



Kirkbride Primary School  
Explore. Learn. Grow

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Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and carers,

### *Happy New Year!*

On behalf of all the Staff I want to extend a heartfelt *thank you* for the lovely gifts, kind words and cards we received at Christmas and New Year. I am so proud to have a happy, dedicated staff who are passionate about our school and children; it means a lot to them to receive the recognition from you of their hard work and commitment.

Although it has only been a few short weeks, it seems like Christmas and New Year were a long time ago. I have just about managed to get a newsletter out to you before the end of the month as we've had a very busy start to the short spring term. Whilst we've packed a lot in already, the children have settled into the routine brilliantly and we've been so proud of their attitudes and behaviours.

### New Starters

We have welcomed some new children into our Acorn Nursery, and they have settled well into the class. Finley, Tommy, Stanley and Robin have started BIG school in their stride and are joining in with activities, playing inside and outside and joining us in assemblies on the days they are in. It's been lovely to see them in the dinner hall and enjoying seeing older siblings or friends too. Some of our existing Nursery children have also increased the days they are with us in school and have enjoyed joining in with more fun activities.

### Class News

We continue to use Dojo and Facebook to share all the daily learning photos and information about your child's class. The class newsletters for this term were posted on the class pages, with dates for your diary and specific information about the learning your child will be experiencing this term. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's learning, please see their class teacher in the first instance. You can contact them in a private message on Dojo or call the office and we can arrange a chat.

The Class newsletters are on our school website along with the videos of events including the Nativity and Carol service from before Christmas. [www.kirkbride.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.kirkbride.cumbria.sch.uk)

### PTA

Our PTA are busy organising events with two coming up very shortly. See the PTA newsletter sent out for reminders about cinema night 13<sup>th</sup> February and the singer Kerry Weir at The Bush on 14<sup>th</sup> February, which has sold out. We're very grateful for all their support, time and help raising funds for all our children.



## **Christmas Fayre December 2024**

Thank you so much to all our Kirkbride community for attending our Christmas Fayre on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and making it such a wonderful success. We raised over £550 in profit for school funds to support all the children, and the classes are currently deciding what to spend it on. Although it was a whole Team Kirkbride effort, Miss Emily Satterthwaite, our apprentice Teaching assistant, was our chief organiser and did an amazing job of bringing it all together. We hope you had fun.

## **Christmas Trips**

We are delighted that we were able to send all our children on a fabulous Christmas Treat Trip. Thank you to our PTA for supporting us with this with a contribution from their funds, so we could offer this once again for every child.

Acorn class loved going to Whinlatter Forest on the Gruffalo Trail and brought back our hand-chosen Christmas Tree on the bus! Ash, Elm and Oak all ventured out to The Theatre by The Lake in Keswick to see The Jungle Book. Having performed Disney's version in school previously, it was a bit different and straight from the book by Rudyard Kipling, so the children were very surprised at the changes. The children talked about the visual and musical effects, and despite it being a long afternoon, they said they loved it.

## **Breakfast and After School Club – Kirkbride Play and Stay Club**

As you may remember from my previous newsletter, After School Club is now available from 3pm – 5.45pm. The additional 45 mins (5-5.45pm) is £3, which is a pro-rata cost. Mrs Heather Turnbull, one of our Mid-Day supervisors, is assisting at After School Club, with other staff on site available dependent on numbers and ages of children. The children have a full program of activities and are having a great time, eating, playing, making and sometimes just relaxing. Mrs Stamper continues to run Breakfast club 7.30am – 8.30am.

Remember you can book either of these options by 9pm the night before needed on School Hub. We don't ask you to book weeks in advance if you don't want to and we don't charge for cancellations. There will be a KPS club newsletter coming soon.

## **Lunches**

Over recent years, the cost of school dinners has increased dramatically through our providers Orian. We have been notified that the next price increase for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and the cost of a school meal would be £3.66. The Governors and I feel that we would be able to supply a school dinner for our school that would be more cost-effective. Therefore, I wanted to let you know in advance and I will be seeking your thoughts in due course, we are in the process of moving our lunch offer 'in-house' and will be moving away from the catering providers Orian. As you will appreciate, this is a lot of work, and we want to get it right. The change will be on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, so there is time to complete this changeover, and get things sorted.

Mrs Neaves will continue to be our amazing School Cook, and we will work together to create a menu that reflects what we know our children enjoy, to support them in the school day. To do all of this, we will be looking at new systems for ordering lunches for parents, menu options and we will need to have all the costings, to ensure it is value for money.

Please rest assured, we will be making positive changes to ensure all children continue to have the offer of a nutritious, filling meal every day, and the ordering and payment for these will be considered very carefully. More information in a letter will be coming out to you soon, to get your views and thoughts on this change.



### Attendance changes

I will be sending out a letter detailing the changes to attendance from the Government and Local Authority as they have caused some concern, worry and confusion to some parents. This letter will also have links and information on the Cumberland Authority Attendance Strategy. Accompanying it, will be our school Attendance policy which has now been validated by our Governing Body and adopts the Cumberland Policy. Please watch out for this and get in touch if you have any questions.

### Enrichment and events news – so far this half term!

We continue to support our rich and vibrant curriculum with other opportunities and experiences. Some of these are with the support and free time of our lovely staff and are aimed at providing a breadth of choices for the children. We are very grateful to all the staff who give their time for these activities.

- **Ash class** had a wonderful trip to Carlisle Dance Academy recently and were able to mix with other schools for a Dance Festival in their studios. They loved it.
- **Acorn class** attended Multi-skills at Beacon Hill and had a great time working on lots of stations in the big hall, with some of the older students. They were very tired when they got back to school!
- **Year 5 children** completed their Cycle Wise training last week, with all passing the level. Their attitudes and behaviour were amazing, considering on Thursday the weather was not great in the build-up to Storm Eowyn. Thank you to Miss Satterthwaite for cycling with them and the instructor to ensure they were supported.
- **Year 6 Careers Fayre**- the children joined other Year 6 children from our cluster schools to attend a Careers Fayre organised by Centre School Leadership (Bright Stars) and funded by Sellafield. They were able to listen to speakers, ask questions and some brought back brochures of interest to them for the future. Attitudes and behaviours were brilliant. Thank you, Mrs Stamper and Mrs Little (our Governor), for supporting this trip.
- **After School Clubs** have been super positive with Carlisle United Football (Thursday), Mrs Simpson's Art club (Monday) and Lego club (Friday). There has also been Sammy's Gymnastics Club (Tuesday). On Wednesday lunchtimes, Netball club has been brilliant with Oak class having 3 weeks of practise with Mrs Barley and Miss Taylor to get ready for a competition soon. The next 3 weeks will be Elm class. Friday lunchtime, we have a choir club with Mrs Barley and Mrs Fyffe, which is well attended and has great plans for singing and musical events.

### Coming up...

- Kirkbride Playgroup visiting Acorn class Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am – 11am. We're having a special Chinese New Year morning with food tasting, crafts and stories.
- NSPCC Numbers Day - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs Watson is putting the arrangements in place and will be letting you know all the details for this annual fun day for all things Maths.
- In anticipation of World Book Day again this year we will be gifting the children a plain white T-Shirt so that they can decorate it with book related things over the half term break. We are delighted to do this again, so that all children are included and reduces the financial pressure for parents. Last year was a huge success, and we received fabulous feedback on how much the children, and parents enjoyed this half term activity. Your creativity was amazing!
- Outdoor/Forest Club - Mrs Mountford will be getting plans in place to start a club in the summer term once the weather is better.

As always, please get in touch about any concerns or worries and I will do my best to support.

Kind Regards

Karen Barley



Head Teacher



## Dates for your diary:

| <u>Date</u>                                   | <u>Event</u>                                       |
|---|--|
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February            | Keys Steps Gymnastics Competition                  |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February               | NSPCC Number Day                                   |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February            | PTA Cinema Night                                   |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February              | PTA – Kerry Weir Night at The Bush Inn             |
| <b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>        | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term Ends</b>               |
| <b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>        | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> half Term starts</b>             |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March                | World Book Day- Booky Breakfast, Usborne Book Fair |
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March                | Tullie House Visit (Elm)                           |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March              | Foodbank Assembly                                  |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April               | Easter Service at Church (Whole School)            |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April                | Easter Bingo                                       |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April                  | Reports to parents                                 |
| <b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>            | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term Ends</b>               |
| <b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>           | <b>New Term Starts</b>                             |
| <b>Future Dates</b>                           |  |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May                    | May Day Holiday                                    |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> May | SATS KS2   |
| <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>             | <b>End of First half term</b>                      |
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>             | <b>Starts of 2<sup>nd</sup> half term</b>          |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June                | Sports Day   |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> June | Residential for Years 4-6                          |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June               | Parents Afternoon                                  |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July                | Reserve Sports Day                                 |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July                   | KS2 Performance Week                               |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July                  | PTA - End of term Disco                            |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July               | Whole school trip (TBC)                            |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July                  | Awards and Leavers Assembly                        |
| <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>            | <b>End of Academic Year</b>                        |
| <b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>     | <b>Start of new Academic Year</b>                  |

