



Arnside National Primary School

'Aspire – Believe – Achieve'

Headteacher: Mr Nick Sharp BA Hons (QTS)

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7th November 2023

Dear parent / carer,

We've had plenty of exciting enrichment activities taking place in school and the diary for the term is an exciting one. Recently, all the pupils enjoyed a great session with Greg and Mark from the Arnside Fire Service and I would like to extend a huge thank you for their time and support. The Hedgehogs & Hoglets will soon be off to Heron Theatre to have a special viewing of the Gruffalo and the Gruffalo's Child, texts they will be studying in the Spring term. Later in the term, the infants will also have the opportunity to enjoy a Victorian Christmas experience at Leighton Hall. Other updates include:

Sport & games

Mr Hoare is in the process of selecting the Key Steps Teams for the 2024 competition. The team will spend the rest of the Autumn term learning and developing routines for the event – good luck to all involved. The cross-country season will soon be starting with the first event at Dallam School on Wednesday 22nd November. The event is open for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 and we are aiming to take boys / girls teams for all year groups. More details to follow.

Anti-Bullying Week

National Anti-Bullying week will start on Monday 13th November with the wonderful Odd Socks Day. This is an opportunity to wear odd socks for the day and celebrate our uniqueness! During the week the pupils will also be learning about healthy friendships, dealing with conflict as well as a series of wellbeing / mindfulness activities. On Monday, the juniors will be logging into a live lesson provided by the BBC and celebrating the event with pupils across the country. Keep your eye on Dojo for updates.

Kendal Mountain Festival

Year 5 & 6 pupils will once again have the opportunity to attend the Kendal Mountain Festival schools' event on Friday 17th November. It's a fantastic showcase of films, lectures and live demonstrations which cover a whole range of activities and themes. A permission slip has been emailed out to parents / carers.

Children in Need – Friday 17th November

The School Council have decided that the theme for our Children in Need non-uniform day is 'Jobs'. Their idea is for all pupils to think about what they would like to be in the future and dress up in a 'future job' outfit. However, any non-uniform can be worn – it's all about having fun. A £1 donation will be gratefully accepted and all proceeds will be sent off to this fantastic charity.

FOANS

The FOANS groups have been busy planning the year ahead and the AGM highlighted the excellent fundraising and events from the previous year. On Thursday 9th November, 5-6pm (Infants) / 6-7pm (Juniors) we have our first disco night of the year. Any help from parents / carers will be gratefully accepted. The Christmas build up officially starts on Friday 1st December with the Christmas Social, 4.00 – 6.00pm. Your help and support are crucial to the success of these event and it's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a bit of festive fun with the family. Please contact FOANS if you can help in any way and look out for the update messages.





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School Council

Our School Council have been meeting on a regular basis and they have implemented several initiatives already including new playground equipment and activity rota. Suggestion boxes in all of the classrooms ensure all pupils have an opportunity to voice their ideas and opinions, and we review suggestions on a weekly basis. The tricky bit is deciding whether or not it would be possible! One of the recent suggestions was for a woodwork club so if there are any practical parents / carers out there who would like to pass on their skills, please contact the school office. Their current focus is on improving indoor wet playtime games and ensuring the outdoor playtime rota is working well. Plans are also in place for a Festive Pebble stall at the forthcoming Christmas Social event. The Year 5 & 6 members will soon be taking part in the Pupil Parliament event where they work collaboratively with pupils from cluster schools.

Ethos Team

The Ethos Team have also been very busy and plans are in place to support an Advent calendar project and an adult Christmas Goodie bag initiative. Any donations for either scheme will be gratefully accepted – it's a wonderful way to spread a little festive joy. Keep an eye out for the Ethos Team Dojos and please contact Mrs Pearce for further details.

Questionnaires

We will soon be sending out the parent / carer questionnaire for 2023 – 2024 as this forms an important part of our school self-evaluation. It's a good opportunity to review what is going well and also highlight areas we can improve. Both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils also complete a questionnaire and the results feed directly into our School development plan.

There are many opportunities this term to get involved in school life and we are extremely grateful for your help and support. We look forward to an exciting run up to Christmas – it's always such a special time in school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sharp

Headteacher

