Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for the second half of the Spring Term. We hope you have had a lovely half term and that you and your children are enjoying the lovely weather we are having this week. As Cumbria’s half term holiday was later this year, there are only five more weeks to go until it is the Easter holiday – and we have lots of exciting things to fit in.

**Facebook and Internet Safety**

Please can I remind everybody about not writing critical or unpleasant things about any aspect of school on social media. If anybody has a problem with or question about things happening in school please come and see us. The staff are not allowed to comment on Facebook posts, so there is no way incorrect information can be amended.

Also please do not name other people’s children in Facebook posts about school, as this can be very upsetting for the children and their parents.

**International Women’s Day**

Yesterday was International Women’s Day. We had a variety of women visiting into school to talk about their jobs and careers. The aim of the day was to raise the aspirations of all our children, to increase their confidence and ambitions to aim high for future careers. We had fire fighters, project managers, a nurse, an ambulance driver, a doctor and police in school. The children really enjoyed these talks and asked interesting questions. More to come as the year goes on.

**Trashion Show**

The Trashion Show was due to take place on Friday 10th March. This has now been postponed because of the great opportunity we have managed to secure below.

**Singing workshops**

A singer / song writer called Kirsten Taylor has composed a special, new Mother’s day song just for our school. She will be in school to teach it to the children in a series of workshops throughout the day on Friday 10th March. The whole school will perform it at the **Mother’s Day Assembly on Friday 24th March.**

**St Patrick’s Day**

St Patrick’s Day takes place on Friday 17th March. Many children and staff have got Irish relatives or ancestors, so we wanted to learn more about Irish traditions, folklore and dancing.

We have a storyteller and a dance trainer both coming into school to work with the children during the day. The storyteller will be sharing Irish traditional tales and leprechaun stories. The dances will be based on “River Dance”.

**Please can all children come to school wearing, at least something, green for this day.**

The children will learn about Ireland past and present (omitting the “Troubles” apart from the oldest children), the geography and traditions.

If you know of any Irish blood in your family and / or the areas of Ireland where family lived or live, please could you fill in the slip at the end of the letter so that we can plot the locations onto a map of Ireland.

**Bad Weather Closure**

Although the weather seems to be rapidly improving at the moment, there is apparently still a chance of snow before Easter!

We will always make every effort to keep school open, but if the weather does become more severe there is the possibility that the school would have to be closed. This would primarily be for the health and safety of the children, and also because we have to have the correct staffing levels for the number of children in school.

Any decision regarding the closure of the school because of snow or freezing temperatures overnight will be made by 7.00am. BBC Radio Cumbria and Bay Radio Stations will be informed. Please listen to the local radio stations accessible on:

Bay Radio - 96.9fm/102.3fm/ 103.2fm.

Radio Cumbria - 95.6fm/96.1fm and 104.1fm.

The radio stations announce which schools are closed because of bad weather at quarter to and quarter past the hour. The radio Cumbria web-site is also very efficient and can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/cumbria](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cumbria) which has a link from the front page straight to the list of schools that are closed.

In the event of the school being closed Mrs Wright, Mr Kendall and Miss Marwood will walk to school just in case any children arrive. They will then make arrangements for these children to be collected as soon as possible.

**Red Nose Day**

This takes place on Friday 24th March. Red noses are in school already and will be for sale from Wednesday 22nd March. The noses cost £1.00 each, with all the proceeds going to Comic Relief.

This year the noses come in sealed packets, so each will be a surprise. There are ten different ones, all with special names, including a rare one called Frankinose who is black, not red!

Red nose cakes and a drink will be for sale at break time during the day for £1.00 – again with all proceeds going to Comic Relief.

Children will be able to wear their noses during the day, but need to come to school in normal uniform as it is also the Mother’s Day Assembly

Please help us to support this charity.

**Mother’s Day Assembly**

2.30pm in the school hall on Friday 24th March 2017.

**Parent Consultations**

Parent consultations will take place during the early evening of Tuesday 28th March and all day on Wednesday 29th March. Ten minute appointments are available so that you can discuss your child’s progress and next steps with the class teachers. Please fill in the form at the end of this letter to indicate your preferred times. We will do our best to give you an appointment in the time slot you indicate or one as close as possible to that time.

**Parent Consultations – year 6 only**

Year 6 appointments will only be available in the early evenings, not during the day. Appointments can be booked on 28th, 29th March and 4th April. Please fill in the correct form below.

**Parent Consultations – Reception only**

Miss Marwood will be taking the netball teams to tournaments on Tuesday 28th May, so she will not be able to have any appointments that night. Instead she will see parents after school on Thursday 30th March after school. Please fill in the correct from below.

**Extracurricular Activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| *Lunchtime clubs* |
|  | ChoirArt – Rec |  | School Council |  |
| *After school until 4.00pm* |
| NetballYears 3 and 4FootballYears 4 to 6Badminton  | Staff meeting | Code ClubYears 3 to 6 | Table tennisY3 to 6 |  |
|  |

*Barrow AFC Community Sports are also running football coaching for years 1 – 6 on Tuesdays after school. This runs from 3.15 to 4.15pm. Application forms for this are available from the office.*

**Gardening and running clubs will start later this term. Dance clubs will run in the summer term.**

**Medical conditions**

Please keep us up-to-date about all medical conditions. We also need to know about food and nut allergies, so that we can keep all the children as safe as possible. Please remember to make sure your child has a spare inhaler in school if they are asthmatic.

**Class Assemblies 2017**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Which class or classes** |
|  |
| 17th March | Cancelled |
| 24th March | Mother’s Day Assembly |
| 31st March | Year 4 |
| 7th April at 9.00am | Easter – all children |
|  |
|  |

Year 2 assembly is cancelled due to the Irish dance and storytelling workshops. Years 1 and 2 will do a joint assembly on Friday 28th April at 2.45pm.

**Jewellery in school**

Please can all parents remember that jewellery is not allowed in school. This is primarily for the children’s safety. The only exception to this is plain stud earrings for children who have pierced ears. **However these should be removed for PE as soon as the six week limit for new piercings is over.**

**Parking outside school**

**Please don’t park or stop on the yellow lines outside school. This is for the safety of ALL our children.**

Wendy R Jacobs

Headteacher

**Spring Term ends on Friday 7th April at 2.00pm**

**Summer Term starts on Monday 24th April 2017**

**Dates for the diary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Year group | Times |
|  |
| 08.03.2017 | International Women’s Day | All | All day |
| 10.03.2017 | Singing workshops | All | All day |
| 13.03.2017 | Shakespeare Workshops | 5 | Morning |
| 15.03.2017 | Poetry workshops | 3 and 4 | Morning |
| 16.03.2017 | Taster day at UVHS | 5 | Morning |
|  | Y1 phonics meeting | 1 parents | 8.45am |
| 17.03.2017 | St Patrick’s Day Dance | All | Workshops |
|  | St Patrick’s Day Stories | All | Sessions |
|  | Y1 phonics meeting | 1 parents | 2.45pm |
|  | Dance platform at UVHS | 3 | Evening |
| 24.03.2017 | Red Nose Day | All | All day |
|  | Mother’s Day Assembly | All | 2.30pm |
| 27.03.2017 | U-Dance Festival | 4 | 5.00pm |
| 28.03.2017 | Jungle Book – musical theatre | All | Morning |
|  | Parent Consultations | All | 3.30 – 3.60pm |
| 29.03.2017 | Parent Consultations | R - 5 | 9.00am – 4.50pm |
|  | Parent Consultations | 6 | 3.30 – 4.50pm |
| 03.04.2017 | Mock SATs week | 6 | Mornings |
| 04.04.2017 | Islam Workshops | 1 to 6 | Workshops |
|  | PTA meeting | Parents | 2.30pm |
|  | Parent Consultations | 6 | 3.30 – 4.30pm |
| 05.04.2017 | Karate grading | 4 and 5 | Afternoon |
| 07.04.2017 | Easter Service | All | 9.00am |
|  | Break-up for Easter holiday | All | 2.00pm |
| ***Easter Holiday*** |
| 24.04.2017 | Start of Summer Term | All | 8.45am |
| 26.04.2017 | Taster Cricket | 2 | 11.00am |
|  | Cricket Coaching (12 weeks) | 5 and 6 | Afternoon |
| 28.04.2017 | Years 1 and 2 assembly | 1 and 2 | 2.45pm |
| 08.05.2017 | SATS WEEK | 6 | Mornings |
| 18.05.2017 | South American Dance Workshops | All | Workshops |
| 26.05.2017 | Break-up for half term | All | 3.15pm |
| ***Spring half term holiday*** |
| 05.06.2017 | Second half term starts | All | 8.45am |
| 07.06.2017 | **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS** | All | 8.45am |
| 08.06.2017 | Penny Farthing Experience | All | Workshops |
|  | New Reception Parents’ Evening | 4 yr olds | 5.00pm |
| 09.06.2017 | KS2 Sports Afternoon | 3 to 6 | 1.00pm |
| 14.06.2017 | New Reception Visits | 4 yr olds | 9.30am |
| 16.06.2017 | KS1 Sports Afternoon | R to 2 | 1.15pm |
| 19-21.06.2017 | London Residential | 6 | 3 days |
| 22.06.2017 | New Reception Visits | 4 yr olds | 1.30pm |
| 04.07.2017 | Teddy Bears Picnic | N and R | 10.00am |
| 12-14.07.2017 | Barhaugh Hall Residential | 4 | 3 days |
| 20.07.2016 | Break up for the Summer Holiday | All | 2.00pm |

**Parent Consultations Appointments**

Child’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the chosen time-slots:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tuesday 28th March** |  | **Wednesday 29th March** |  |
|  |
|  |  | 9.00 - 10.00am  |  |
|  |
|  |  | 10.00 – 11.00am |  |
|  |
|  |  | 11.00 – 11.50am |  |
|  |
|  |  | 1.00 – 2.00pm |  |
|  |
|  |  | 2.00 – 3.00pm |  |
|  |
| 3.30 – 4.30pm |  | 3.30 – 4.30pm |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 4.30 – 5.00pm |  | 4.30 – 4.50pm |  |

**Parent Consultations Appointments – year 6**

Child’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Tuesday 28th March** |  |
|  |
| 3.30 – 4.30pm |  |
|  |
| 4.30 – 5.00pm |  |
|  |
| **Wednesday 29th March** |  |
|  |
| 3.30 – 4.30pm |  |
|  |
| 4.30 – 5.00pm |  |
|  |  |
| **Tuesday 4th April** |  |
|  |
| 3.30 – 4.30pm |  |
|  |

**Parent Consultations Appointments – Reception only**

Child’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- |
|  |
| **Wednesday 29th March** |  |
|  |
| 3.30 – 4.30pm |  |
|  |
| 4.30 – 5.00pm |  |
|  |  |
| **Thursday 29th March** |  |
|  |
| 3.30 – 4.30pm |  |
|  |

**Extra appointments will also be available for Reception parents – please watch the board outside the classroom.**



 **Yes we have Irish ancestry or relatives!**

**Please give some details below and tell us where they live or lived.**

**If they had / have Irish names please tell us what they were / are.**