



## MARCH 2024 MARYPORT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Spring is always one of my favourite times of the year, the days are getting longer, the school grounds are bursting into colour and in the classes there are lots of 'lightbulb' moments where the children's learning really does start to 'click'. We have seen some wonderful examples of this in recent weeks and staff are looking forward to sharing your child's successes with you at our parents evenings on the 25th and 26th of March. Teachers will be in touch shortly to arrange appointment times.*

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## Forgiveness

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*Our focus Christian value for this half term, in the lead up to Easter, is 'forgiveness'.*

*Forgiveness is the means by which damaged relationships are restored. It is an act of the will motivated by love. For Christians, Jesus' death on a cross is the ultimate revelation of God's all forgiving love and his sacrifice stands as a source of inspiration to forgive others, no matter what the cost.*

*Christians believe that when they say sorry to God for the wrong things they have done, He forgives them completely and gives them a new start.*

*'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.' Colossians 3.13*

*Please visit our website <https://maryport.cumbria.sch.uk/about-us/vision-aims-values/christian-values> for an activity sheet you can complete at home with your child to support this value.*

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## Staff

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*I am delighted to pass on the news that Mrs Holliday and her husband are now the proud parents of twin girls. We wish them all the best and cannot wait for a cuddle. Mrs Helen Ford is now teaching in Y2 every Monday with Miss Scott, Mrs Bethwaite and Miss Wood for the rest of the week. I will also be covering some maths sessions with Year 2 throughout the week.*

*Huge congratulations to both Miss Blamire and Miss Aun who have recently completed their Teaching Assistant apprenticeships with flying colours. We are all very proud of you both.*

*Reception class have recently been joined by Mr Pritchard who is on his second year placement with us from the University of Cumbria. Mr Pritchard will be working in Reception for the remainder of the Spring term.*

*At the end of this term, Mrs Stagg will sadly be leaving us to focus on her other job as landlady of the Ship Hotel in Allonby. Since taking on the pub, the business has gone from strength to strength and Mrs Stagg, although amazing, cannot do both roles. We wish her all the very best and know that she will be very successful. If you are in Allonby, do pop in and say hello whilst trying something off the delicious menu.*

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## **Reading Cafes**

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*Thank you to everyone who came along to one of our reading cafes this week. It was lovely to see parents and carers engaging with book based activities and sharing their love of stories. We will be holding another cafe in the summer term - we look forward to seeing even more of you there.*

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*The second half of the spring term is always one where there are local and national events happening. Locally, we will as always be recognising the valuable work that Maryport Inshore Rescue do by supporting 'Go Orange' day on Friday 8th March. Orange ribbons will be on sale next week for £1 and on the Friday, children may come into school wearing something orange if they have it for a £1 donation. The Inshore Rescue team will be visiting school on the day to talk to the children about their work.*

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*Thursday 7th March is national World Book Day. On this day we are inviting the children to come to school either dressed as their favourite book character or in their pjs for the theme of 'snuggle up with a good book'. We recognise that parents may feel some pressure to go out and buy costumes so we are asking that if you have any costumes your child has grown out of or no longer wants, you donate them to us and we will have a 'costume shop' to recycle them.*

*During World Book Day, each class will be focussing on the same book - Inside The Villains - a copy of which has been very kindly purchased for each class by the PTA.*

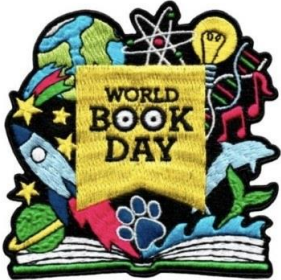
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**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**COSTUME SHOP**

PLEASE SEND IN ANY UNWANTED WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUMES BY FRIDAY 1ST MARCH



**2.45-3.30PM**

**Monday 4th March**

Come along to our school hall to get your child a new costume free of charge.

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*Finally, on Friday 15th March we will be supporting Comic Relief. Our school council have taken the lead on this and are asking that their classmates wear red for the day for a £1 fine and also*



*bring in any spare change they may have with the challenge being set to fill in all the lines on the hall floor with coins.*

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## **Increase to school meal prices**

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*We have unfortunately been informed by our school meal provider, Orian, that as from 16th April the cost of our school meals will be increasing. The new prices will be -*

*Nursery - £2.15 per day*

*All other children - £2.85 per day*

*Once again I would advise anyone who thinks they maybe entitled to visit <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers> to claim free school meals.*

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## **Happy Ninjas**

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*Last week as part of National Child Mental Health Week our Happy ninja team hosted whole school activity sessions on what we can all do to increase happiness in ourselves and others. It was a brilliant day and the children really enjoyed working with new friends in other year groups.*

*Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Bell are in the process of recruiting new happy ninjas for the next programme. Once selected they will be going to their introductory gala on 14th March.*

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## Use of social media and messaging apps

*Since Christmas we have seen a rise in the number of issues coming into school which directly relate to children's use of social media and messaging apps at home. Very often there is name-calling and bullying going on in the evenings and at weekends via technology and this is spilling over into the school day. Although we will deal with any issues that happen in school, this is happening outside of school and parents need to be taking responsibility for their child's actions.*

*This is predominantly happening with our older children but may I take this opportunity to encourage ALL parents to keep a close eye on what their children are accessing online and to adhere to the age restrictions of certain apps.*

*Further advice can be found at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>*

<div>  <b>APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS</b> </div>			
<b>13+</b>		<b>16+</b>	
 Facebook	 Snapchat	 WhatsApp	
 Instagram	 Twitter	<b>17+</b>	
 TikTok	 Kik	 Sarahah	<b>18+</b>
 YouNow	 Yubo	 YOLO	 MeetMe
 House Party	 Monkey		 LiveMe

## Easter Holiday Activity Programme

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*Cumberland Council are once again running a series of activity events over the Easter holidays. To find out more, please visit - <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme>*

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## Have your say about Cumberland Family Services

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*Cumberland Council has launched a six-week consultation on the future of their family services. Members of the public are being encouraged to have their say at a drop-in event or complete an online survey.*

*The council's Family Wellbeing Programme is transforming the support services provided to families and children aged 0 to 19, and up to age 25 for young people with SEND. This includes services that are commissioned by the council but delivered through other organisations. By placing a greater emphasis on the provision of early help and preventative services, the council aims to provide targeted support where it is needed, at an earlier stage and prevent issues from escalating.*

*Consultation is now underway to ensure that these services are driven by the needs of families and local communities. Consisting of a series of drop-in events across the Cumberland area, along with an online survey, the council is calling on the public to take the opportunity to share their feedback.*

*The online survey has the added incentive of winning a £100 Amazon gift card. Members of the public are encouraged to complete the survey before the closing date of 15 March 2024.*

*The online survey can be accessed from [www.cumberland.gov.uk/familywellbeing](http://www.cumberland.gov.uk/familywellbeing)*

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## RESIDENTIAL VISITS

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*Arrangements are well under way for our very popular residential visits and final payments will soon be upon us. Please check below when your son / daughter's residential payment is due and arrange to pay on School Money (Teachers2Parents app).*

*Year 6 London - Balance due Wednesday 27th March*

*Year 5 York - Balance due Friday 1st March*

*Year 4 Kepplewray - Balance due Wednesday 27th March*

*Year 3 Hawse End - Balance due Friday 31st May*

*Year 2 Bassenfell Manor - Balance due Wednesday 1st May*

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## Little Acorns 2 year olds

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*Our 2 year old provision, Little Acorns, now has a new time slot of 8.45am - 11.45am each day. We still have a few places remaining so please share with anyone who has a child approaching 2. Visits to look around and meet the staff are most welcome.*

*Children from 2 years old can soon access 15 hours free places and applications for this are now open - see <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> for more details and to apply. Alternatively, contact our school office to speak to Mrs Penn.*

*Our baby and toddler group also has a new time slot - 1.30pm-3pm each Wednesday of term time.*

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## Pupil Premium Funding

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*A reminder to all families to check if you are eligible for your child to access pupil premium funding at -<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>*

*If you qualify for this, not only will your child receive free school meals and clothing voucher for uniform, school also gets additional designated funding which we use in the following ways -*

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- *free breakfast club*
  - *free trips and visits during school time*
  - *50% reduction in the cost of residential visits*
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Even if you are not sure if you will qualify, it is worth filling in the form ..... you never know!

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## DIARY DATES

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***FURTHER DATES WILL BE ADDED TO THE CALENDAR AND DETAILS SENT OUT AS THEY ARE CONFIRMED***

*1st March - Y1/2 football competition at Lakes College*

*5th March - Y2 visit to Senhouse Roman Museum*

*6th March - Y5/6 football at Netherhall*

*7th March - World Book Day*

*8th March - Go Orange Day in support of Maryport Inshore Rescue*

*11 - 12th March - United Utilities Water workshops*

*11th March - Y5 Viking workshop*

*13th March - Y5/6 football at Netherhall*

*15th March - Comic Relief Day - dress in red for £1*

*15th March - school council to visit Maryport Town Council*

*18th - 21st - all classes to visit St Mary's church for Easter Experience sessions*

*18-22nd March - Book Fair*

*18-19th March - Y5 Play in a Day workshops*

*20th March - Y6 UDance festival*

*21st March - Easter craft open afternoon from 2.15pm*

*22nd March - PTA bunny hop - look out for details coming soon*

*25-26th March - Parent-Teacher meetings*

*27th March - Easter Service at St Mary's Church at 10am*

*27th March - Y5/6 Tag Rugby at Netherhall*

**SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE EASTER BREAK ON THURSDAY 28TH MARCH AT 1.30 AND RE-OPENS ON TUESDAY 16TH APRIL**

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