



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Monday 6th September 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,



After only the first few days, we are already back in the swing of things and it has been wonderful hearing the classrooms full of chatter and to see so many smiling faces! The start of term has felt particularly emotional as we have finally been able to join together as a school for assemblies and to allow the children to reconnect at playtimes with friends from other classes. It has already been a busy start to the term so there is plenty of news to share and a few reminders that you may find useful.

Golden Apple Award 2021

We are delighted to announce that we have been nominated for a 2021 Golden Apple Award. The awards are sponsored by a collection of local business and media outlets, and are held to recognise achievement across the educational sector in Cumbria. We have been nominated within the Best Inclusion Initiative category and the winners will be announced in early October. The nominations are anonymous so we would like to extend a very big thank you to whoever put us forward for the award – it has certainly been a lovely surprise!

Queen's Jubilee – change of term date

You may be aware that 2022 marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and an additional bank holiday has been announced for Friday 3rd June 2022. This has impacted on the Local Authority term dates and, as a result, the end of the Autumn term will now be on Thursday 16th December 2021. The revised term dates have been sent out alongside this newsletter and can also be found on the school website.

Book bands – Key Stage 1

Over the summer, we have been updating our home reading book resources and have also been busy adding some new reading books to our book baskets. The new books have been purchased using the generous donations from the PTA 'Day off Day' in the Summer term and we are very grateful for everyone's generosity and to the PTA. In addition to this, we have been relabelling our books to bring them in line with a national book banding scheme as the colour banding system we have previously been used has been discontinued. The new colour bands are used in the vast majority of primary schools and will also help us match home reading books more closely to our Read Write Inc Phonics scheme stages. As a result, this may mean that your child will bring home a reading book that is a different colour label to what they had before the summer holidays but this will be overseen by your child's class teacher.

Harvest Festival

This year, we are really looking forward to coming together as a school for the first time in a long time for a Harvest service at St Mary's Church. As it is the first time we have had a whole school event, we have made the decision to restrict this year's service to staff and pupils only. However, each class will be performing a short piece for the service (e.g. a song, dance, poem etc) and we do intend to put each class's contribution on to Google Classroom for parents to see. These will only be shared within your child's classroom page and we ask that they are not downloaded or shared outside of Google Classroom. **Please let us know by Friday 10th September if you would prefer your child not to be recorded so we can make arrangements for this.** We are hopeful that we will be able to extend invites to parents for Christmas performances when the time arises as limiting our Harvest audience will give us time to prepare for future performances and work out logistics ready to invite parents in again soon.

Permission to leave the grounds independently for Y5/6 pupils

Due to last year's arrangements, a number of our Year 5 & 6 pupils left the school grounds independently by walking alongside the side of the school and exiting near the staff car park. They would then be met by parents or, in



occasional cases, have permission to walk home. We are more than happy to continue this arrangement but do ask that parents contact school in writing to confirm that they provide permission for this to take place. **Please email admin@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk or your child's class teacher, even if you have arranged this previously so as we can have written permission for our records.**

School Money

After such a long break, it may be advisable to check that your logins to School Money are still active and working. Please also ensure that you have checked for overdue payments from last term and we are happy to help with any login difficulties if you contact Mrs McCullough at admin@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk.

Extra-curricular clubs

As restrictions have now eased and we are no longer operating in bubbles, we are hoping to start a timetable of after school clubs this term. A letter will be going out next week with details about the range of clubs on offer and how to book.

First aid slips

We will be reverting back to sending home first aid notification slips if your child requires any first aid to be administered rather than sending an email. We will, of course, still contact parents directly if there is a significant injury that you need to be made aware of.

Start of the school day

A polite reminder that the school doors will not open until 8.35am and that the school day does not begin until 8.40am for EYFS-Y3 and 8.50 for Y4-6. A member of staff will be on duty at the gate from 8.35am so we would advise that any children arriving on site earlier than 8.35am are supervised until this time.

And finally...

Please remember that you are always welcome to get in touch with any questions or queries you may have. Most general queries should be directed to Mrs McCullough at admin@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk. If you would like to contact me specifically to discuss any matters, my email is head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 2nd September 2021 – school reopens for Reception – Year 6 (Nursery informed of start dates separately)

Monday 20th September 2021 – Year 3 swimming lessons start (more information to follow)

Wednesday 29th September 2021 – Harvest festival

Monday 4th October 2021 – Year 4 swimming lessons start (more information to follow)

Monday 18th October 2021 – Year 5 swimming lessons start (more information to follow)

Week commencing 18th October 2021 – Parent's evening appointments for Early Years

Friday 22nd October 2021 – school closes for half term break

Monday 1st November 2021 – school reopens

Thursday 4th November 2021 – Outdoor Classroom Day

Wednesday 10th November 2021 – School photographs

Week commencing 15th November 2021 – Parent's evening appointments for Years 1-6

Monday 6th December 2021 – Year 6 swimming lessons start (more information to follow)

Thursday 16th December 2021 – school closes for Christmas

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey

