



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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

Head teacher: Mrs A Harvey

Email: head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk Website: www.high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk

Thursday 3rd December 2020

Dear Parents,

The end of term is fast approaching and we are thoroughly embracing the Christmas spirit within our bubbles. The M&M Production last Friday of 'The Wizard of Oz' was a brilliant way to start the run up to Christmas and the children (and staff) really enjoyed the experience. We would like to extend a huge thank you for all of the donations that made the performance possible.

Christmas reminders!

Just a reminder that there are lots of Christmas activities taking place over the next few weeks and so please remember to check the 'dates for your diary' section below. The children are now also able to bring Christmas cards in from home for other children in their bubbles but we do ask that the children "stick, don't lick!" when sealing the envelopes. We are also busy in our bubbles creating our Christmas crafts which the PTA would really appreciate a donation of £1.50 towards as we are unable to sell them at the Christmas fair as usual. There are some very creative ideas and we will try and put some pictures on Twitter in the coming days to show what we have all been making.

Last day of term & Wigglebugs

As already mentioned, we are closing for the Christmas holiday on Friday 18th December 2020 at normal time. Please note that Wigglebugs After School Club will **NOT** be running on the last day of term. However, Breakfast Club will be open as normal.

Menu changes

As we have some changes to our normal timetable to fit in our Christmas activities, there may be some amendments to the menus for the last couple of weeks. The meals will not change but they may be provided on a different day to what is normally listed on the menu.

Video permissions

As mentioned in a previous letter, we are hoping to create some short videos to share with our parents over Google Classroom as we are unable to hold our normal Christmas performances. These will only be able to be viewed by logging in to Google Classroom and we do ask that parents do not share or download these. Further information about how to access Google Classroom will be provided nearer the end of term. You will have already completed a photography/filming permission and preferences form when your child joined the school and we will be referring to these when creating the videos. However, if your preferences have changed please do get in touch so as we can update your permissions.

Mud update!

We have reorganised our arrangements to try and provide playtimes for the children without using the school field as we still have safety issues due to the ground being so muddy. We do ask that the children still have access to their wellies as there may be times when the field is needed to be used still. We will send wellies home at the end of term for a good clean but we would appreciate it if these can be returned once school reopens in January. I'm afraid some of the wellies are in quite a state so you may wish to send in a bag for them to come home in.

Path along the field

In addition to the mud on the field, we are aware that the bark path has had a lot of use over the last term and is in need of some upkeep. We have arranged to do some work on the path before the end of term so there may be a day when the path is out of action. If this happens, a temporary path will be set up which can be used and we really appreciate your patience whilst we try and make improvements.

Kindness challenge update from the PTA

Thank you to everyone who took part in our kindness challenge, and returned their Smarties tubes. We know there have been some wonderful stories about the kind acts the children took part in, and we raised an amazing £405! While we missed the Christmas fair this year, this amount really helps us continue to fund equipment and resources. Thank you!

Film afternoon – Thursday 17th December

For our Christmas jumper day and film afternoon, the PTA have kindly arranged for snack boxes to be provided for all of the children so as they can have an extra treat! To make it possible, the PTA would welcome donations of £1.50 per child and any profit will go directly to funding resources for the school which we are very grateful for. Please can money be sent in to school in the usual way. All snack boxes will cater for allergies, and will be quarantined for 72 hours beforehand.

Cold weather...

The days are certainly getting colder and feeling more and more wintery. In all of the safety guidance we are following, the need for ventilation and open windows is paramount but this does mean that, as the temperature drops, some of our classrooms are starting to feel a little chiller at times. So far, this has not been a significant issue and we do have the heating on within school but the children are welcome to bring an extra item of clothing if they feel it would help as the weather gets colder, such as an appropriate hoodie or fleece top which they can wear over their uniform on colder days. Alternatively, they may wish to wear an extra layer under their uniform, such as their PE t-shirt. Extra items can stay at school on their pegs or in their bags for when they are needed and we would appreciate it if any items are labelled clearly with the children's names so as we can make sure any lost items are easily returned.

PE kit

Thinking forward to January, we will be asking that the children continue to come to school dressed in PE kits on their PE days. Please can I politely remind parents that PE kit should be in line with our normal uniform expectations and should consist of black tracksuit trousers or shorts and a white t-shirt (tops with the school logo can be purchased from the Uniform Shop if preferred). We do ask that the children wear their school uniform jumpers to school on these days and an alternative sweatshirt top or hoodie should only be worn during the PE session itself. The change of top should not replace the normal uniform jumper. Thank you very much for your help with this.

Safety measures

As you are all aware, we are now operating under Tier 2 restrictions and it is imperative that we continue to act in line with our risk assessments and safety measures. The mud on the field is resulting in more congested areas on the paving and so I would like to stress the importance of maintaining social distancing and providing other households with space when utilising the path. As a reminder, please can I ask all families adhere to the following:

- **Do not bring your child to school if they show any of the three main coronavirus symptoms or if they are not well enough to engage with their learning**
- **Please use the one-way system around the school grounds (enter via main gate, exit via field gate). Please DO NOT exit via the main school gate**
- **Please socially distance from other households whilst waiting for your child and please leave the site as soon as you have collected your child/ren**
- **Children should stay close to their parents at all times to avoid our bubbles mixing once school has ended**
- **Please DO NOT park across the space directly in front of the large field gate to allow space for pupils and families exiting the gate**
- **Utilise our recommended one-way system when driving through the village (enter at the Penrith end, leave via the Carlisle end)**

Please could we also politely request that parents collecting children in the earlier slot collect their children and return to their cars as soon as possible. This means that parking spaces will be free for parents arriving for the 3.25 timing.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 6th December 2020 – Deadline for Christmas lunch orders if your child normally has packed lunch

Wednesday 9th December 2020 – Christmas lunch and parties (non-uniform)

Friday 11th December 2020 – Last day to bring in Christmas cards

Thursday 17th December 2020 – Christmas jumper day and film afternoon

Friday 18th December 2020 – Last day of term

Tuesday 5th January 2020 – School reopens

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A Harvey