

September 2024

The start of a new school year is full of mixed emotions as the pupils start a fresh adventure in their new classes. The endless tales of summer fun are a joy to listen to and it never ceases to amaze me how the pupils have grown and matured through their holiday experiences. Baby faced infants reach the dizzy heights of the juniors and our Year 6 pupils' thoughts gradually turn towards secondary transfer. Another exciting year begins...

Pupil voice is an integral part of school life and classes were extremely eager to discover who had been elected and chosen for various team roles. Our School Council, Ethos Team and Eco Club, all contribute towards the School Development Plan, and pupils are very proud of the responsibility of representing their peers. The Ethos team are planning to raise funds for sponsoring a child in need; the Eco Team are busy developing our new wildlife area; and the School Council will be looking forward to Fairtrade Fortnight and the forthcoming Pupil Parliament. Wonderful examples of pupil power in action! With Code Club, Book Club, Musical Theatre Club and Sports Club, the pupils are certainly going to be kept busy.

The Year 6 pupils enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day at the Westmorland County Show and were eager to visit the numerous stands and exhibits. The excitement included an interactive VR session with the Fire Service, exploring the Bay Search and Rescue vehicles, meeting Police officers and the dog team, (furry friends included) all whilst keeping a watchful eye on the sheep, pig and cattle judging. A traditional country show in all of its full glory and a huge thank you to the organisers for their kind offer of free entry.

Our regular litter picks will soon be underway and the classes are currently planning routes across the village to help out with the 'Great British Beach Clean' organised by the Marine Conservation Society. The wombles of Arnside are ready to go! Taking responsibility for our local environment is a key aspect of the school vision and our partnership work with the Woodland Trust, National Trust and Natural Landscapes, help form a deep connection with our locality. In addition to this, Emmie and Jonny Bland from Tower Farm have offered pupils the opportunity to attend a weekly Farm Club which gives groups the chance to experience a range of activities, from sheep herding to bee keeping. A wonderfully kind offer and one which may hopefully excite and inspire the next generation of farmers.

Mrs Henneberry is filling the sporting diary at a rapid rate and we were thrilled to start the year with another action-packed wheelchair basketball day. Inspired by the recent Paralympics, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed a day of fast-paced wheelchair action and coach Nat was very impressed by the pupils' drive and sporting conduct. Activ8 continue to provide Martial arts classes which teach pupils basic self-defence techniques whilst promoting discipline, respect and confidence. With cross country season on the horizon, it looks set to be a fun filled, wet and muddy autumn! In the next few weeks, Year 6 will also be completing their Bikeability training and learning how to ride safely on the road; a vital step towards a safer, more independent journey to school.

We are very proud of our Church School status and working alongside the St James' community brings an enrichment which helps all pupils flourish. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, we will be celebrating our annual Harvest Festival and all are invited to attend. Our theme this year is Fairtrade and all the classes will be delivering presentations which promote the wonderful work of the Fairtrade Foundation. Any opportunity that encourages pupils to reflect about better prices, safer working conditions, local sustainability, and fairer terms of trade for farmers and workers, is time spent wisely.

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world." Gandhi

Take care, Mr Sharp