



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Monday 24th February 2020

Dear Parents,

Unbelievably, we are already half way through the school year and time is flying! I hope you have all had a wonderful half term and that the children have come back well rested and ready to engage with the second half of the spring term. As always, we have lots of different activities and events taking place, some of which are outlined in the 'dates for your diary' section at the end of this letter and on the school website calendar.

Tanzanian adventures!

We are delighted by the success of Mrs Ager's and Miss Blenkarn's recent trip to Tanzania. It was wonderful to see them teach lessons with the children at Mrawi Primary School and to share practice with teachers from Tanzania and Cumbria as part of the process. It was also incredibly rewarding to hear news about the difference that our fundraising efforts have made to the school and we look forward to welcoming teachers from Mrawi Primary School later on this academic year.

Staffing update

Thank you to everyone for your support during the last two weeks of term whilst Miss Blenkarn and Mrs Ager were absent. We had also expected Mrs McCullough to be absent as she was going to be undertaking a planned procedure. Unfortunately, it was unexpectedly rescheduled and Mrs McCullough now expects to be absent at the start of the summer term when we return after the Easter holidays (term commences Tuesday 14th April 2020). There may be times when the office is unmanned during this period but we are hoping that Mrs Isobel Haley and myself will be able to cover the majority of the time between us.

Internet Safety

We have recently marked Safer Internet Day 2020 with assemblies within school and activities within our classes. It is important to note that social media platforms and gaming apps are always evolving and we are aware that many of our children utilise the internet at home to play games, communicate with friends and conduct research. Whilst we embrace the positives that the internet provides, we are keen to remind parents to monitor their child's use of devices and that conversations about how to ensure they conduct themselves positively and kindly when communicating online are extremely important.

Year 4,5 & 6 'Gripping Yarns' internet safety workshop

On Wednesday 26th February 2020, Years 4, 5 & 6 will take part in an interactive performance workshop presented by 'Gripping Yarns' where they will explore the story of a primary school student who encounters some difficulties relating to social media and communicating online. The workshop is entitled 'Thinking Bubbles' and, as mentioned above, we feel this will really enhance the internet safety work we have been doing within our computing curriculum and as part of Safer Internet Day.

School money payments

We are fast approaching the end of the financial year and the Local Authority request that we prepare our accounts by the end of February. As a result, we would like to politely request that all outstanding payments on School money are addressed so that we can reconcile our end of year accounts. Your support with this is much appreciated.

Thank you to the PTA

We are always extremely grateful to the support and fundraising that our Parent Teacher Association provides. Their efforts, along with the generosity of our parents, has resulted in us being able to purchase much needed new whiteboard screens for two of our classrooms. They have already made a huge difference to our teaching and were pivotal in us being able to connect with Mrs Ager and Miss Blenkarn whilst they were in Tanzania which was a very special experience.

Weather warning!

Unfortunately, the weather has not been kind to us as of late and, with this in mind, it is worth reminding you that our procedures for school closures remain the same as previously advised in the Autumn term. There is the possibility of more snow arriving and, when we do occasionally have heavy snow at school, the children are often keen to get outside and enjoy it on the school field. However, we are only able to allow them to do so if they are suitably equipped for the weather and so we kindly ask that they bring wellies (or a suitable waterproof footwear alternative) on any days of heavy snowfall along with warm coats, gloves and hats.

Dates for the diary

Monday 24th February 2020 – **Fairtrade Fortnight** begins (activities to take place in class).

Wednesday 26th February 2020 – **Y4,5,6 'Gripping Yarns'** internet safety performance workshop.

Wednesday 4th March 2020 – **Year 5 & 6 Edinburgh residential information meeting** for parents at 5.30pm.

Thursday 5th March 2020 – **World Book Day** (activities to take place in school, no dressing up required).

Wednesday 11th March & Thursday 12th March 2020 – **Parent's evening** appointments.

Thursday 12th March 2020 – **Year 6 trip** to Climate Champions Final in Birmingham (Y6 parents evening to be rearranged)

Friday 13th March 2020 – **Sport Relief** (non-uniform day)

Friday 20th March 2020 – **Udance performance** at the Sands Centre for Dance Club.

Monday 23rd March 2020 – **Year 1 'Play in a Day'** performance for Year 1 parents at 2.50pm in the hall.

Thursday 26th March 2020 – **Year 3 class assembly** at 9am (Year 3 parents are invited to watch).

Friday 27th March 2020 – **Last day of term**. School closes at 3.20pm.

Tuesday 14th April 2020 – **School reopens** for Summer term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey