



# Arnside National Primary School

*'Aspire – Believe – Achieve'*

Headteacher: Mr Nick Sharp BA Hons (QTS)

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13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

The start of the term has been lovely and the pupils have certainly come back with a spring 'bounce'. It's great to have Mrs Hartropp back in Class 2 and *nearly* a full complement of staff in school. Tara Ates, our wonderful cook, unfortunately had a nasty car accident just before Christmas and will not be returning to work for several weeks. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back nearer half term. Steve Hoare is currently isolating after testing positive and we hope he makes a speedy recovery soon.

## **Covid-19**

The situation continues to cause disruption throughout schools in Cumbria and it's not surprising considering the extremely high rates in our county. We have several confirmed cases of Covid-19 in pupils this week and parents / carers will have received the relevant guidance.

Please be vigilant: do not send a pupil into school if they display any symptoms; regularly test 5+ year olds if you suspect they may have had close contact; and inform school asap of the results of any PCR tests taken.

Staff levels are a major potential concern but rest assured, we would do everything possible to keep classes open. Supply agencies have extremely limited resources due to the widescale problem and it would be a case of us being 'creative' and utilising our existing staff to cover where possible. In the event of a class closure, we would ensure home learning is available at the earliest opportunity. Thank you for your understanding and I hope we get through this next phase of the pandemic with limited disruption.

We have re-introduced a range of measures in school for the next 3 to 4 weeks. These include:

- ✓ No whole school assemblies / collective worship in the school hall (School Church only due to the more ventilated environment)
- ✓ Separate class groups during lunchtime – pupils seated facing one direction
- ✓ Smaller groups for after school clubs i.e. Gym and martial Arts
- ✓ Limit visitors where possible
- ✓ Meetings and CPD online i.e. Governing Body
- ✓ Outside activities and visits to go ahead i.e. cross country

Hopefully, as rates begin to decline again, we can get back to a more normal way of working.



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## PE and Sport

We're pleased to welcome Sportscool back this half term and the activities will include yoga for KS1 and fencing for KS2. The recent Casterton cross country was a great success and it won't be long before we send another team off to the Dallam cluster competition – time for training! I am also thrilled to inform you that Isla Stewart (year 6) has qualified for the County Championships in a few weeks. The Martial Arts club has proved very popular again and due to numbers and the current situation, we have organised two separate sessions. Once Steve Hoare returns, we will resume the after-school gym club. Wednesday's running club will also continue for the half term.

## Play Therapy

Throughout 2021, we have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Sarah Vaughan on a Play Therapy and Emotional Well-being programme for our school. We have managed to offer support to a range of pupils and the outcomes have been outstanding. Sarah is committed to working with Arnside and the local community and we are extremely pleased that this will continue. Additional information has been attached.

## National Trust

Plans are in place for a joint project with the National Trust for Spring '22. This will involve getting classes out onto the Knott to work alongside Education Officers and Rangers. It's an exciting opportunity for the pupils and I would like to thank Nancy Burditt for her help and support with the forthcoming sessions.

## Progress meetings

Near the end of the half term, pupils will receive a mid-year progress report which will identify the level at which they are currently working at and an effort / attitude assessment. Alongside this, we will be holding a Spring parent's evening to discuss your child's progress. This will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> February using the virtual SchoolCloud platform. More details to follow.

## Well-being week

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February marks the start of Well-being week 2022. The week will be a mixture of well-being, health and personal safety activities. This includes: the Heartstart programme, yoga lessons, Safer Internet Day, relationships and health education, mindfulness activities and a 'walk for well-being' in the local area.

Overleaf are a few dates for the diary. Thank you for your help support and take care.

Mr Sharp



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26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Dallam School Cross Country
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Progress reports to parents
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Parent's evening / mid-year feedback
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Well-being week
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Safer Internet Day
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School breaks up for half term

## HALF TERM

21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Fairtrade fortnight
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Book Week
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
8 <sup>th</sup> March	National Trust – environmental day
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Science week
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 residential
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	National Trust – environmental day
	Pupil Parliament
29 <sup>th</sup> March	National Trust – environmental day
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Service – St James'
	Easter fun day
	School breaks up for Easter

## EASTER

19 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils start back



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