



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Monday 18th November 2019

Dear Parents,

Unbelievably, Christmas is fast approaching and there is lots of information that I need to share before Christmas preparations are underway! We have already had an extremely productive term with events such as Space Week, Outdoor Classroom Day and many individual class activities and trips. Please remember that we try to use our Twitter feed to share photographs with our school community and we also try and ensure that our school website is kept up to date with any newsletters and other relevant information.

Thank you!

We always appreciate your support and generosity with our charity and school events and we were thrilled that our Children in Need donations totalled an impressive £188! We are also very grateful for all of the Aldi stickers that were collected and we are looking forward to receiving our kits for schools soon.

A further request...

Now that the Aldi 'Kit for Schools' promotion has ended, we have signed up for The Sun newspaper's 'Books for Schools' scheme. The Sun newspaper will be printing tokens in The Sun and The Sun on Sunday between Saturday 23rd November 2019 and Saturday 18th January 2020. If we manage to collect 3500 tokens, we will be provided with a pack of books from HarperCollins with a value of over £600. More details can be found at thesunfreebooksforschools.co.uk.

Christmas performances

I am sure that you will all be looking forward to our Christmas events and performances. We will be sending out a separate letter shortly which will outline all of the details that you need and ticket arrangements.

Carol service and early closure

As in previous years, our Carol Service takes place at St Mary's Church at 1.30pm and is led by our Year 5 and 6 classes so we will be reserving the seating in the church for their families. We do always like to offer the children the opportunity to wear Christmas jumpers or outfits on this day, although please do not feel that you need to purchase anything special. Following the service, all of the children will return to school and will be dismissed in the normal manner but at an earlier time of 2.30pm. There will be no Wiggle bugs After School Club on this day but Breakfast Club will run as normal.

Medication

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, government guidance relating to the administration of medication has become increasingly complex and there are many legal requirements involved in ensuring that medication is stored and administered correctly. We kindly ask that, whenever possible, any medication required by a child is administered outside of school hours. However, we do recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances when this is not possible. In this case, the **medication must be prescribed** from a doctor or pharmacist and will need to be handed in at the school office by parents in its original packaging and with the prescription labels evident and safety information leaflet included. There are also detailed 'Administration of medication' forms which will also need to be completed and signed. In the case of antibiotics being prescribed by your GP it is often possible to request medication that only needs to be administered three times per day rather than four, which enables this to be taken outside school hours. Unfortunately, there may be times when we are unable to assist with the administration of medication and we appreciate your support and understanding with this. We are currently reviewing and revising our medication policy in line with recent training and guidance and will update you further if necessary.

Water bottles

Please can I politely remind parents that all water bottles kept in the classrooms should only contain water. We appreciate your support with this.

Christmas cards

The children are often keen to send Christmas cards at this time of year to their friends and classmates. We have a post box system in school where children are welcome to post their cards into the box in the library area by the office. We then have Year 6 volunteers who deliver these to the classrooms so we would greatly appreciate it if the cards could be clearly labelled with names and year group / classes to make the delivery process go smoothly! If children prefer, they are welcome to send a card to the whole school instead of to individuals. The post box will be in service from Monday 2nd December 2019 and will run until the last day of term.

Christmas lunch and parties

You will see on the dates below that we have our annual Christmas lunch and parties on Tuesday 17th December 2019. The kitchen staff always produce a fabulous Christmas lunch on this day and we are very grateful to them for such a lovely event. The lunch will then be followed by Christmas parties and we are looking forward to our special visitor! The children are welcome to come to school in their party outfits if they would like.

Toy Day

The children always love our 'Toy Day' in the last week of term which, this year, will take place on Thursday 19th December 2019. They are welcome to bring in a toy or game from home that they will have the opportunity to play with. We do request that the children bring in something that is suitable and not too expensive and we do ask that electrical items such as gaming machines or computer games are avoided. Whilst we do encourage the children to take good care of their items, I am afraid that we cannot be responsible for any damages that may occur so it is always best to choose items that are suited to a busy school environment.

Theatre by the Lake, Keswick

Years 2-6 will be attending the Theatre by the Lake production of 'A Christmas Carol' on Wednesday 18th December 2019. We will be providing the children with a slightly earlier lunch that day in order to leave in time for the 1.30pm start. We aim to return to school for approximately 4.30pm but I am sure that you can appreciate this is dependent on traffic and weather conditions. On arriving back at school, we will escort the children back into school so as we can safely dismiss the children from inside. Year 2 can be collected from their normal classroom door whereas Years 3-6 will wait in the Year 4 classroom and can be collected from the school office. Please leave the lay-by outside school clear so that the two coaches can pull in safely.

Dates for the diary:

Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th November 2019 – **Scholastic Book Fair** in the Hall 3pm – 3.45pm
Friday 22nd November 2019 – **PTA Christmas Fair** 4.45 – 7pm. Please park responsibly and safely.
Wednesday 4th December 2019 – **Year 6 class assembly** 9am (Y6 parents invited to attend)
Thursday 5th December 2019 – Cathedral Choir Outreach **Year 5&6 performance** at Carlisle Cathedral at 6.30pm
Tuesday 10th December 2019 – **Nursery and Reception nativity** 9.30am
Tuesday 10th December 2019 – **Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance** 1.30pm
Wednesday 11th December 2019 – **Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance** 2pm
Wednesday 11th December 2019 – **Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance** 5.30pm
Thursday 12th December 2019 – **Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance** 9.15am
Monday 16th December 2019 – **Reception and Year 1 trip** to the Sands Centre pantomime
Tuesday 17th December 2019 – **Christmas lunch and parties**
Wednesday 18th December 2019 – **Year 2-6 trip** to Theatre by the Lake
Thursday 19th December 2019 – **Toy Day**
Friday 20th December 2019 – **Carol Service** in St Mary's Church (seating reserved for Y5&6 parents) 1.30pm
Friday 20th December 2019 – **School closes early at 2.30pm** for the Christmas holidays (no Wigglebugs).

I hope this clarifies some of the details that you need to know in the lead up to the Christmas events. Please remember that you are always welcome to contact us if you require any additional information or have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher

