



Kirkoswald C of E School
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Headteacher: Mr. Leigh Andrews

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,



Welcome back to the start of a new and exciting school year everyone! We hope that you have all had a brilliant summer break and we have been thrilled to welcome the children back to school today. I am very excited to begin my journey as Headteacher of our wonderful school, and to get to know everyone in our wider community. The autumn term is always a busy one and we have some exciting experiences, opportunities and challenges ahead. There will be a lot to share over the coming weeks, but please do get in touch if you have any queries or comments about the upcoming term. Class teachers will be sharing any relevant information separately. Please also look out for updates on the class pages of the school website and on our school Facebook page.

School Vision

As you know, at Kirkoswald CE Primary School, we aspire to provide all children with a supportive and nurturing environment both in the classroom, and through utilising our extensive outdoor areas. We aim to offer an exciting, relevant and creative curriculum which develops the knowledge, skills and understanding, allowing children to thrive and to prepare them for life in the wider world. Our vision of **'Explore, Dream, Discover'** underpins all learning experiences, drives the curriculum and gives children clear foundations for personal development. With the start of a new chapter for the school, I would like to explore our vision further using the tag-line: **'Explore, Dream, Discover – Be The Best That You Can Be.'** We will be unpicking this in the coming weeks with the children. Alongside our vision, we have three core values which were chosen by staff, pupils and the community a few years ago which are **trust, friendship and forgiveness**. We will be using these values with the children to help articulate the expectations for everyone in the school community. I am hoping that some of the children will lead collective worship sessions with this in mind. Watch this space!

Picture News assembly – Friday 6th September 2024

We are planning to join in with a live virtual assembly on Friday which has been organised by 'Picture News'. The assembly is designed for KS1 and KS2 pupils and will explore how pupils can "come together to explore the British Values of mutual respect and tolerance and will celebrate uniqueness and the importance of our communities."

Meet the Team afternoon!

On Tuesday 24th September, we would like to welcome parents into school any time from 2pm, to allow children to show you around the classes and share some of their amazing work. Mrs Little and the school council will be serving drinks and biscuits. This will give you the opportunity to informally chat to teachers about the learning and routines of each class. Class 1 will be introducing parents to our exciting new phonics learning, 'Little Wandle'. As a school we are passionate that *all* children are competent readers and we aim to foster a love of reading.

PE

Kenny and Mrs Henderson will continue to come into school on Wednesdays and Fridays to deliver their sequences of learning and expert coaching. Please ensure that children come to school in their PE kits on those days.



Outdoor Learning

There are many benefits of learning outside of the classroom. Research suggests that it improves children and teacher mental health and wellbeing; provides health benefits; increases physical activity; and naturally encourages creativity, problem solving and teamwork. At school we will endeavour to use the outdoors to supplement and enhance our curriculum by mixing regular 'adventure learning' sessions in The Common and taking opportunities to use the school surroundings and community. To enable us to make the most of our outdoor spaces, can we please ask that children have a named waterproof coat/trousers and a pair of wellies to keep on their peg in school at all times. Many thanks. Please do let us know if you have any difficulties with providing these as we do have some spares available.

Music

We are excited that Dawn Smart (My Smart Music) will be offering music tuition again at school! Dawn offers lessons on a range of instruments and will be starting next Thursday 12th September. Please see the attached letter and if you would like your child to access lessons with Dawn, please return the reply slip to the office as soon as possible.

School times

A reminder that the school doors open at 08.50am and we expect all children to be in school by 09.00am. The school doors are locked at 09.20am. School finishes at 3.30pm and the doors are locked at 3.45pm, once the buses have departed. Pupils are registered every morning and afternoon. Registers will be taken punctually each day at 9:00am and at 1pm. The register closes at 9.20am and 1.20pm. More details can be found on the Attendance Policy on the school website at: https://www.kirkoswald.cumbria.sch.uk/upman/87/Attendance_policy_July_2024.pdf/

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Our Breakfast Club opens at 8.00am and closes at 8.50am. After School Club runs from 3.30pm to 6pm. More details can be found at <https://www.kirkoswald.cumbria.sch.uk/parents-carers/out-of-school-club/> Please remember to email Carolyn and Danielle with your requirements: asc@kirkoswald.cumbria.sch.uk / admin@kirkoswald.cumbria.sch.uk

School Meals/School Payments

Please continue to select your child's meals on School Hub, including if they are having a packed lunch. School meals, trips and other contributions are to be paid for on School Hub: <https://www.schoolhub.co.uk/login>

School uniform

It has been great to see the children return looking so smart in their school uniforms. Information about school uniform can be found on the school website at <https://www.kirkoswald.cumbria.sch.uk/parents-carers/school-uniforms/> including information about second-hand uniform.

Parking

Traffic can be busy at the start and end of the school day. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you not to park on the yellow zig zags. All vehicles should be parked considerately and safely, ensuring that all driveways and pathways can be accessed. The school buses pull up at the school gates at 3.40. Please ensure no vehicles are blocking the gates.

Harvest Festival

On Sunday 22nd September, we have been invited to take part in the village Harvest Festival at The Methodist Chapel. The format will be a café style with a start time of 10am. Miss Reding will be preparing and leading some songs with the children at the service. It would be great to get as many of our children and families along to support this event. Parents are invited to donate any contributions to Penrith Food Bank. This year we are excited to be doing our own school Harvest Festival. Further details to follow.

Christmas

Can you believe I am mentioning this? The staff and children will be working hard to put together our service. Please save the date below.

Residential Visits

We are busy planning a city residential visit for Class 3 for this academic year and we have ideas for Class 2 for a more local, overnight residential which we're working on. Again, details will follow as soon as possible.



Medication procedures

We just wanted to make you aware that we do have to follow strict guidelines in regards to medication in school should your child require it. Any medication brought into school from home should be prescription only and should be provided in the original packaging, clearly marked with the prescription details. We will also need you to fill out forms outlining the administration details. When antibiotics are required, we often find that those requiring to be administered 3 times a day can usually be done at home around the hours of the school day without needing to be given in school. If your child requires pain relief/antihistamine during school hours, we will contact you. A blanket consent form will be coming home in the coming week. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Morning snack & drinks

We ask that children bring a refillable bottle to school each day which contains water only. The children in Early Years to Year 2 are provided with a free piece of fruit for morning snack which is funded through the government's free fruit for schools scheme. Children in Year 3-6 are welcome to bring in a snack of their own if they wish, but we ask that this is a healthy snack, ideally fruit based or a suitable savoury alternative such as bread sticks or crackers (no crisps, sweets or items containing chocolate please).

Dates for the diary:

Monday 9th September 2024 – Fairtrade fortnight starts

Sunday 22nd September – Village Harvest Festival. Methodist Chapel at 10am

Tuesday 24th September - Meet the team afternoon (2pm)

Date TBC – School Harvest Festival & lunch (parents invited for simple Harvest lunch. More details to follow)

Monday 21st October 2024 – Whole school 'Crew Day' (non-uniform – dress for outdoors)

Friday 25th October 2024 – School closes for half term holiday

Monday 4th November 2024 – School reopens

Thursday 7th November 2024 – Outdoor Classroom Day

Thursday 7th November 2024 – Book bus visit

Monday 11th November 2024 – Remembrance Day

Monday 11th November 2024 – Anti bullying week activities in school

Thursday 5th December – Theatre by the Lake (whole school trip)

Monday 4th and Wednesday 6th November 2024 – Parents evening appointments

Tuesday 17th December 2024 – Christmas Service (St Oswald's Church, KO. 6pm)

Friday 20th December 2024 – School closes for the Christmas holidays

Tuesday 7th January 2025 – School reopens for the Spring term

Finally, if you have any comments, feedback or would like to speak to me or any of the teaching staff, we are more than happy to! Don't hesitate to catch me at the gate or make an appointment through the office.

Yours sincerely,
Mr L. Andrews
Headteacher

Friendship

Forgiveness

