directly if we have not had notification that a child is absent and will normally do so from around 9.30am onwards. We do also need to hear directly from a responsible adult so will still need to contact parents even if a sibling passes on the message. We can be notified by telephone, email or by using our 'report an absence' page on the school website. Messages can also be passed on to the member of staff at the school gate in the morning. A reminder that Mrs McCullough does not work on Fridays but messages can be left on the answerphone and will be picked up periodically throughout the day on Fridays.

Term time holidays

As you are aware, we are unable to authorise term time holidays unless in very exceptional circumstances. Attendance is a key focus for the government at the moment and further advice and guidance is currently being shared with schools. Moving forwards, it is very unlikely that your absence will be approved, even if you have had a similar experience authorised in the past. Should you wish to request an absence for a term time holiday, please do so in



writing or by email to Mrs Harvey and outline the dates and reasons for the absence. More information about term time absence can be found on the school website (PARENTS – TERM TIME LEAVE).

Parent governor appointment

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Kevin Aitken who joins the Governing Body as a new parent governor this term. We are extremely grateful to all our governors for giving up their time in support of the school and we appreciate their involvement in helping to ensure the smooth operation of our setting.

Carlisle Foodbank collection

We have a box in the school office for any donations of items for the Foodbank collection which is organised by St Mary's Church. Items can be brought into school and taken to the school office at any time during the school year. A list of suggested food items can be found at <https://www.carlislefoodbank.org.uk/donate-food> .

Dates for the diary:

Monday 15th January 2024 – Year 4 swimming lessons all week

Monday 29th January 2024 – Edinburgh residential information meeting for Year 6 parents

Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st January 2024 – Year 6 parents' evenings

Monday 5th February 2024 – Year 5 swimming lessons all week

Tuesday 6th February 2024 – Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 7th February 2024 – Year 4 visit to Pizza Express

Friday 9th February 2024 – School closes for the half term holiday

Monday 19th February 2024 – School reopens

Monday 19th February 2024 – Year 6 swimming lessons all week

Thursday 7th March 2024 – World Book Day

Friday 15th March 2024 – Red Nose Day

Monday 18th March 2024 – Year 6 U Dance performances

Monday 25th March 2024 – Year 6 Edinburgh residential

Wednesday 27th March 2024 – Easter service at St Mary's Church (children only)

Thursday 28th March 2024 – School closes for the Easter holidays

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A Harvey