



**Kirkbride Primary School**

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Head Teacher: Mrs. K. L. Barley

Monday 25th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term. I hope you had a restful and relaxing Easter break and the children are ready to for a fun packed term ahead. We have lots of lovely activities and experiences lined up for the children and we hope the fine weather stays to enable us to get outside as much as we can.

Our Whole school value this half term is **Ambition**, which ties in with all of the work the Year 6 children will be doing on their transition to Secondary School, and so our assemblies and focus will be on learning about trying our best, focussing on our goals and working together for success for everyone. I have lots of lovely stories lined up and we will also be learning about the characteristics that tie in; perseverance, focus, determination, a growth mindset and many more.

### Class News:

**ACORN** – are learning about Our Wonderful World, including mini-beasts, life cycles, plants and animals. In a couple of weeks, we will have some 'Living Eggs' delivered, eggs in an incubator for the children to observe hatching. We are very excited about this, and I'm sure you'll know when they arrive! In addition, they have tadpoles from our pond to observe and see the changes they go through. They will also be enjoying Forest Schools weekly this half term.

**ASH** – are learning about The Seaside and our local area. They will be having a trip, enjoying doing some field work and lots of geography to look at the various features.

**ELM** – are learning about The Stone Age this half term and will be continuing their investigations of rocks and soils. We hope to have a trip to Castle Rigg stone circle and the Keswick archaeology museum.

**OAK** – are learning about the Ancient Greek civilisation and will be exploring the myths and legends of the Greek Gods. They'll also be completing field work and orienteering in Geography.

We're putting the final plans in place for our year 4, 5, and 6 children their Residential in Malham on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June, and we are really looking forward to having this experience.

### Attendance and absence:

Following the changes to all of the COVID regulations, we have to return to the usual attendance regulations. There is no longer any special registers or circumstances for COVID.

Please can I remind you to inform the office if your child is absent; please ring the school number to let us know. We are happy to use Class Dojo for other communications, but it is really important the office is aware of any absences for the school registers by 9.00am. Also, if your child has a medical appointment in school time, we may ask for proof before taking your child out for the appointment, for our records.

Your child's attendance is monitored and we are keen to work with you to ensure all children attend school for the maximum time possible. This includes leaving early for family trips and other activities, which will be unauthorised, and we discourage. Where your child's attendance falls below 96% we will monitor their attendance. Any attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and we have a legal obligation to contact parents and we may need to contact the local authority, depending on the circumstances. In the next few weeks we will be contacting parents about our child's attendance and ensuring we can work together to resolve any barriers to regular attendance.

### Holidays in term time:

The Department for Education allows a Head Teacher the discretion to consider authorising a leave of absence in term time, only in 'exceptional circumstance.' Our school, whilst acknowledging that the family's circumstances are different, is dedicated to the education of all our pupils and believes regular attendance through the year is essential to every child's success.



You may consider that a holiday will be educational, but your child will still miss teaching that their peers will receive whilst your child is away. Children returning from leave of absence during term time are also unprepared for the lessons, which build on the teaching they have missed.

### COVID:

We have not received any further guidance from The Local Authority or Cumbria County Council regarding the changes that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Here is a reminder of the guidance for schools and what to do if your child is unwell.

### [Summary of changes to national COVID-19 guidance from 1 April 2022](#)

#### Guidance documents

- There is no longer standalone national COVID-19 guidance for education, childcare or children's social care settings.
- On 1 April, the Government published '[Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings](#)', which makes reference to planning for and managing public health incidents (including outbreaks of infectious diseases). The guidance recommends that settings have in place emergency plans that should include a range of steps that you might take in the event of a significant public health incident.
- This new Emergency Planning document links to further guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA): [Health protection in education and childcare settings](#), which was updated on 1 April. This provides practical advice on managing cases of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.
- Locally, Cumbria County Council's Health and Safety team is helping schools to align to this more general infectious disease approach (rather than having a specific focus on COVID-19)

#### Exclusion of children with suspected respiratory illness (including COVID-19)

- Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting. Encourage all children with respiratory symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a [high temperature](#) should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to their education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough.
- Children who develop a high temperature whilst in the setting should be sent home. Whilst awaiting collection, wherever possible, move the child to a separate room (young children should be cared for by a member of staff).

#### Exclusion of individuals with a positive COVID-19 test result

- If a child or young person (under the age of 18) has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.
- Staff and young people aged 18+ who have a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 5 days.
- Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and **who live with** someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result can continue to attend as normal.

As always, thank you for your continued support and please do get in touch if there is anything we can help with.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Karen Barley

Head Teacher

