



Maryport Church of England Primary School

Newsletter September 2022

The children, and staff, have enjoyed the first few days of school and we hope that families have quickly got their morning routines established.

The happiness of being back in school has been tinged however with the sadness of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We held a special worship on Friday afternoon where we celebrated the life of the Queen and reflected on her service to the nation. Our table of Remembrance will remain in the main entrance throughout the period of mourning.

As announced over the weekend, Monday 19th September will be the day of Her Majesty's funeral and will be a Bank Holiday. School will therefore be closed on that day.

It has been lovely to see all the children quickly settled in their new classes. I have been very impressed with the positive attitudes to learning displayed already around the school which I am sure will continue to grow in the coming weeks.

Staff have been busy getting our home-school communication systems set up for each class. Little Acorns (2s) and Nursery use Tapestry and the rest of the school use Seesaw for this. By the end of the coming week we hope that every parent will be connected and will be able to share and celebrate their child's achievements.

Our Vision and Values

*As a Church of England school, our Christian vision and values underpin all we do. Our vision '**Teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain upon it**' is taken from Proverbs 22:6. We talk regularly with the children about basing their decisions and choices around staying on the right path - the path of the Lord. In collective worship and in class we use the teachings of Jesus to illustrate some of the values which, when lived out, allow them to choose this path.*

Our positive behaviour policy reflects our vision and values. Our children are encouraged to live out the values to remain on the right path. We have 3 basic rules that we expect the children to follow. These are

-
- *choose the path to be ready*
 - *choose the path to respect*
 - *choose the path to be safe*
-



Our school values are -

Courage Peace Perseverance Friendship Compassion Truth

Hope Responsibility Thankfulness Forgiveness Respect Trust

*Each half term, we will have a focus value throughout school and the children will reflect on what this value looks like in their life, around school, in the community and in the wider world. Our focus value for this half term is **COURAGE**. A family activity sheet to explore this value further can be downloaded from our website [here](#).*



Accelerated Reader

Please see the flyer below which explains all about Accelerated Reader. Children in the junior school will use this scheme to track their reading for pleasure. As the year continues in the infants, some children will begin to move over to it too.

We encourage children to read at least three times a week at home and listen to stories being modelled and read out loud by adults.

Please click this link to find out how to support your child's reading at home. <https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/primary-parents/learn-at-home/help-your-child-to-enjoy-reading/why-is-reading-so-important.html>

Reading underpins all learning, as Dr Seuss says, 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.'



ACCELERATED READER



At Maryport Church of England Primary School



Accelerated Reader

WHAT IS ACCELERATED READER?

Accelerated Reader is an online computer program that assesses your child to ensure that they are reading the correct book level. Once your child has been assessed they will be given a book band to read from. After they have read the book, they will log on to Accelerated Reader to complete a multiple choice quiz. The percentage from the quiz shows what they have understood and retained from the book. Quiz scores are tracked by staff in school, children will move up the book levels when they have passed between 3 and 5 quizzes.

HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

We ask for children to read at home - out loud- for a minimum of 3 times a week. Please follow the link which explains the benefits of reading at home and how you can help your child's reading progress.
<https://www.pearson.com/uk/Learners/primary-parents/learn-at-home/help-your-child-to-enjoy-reading/why-is-reading-so-important.html>



READING REWARDS

When a child reads at home, we ask for it to be recorded in their home learning diary. On a Friday these are checked, if a child has reached their three times a week target they will receive a token. They can then collect the tokens and trade them for prizes in the book token shop.

OPAL



You may have heard your children talking about OPAL lunchtimes or seen the photos on Facebook, but what is OPAL and why have we adopted it?

*OPAL stands for **Outdoor Play And Learning** and is a whole school initiative to improve the play experiences of all children in school. This is done by providing a whole range of opportunities for them to positively interact with one another, fuel their imaginations and take risks.*

We recognised that previously any behaviour issues we encountered (falling out etc) happened over lunchtime. These incidents then took time into the afternoon for staff to sort out and often took time away from learning in doing so. The principles behind OPAL will now allow our children to -

- *Have happier playtimes with less conflict,*
- *Children will be more settled and ready for their learning*
- *Have adult support in each area, modelling sharing, taking turns etc*
- *Boost confidence*
- *Promote working together as a team.*

- *Support positive mental health, Imagination, language and social skills*
-

OPAL fits in perfectly with our aim of providing a rich, creative, stimulating learning environment which can now extend outdoors at lunchtimes.

We have been asked about the children playing football at lunch football was one of the primary causes of conflict previously at lunchtime so does now not have a zone. The children can however still play football at morning break on a rota basis.

What does OPAL play look like?

Once children have had their lunch, they will go out onto the yards and can choose to play in a number of areas - den building, water, role play, large and small construction, digging etc. The areas are free-flow and children can move around them easily. One of our Play team workers will be at each area and will facilitate play through modelling or suggesting ideas to move play on eg. how could you make the den more stable? Encouraging the children to use their imaginations, problem solve and increase resilience will be a key feature of the staff's role.

Our OPAL team - Mrs Bell, Mrs Bethwaite, Miss Pape and Miss Bell - send their thanks to everyone who has already donated any items.

Our vision for OPAL play, in the long term, is to extend the areas further by eventually having wheel zones and sand pits (to name a few). We are lucky to have such fantastic grounds and we aim to utilise them fully.

As we live next to the coast in the north of England, warm sunny days are often few and far between especially as we move towards Autumn and Winter. Part of the OPAL approach is that the weather should not stop play from happening. If playing in the water, mud kitchens or other areas, the children may get wet or muddy so we therefore ask that you ensure your child has a waterproof coat in school every day (even if it is sunny in the morning) and also, wherever possible, has a pair of wellies to change into as some of our play areas will be 'welly zones' that won't be able to access unless wearing wellies. We would be very grateful for donations of any outgrown wellies you may not need anymore.

We will be holding a parent information session on OPAL in the coming months but in the meantime, you can find out more by visiting the OPAL website [HERE](#). If you have any further questions, please see one of the OPAL team.







What is happening when?

PE days

Nursery - Wednesday

Reception - Friday

Y1/2 - Tuesday & Friday

Y3/4 - Wednesday & Thursday

Y5 - Tuesday & Thursday

Y6 - Monday & Thursday

On PE days, all children are to come into school wearing their PE uniform of white T.shirt, black shorts, leggings or joggers and optional sky blue hoodie. For those without a PE hoodie, please wear the navy school jumper.

If your child has their ears pierced and cannot take the earrings out themselves, please remove them at home beforehand. Thank you.



Forest School Sessions

Friday 16th September Y1/2- Birch

Friday 23rd September Y1/2- Rowan

Friday 30th September Y1/2- Elm

Friday 7th October Reception

Friday 14th October Nursery

Friday 4th November Y3/4- Pine

Friday 11th November Y3/4 -Lime

Friday 18th November Y3/4 -Juniper

Friday 25th November Year 5-Maple

Friday 2nd December Year 5 -Beech

Friday 9th December Year 6 -Oak

For their Forest School session, children need wellies, waterproof jackets and old trousers.



Residential Trips

This year, for the first time, we are introducing a 1 night residential visit for our Year 2 children. This will be an overnight stay at Bassenfell Christian Centre at Bassenthwaite on 12th June 2023. See information on the centre [here](#).

Our Year 3 children will have the opportunity to have a 2 night visit to Hawes End, just outside of Keswick, on 14-16th June 2023. Visit the Hawes End website [here](#).

Year 4 will build on the outdoor adventure skills they began to develop in year 3 with a 2 night stay at the Keppleway Outdoor Centre, near Broughton-in-Furness, on 3rd-5th May 2023. Further information about the centre can be found [here](#).

Our Year 5 and 6 children get the opportunity to do city visits to broaden their cultural capital experiences. Year 5 have the opportunity to visit York on 22nd May (tbc) and Year 6 to London on 19th June 2023.

Further details of all residential trips will be sent out soon. We appreciate that the coming year may see additional financial pressures on our families and Mrs Penn is working on getting the best value deals for our trips, without compromising on quality of experiences.

We are aiming to get costs fixed asap and then setting up payment systems whereby parents may pay small amounts regularly across the year. All residential trips will be subsidised by school and those children for whom we receive pupil premium funding (currently, or previously, in receipt of benefit related free meals) will be subsidised by 50%.

*If you think you may be eligible for free meals, please visit
<https://cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>*



Meetings with parents

On Thursday 15th September, our KS1 staff will be holding an information session for parents and carers on how to support your child with maths. This session will start at 5pm.

There will then be a further session on 1st November for our Reception and Year 1 & 2 parents/carers on our 'Read, Write Inc' approach to reading. Time tbc.

Our first parent/teacher meetings will be held on the week commencing 17th October and will be an opportunity for you to hear how your child has settled into their new class. If you have any worries or concerns about their learning before this time, please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher.



Sponsored walk and Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will be completing our annual whole school sponsored walk on Friday 30th September. Each class will be going out to do their walk at some point in the day with the juniors doing the length of the prom and back. Please make sure your child has comfortable shoes and a coat with them.

Upon our return, at 11am, we will be opening up the school hall in support of Macmillan and will be hosting a coffee morning. Please come along and join us for a cuppa and a cake.



Sponsor money can be paid in via the teachers2parent app. We are looking to work alongside HSBC bank to secure matched funding so the more we raise from pupil sponsors, the more we can get into school fund. All money raised will be split between Macmillan and our school fund which is used to subsidise trips and visits as well as curriculum enrichment activities.

Thank you in advance for your support.

And finallyMiss Robinson is finishing in school this coming Friday to take up a new post within Cumbria Constabulary. Everyone in school wishes her the best for her future career.

We are currently in the process of appointing a new administrator. Please be patient when contacting the office during the handover period. Thank you.
