



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!



We are delighted to be welcoming the children back to school tomorrow after the Christmas holidays and I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. On behalf of everyone at school, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and we are thoroughly looking forward to making more memories and having more adventures with the children throughout 2022! A very special welcome to our new Nursery children and their families who are joining us as part of our January intake and we look forward to getting to know you better as the weeks unfold.

COVID-19

Unfortunately, cases in the local area remain high and, as a result, we ask parents to remain vigilant for possible symptoms of coronavirus and ensure that your child does not attend school if they are unwell. Unfortunately, staffing may be impacted by the current situation but we will endeavour to minimise the impact on the children's learning as much as is possible. We really appreciate your support in working to keep transmission risks as low as possible and to ensure the spread of any illnesses is minimised. **A letter from the Director of Public Health, Colin Cox, has been sent out alongside this newsletter and includes information relating to the changes to self-isolation guidance and the actions that your family should follow if symptoms develop, a positive result is received or a member of the household is identified as a close contact.** It is a detailed letter but extremely important so please ensure you familiarise yourself with this letter fully as it contains essential updates.

Start and end times of the school day

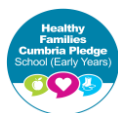
A reminder that Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 & 3 all begin their school day at 8.40am and finish at 3.10pm. The doors open no earlier than 8.35am and older siblings are welcome to enter the building at the earlier start time where they are supervised on the playground until their own classes begin. Years 4, 5 & 6 start at 8.50am and finish at 3.25pm.

Travelling through the village and parking

The first newsletter of the new year is always used to remind parents of our suggested arrangements to help alleviate the congestion at the start and end of the school day in order to keep our children safe at these times. We ask that, wherever possible, cars travel through the village using our one-way system (enter at the Penrith end of the village and exit at the Carlisle end). We also ask that vehicles adhere to the speed limit and that the bus bay is used only as a 'stop and drop' area. Drivers using the bus bay to drop their children should not park or exit their vehicle and this is often monitored by the police who drive through at regular intervals. We also ask that parents have consideration for the local residents and park sensitively, ensuring that driveways are not blocked and that there is adequate space on the pavements for pushchairs and wheelchairs to pass by. We do really appreciate your support with this as there has been a real improvement over the last year.

PE kit & school uniform

You should have received a message before Christmas outlining the days that your child's class will be having PE this term. A reminder that children come dressed in their PE kits to school on those days and that the kits should follow the PE uniform requirements (white PE shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers). The children are welcome to bring a change of sweatshirt for the actual PE session but should wear their school uniform jumper or cardigan for the rest of the day. I would also like to thank everyone for following our wider school uniform rules as the children have been coming to school looking very smart!



Getting in touch / website

Our school website is a really useful source of information and I would encourage all parents to familiarise yourself with this if you haven't already (www.high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk). There are links to all the newsletters we send out, lunch menus and curriculum information. You are always welcome to get in touch if you have any questions or queries over the course of the term and all class teachers can be contacted by email (email addresses were provided in September letters from the teachers which are saved on the class pages of the website). If you wish to contact Mrs McCullough in the office, please use the email address admin@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk. Alternatively, if you would like to contact myself directly, please use head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk.

School lunch menus

As the children are only in a few days this week, next week (week commencing Monday 10th January 2022) we will begin Week 1 of the menus. This week, the menu will be as follows:

Wednesday – sausage in a bun

Thursday – mince and potatoes

Friday – fish fingers and waffles

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 12th January 2022 – Year 6 trip to Carlisle Courts

Wednesday 12th January 2022 – Residential information meeting for Year 5 & 6 parents on Zoom (information letter to follow)

Saturday 15th January 2022 – Closing date for applications for Reception places in September

Tuesday 8th February 2022 – Safer Internet Day

Thursday 10th February 2022 – PTA AGM meeting 6.30pm

Friday 11th February 2022 – School closes for half term

Monday 21st February 2022 – School reopens

Tuesday 22nd February 2022 – Fairtrade Fortnight begins

Wednesday 23rd February 2022 – Year 5 & 6 residential

Wednesday 2nd March & Thursday 3rd March 2022 – Parent's evenings

Friday 18th March 2022 – Red Nose Day

Friday 1st April 2022 – School closes for Easter holiday

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher