



Inspire, Challenge and Care



Friday 27th September

Head Teacher's Message: I have been observing lessons across school again this week with Mr Robertshaw and interviewing children about their learning. I have seen some outstanding lessons and I am blown away by the wealth of ideas my staff have to deliver the different topics! They bring every lesson to life and plan some really exciting activities for the children to do. Our school aim is "To Inspire, Challenge and Care" - this is evident in all lessons across school. The school environment is starting to come to life again after all the disruption with the building work when we came back in September! There are some outstanding displays across school which you will see on Parents Evening. Mrs Taylor

Message Board

St James' Church Harvest Celebration 5th and 6th October

There is an All Age Harvest Celebration Service at 10.45am on Sunday 6th October and as usual we will be collecting for the Foodbank. Any donations can be given at the Church. Thank you.

Complaints

From time to time we acknowledge that incidents may happen in school and that they need to be addressed. We always endeavour to deal with any situations as swiftly and quickly as we can. As we are such a large school we have different staff responsible for different aspects of school life. Please contact the class teacher in the first instance to resolve the matter., but if you are not satisfied then please speak to the staff below.

- Mrs Ferris—Pastoral and bullying
Miss Farries—EYFS and Behaviour
Miss Peacock—KS1 and Behaviour
Mrs Brunton—Lower KS2, Behaviour, Special Needs and Inclusion
Mrs Thompson—Upper KS2, Behaviour

Year 3 Trip

Year 3 have had so much fun on their visit to Consett and Derwent Reservoir today. Despite the weather, they have been able to read maps to locate the remains of the Consett Steelworks and navigate around an area of the reservoir. They have all worked very hard and proudly represented our school in our local area.

Nursery Information Night for Parents

Reminder that parents are invited into school on Wednesday 2nd October at 6pm to find out what your child will be learning and experiencing whilst they are in Nursery. Please come to the Infant building front door as the meeting will take place in the Infant hall. Thank you.

French Day

We had a fantastic day for French Day. Children took part in French activities for the whole day. We sang songs, wrote fact files about ourselves in French, looked at inspirational French people and some classes even turned their classroom into a French bakery. What a wonderful day celebrating French is our Superpower! Thanks to Mrs Clark from Kidslingo for brilliant lessons throughout the day, the children thoroughly enjoyed it! Check out our Twitter to page see what we got up to!

Year 2 Sustainable Communities Morning

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic morning learning about how we could create a sustainable community and learning skills that they need when they go on to gain employment after school. The children also created their own model villages of what they think Burnopfield would look like in the future and could talk about different eco friendly features they could include. The staff that delivered the session commented on the children's outstanding behaviour and that they are credit to our school. Well done Year 2!!

Holidays During Term Time

Please see attached sheet about taking holidays during term time from our attendance officer.

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Dear Parent/Carer

27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## Holidays during term time.

Attendance in school is monitored regularly throughout the school year. This is because children in school with good attendance benefit academically.

### **Absence from school due to holidays has an impact on your child/children's school attendance and also impacts on their learning**

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, the government changed the regulations in relation to leave of absence from school during term time.

Schools are not allowed to grant any leave of absence for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. This means that applications for the purpose of a holiday will be refused unless parents can demonstrate and prove that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the holiday request.

Any parent/carers wishing to request a leave of absence from school during term time must complete a Leave of Absence Form which is available from the school office. Following completion, school will inform you in writing if this Leave of Absence has been granted.

Parents/carers should be aware that if a holiday is taken without permission, absences will be recorded as unauthorised, and there is a risk that a Fixed Penalty Notice could be issued from the Local Authority.

If school feel that a holiday has been taken without completion of a Leave of Absence Form, further information will be gathered and these absences may also be recorded as unauthorised. This could result in a referral being made to the Local Authority for further investigation.

**Fixed Penalty Notices** are issued to each parent for each child that is absent due to a holiday. The Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is £60 in the first instance if paid within 21 days. If paid between days 21 and 28 following the issue date, this cost doubles to £120 per parent per child. If the FPN remains unpaid following day 28, the parent/carers will be taken to court by the Local Authority for each child's non-school attendance.

With this in mind, I would ask that due consideration is given when booking holidays during term time and would encourage parents/carers to take holidays when school is on holiday. This way, not only will the risk of being fined be eliminated but your child's attendance record will not be effected by unauthorised absence.

I would also like to ask you to consider the unspoken message that would be given to your child if a holiday was taken during term time. This may encourage your child to think that it is acceptable to miss school.

Should you require any further assistance in regard to this matter or your child's school attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Sabourn  
School Attendance Officer

