

Sedbergh Primary School - Newsletter

'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'



Friday 30th September 2016



Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. In our newsletters and on the website we will keep you up to date with what has been happening in school, any changes that are afoot and planned events in the future. Very soon we will have a public calendar that you can access through our website. We will endeavour to keep this up to date so that families can see what is going on. If you have any other ideas about how we can 'keep in touch' please don't hesitate to talk with me about them. We are working hard to regularly update our website so please visit www.sedberghprimary.org for more information about the life of the school.

We have had a wonderful start to the term made more interesting by the arrival of an Ofsted Inspection team in the first few weeks. The outcome of this inspection will be shared with all of you in about 3 weeks-time but remains confidential until then. Sorry!

Matt Towe - Headteacher

Sedbergh Primary School – Our School Development Plan for 2016/2017

The Governors and teachers in school have been busy planning our development targets for the year. Here is a summary of what we hope to achieve. It is really important that parents and families work with us on these targets to ensure your children make the best progress they can whilst in school (a really detailed plan will be published on the school website). Our targets are;

- 1. Improved leadership from staff in school with high expectations and lots of challenge*
- 2. High achievement for all in reading, writing and maths*
- 3. Improved achievement for boys across the school to match how well the girls are doing*
- 4. Improved teaching to enable all children to make the most progress*
- 5. Improved behaviour; children showing respect to all of the adults that they meet in school*
- 6. British and global values underpinning all that we do to prepare children for the modern world*

'NEWSFLASH' – from after the October half-term break all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will stay in school until 3.30pm on a Friday afternoon, the first one being Friday 4th November. There is so much to fit in and learn at school and Friday afternoon is the perfect opportunity to round off the week!



Wednesday 19th October 2016 2.30pm

Please note the change of date...

With this newsletter you will also find an updated 'Sedbergh Primary School - Home School Partnership Agreement' and an 'E-Safety Acceptable Use Agreement'. We would ask that you read each of these and discuss their content with your child/children at an age appropriate level. Please then sign them and return both to your child's teacher in school (you can always view copies on the school website - in the 'Information' section). You will understand that both of these documents outline our approach and commitment to learning and safety at Sedbergh Primary School and are an important means by which we can all understand how we will work together in the best interests of your children.

New Starters

A very warm welcome to our new starters in Nursery and Reception. They have settled in so well and so quickly!



I'd also like to officially extend a warm welcome to 2 new teachers in school as well. Many of you will know Miss Hannah Messenger who is covering Mrs Jones' maternity leave. I'm also sure that many of you will also remember Mrs Sarah Kenyon who is teaching various classes in school as part of her PPA cover timetable.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 5 th October	Under 9's Netball match versus Sedbergh School
Wednesday 5 th October - 6pm	Re-scheduled PTFA meeting
Thursday 6 th October	National Poetry day - Assembly at 2.30pm for parents and carers
Saturday 8 th October - 10am	'Grounds Day' - parents very welcome (please come and help!!!)
Thursday 13 th October	Sedbergh Prep. Invitational Cross County Competition - KS2
Thursday 13 th October - 6pm	Phonics Information Evening in EYFS & Key Stage 1
Wednesday 19 th October - 2.30pm	Harvest Festival - families very welcome (note the change of date)
Thursday 20 th October - 3.30pm	School closes for the half-term break (re-opens on 31/10/16)
Friday 21 st October	Staff training day (school closed to children)
Tuesday 1 st & Wednesday 2 nd - 3.30pm onward	Parents' Evenings
Wednesday 2 nd November	Book Bus in school
Thursday 10 th November	Under 11's Netball match versus Sedbergh School
Friday 11 th November - 10.00am	Remembrance Day Assembly
Thursday 1 st December	Dukes Theatre Visit - '
Monday 5 th December	Enterprise Week
Wednesday 7 th December	EYFS Christmas Concert
Friday 9 th December - 3.30pm	Christmas Fair
Friday 16 th December	Settlebeck Carol Service at St. Andrew's Church
Friday 16 th December	School closes for the Christmas holidays (re-opens on 4/1/17)

Don't worry we'll add some dates for Christmas plays and concerts very soon!

Grounds Development

We are planning to make a **big difference** to the outdoor area at the southern end of the school. Shortly, we will be installing new fencing and a more secure gate but also developing a 'Science and Wildlife Garden' on the school grounds that children can access on a daily basis. The school has recently been successful in securing a grant from the Sedbergh Community Fund to contribute towards this development and the PTFA are in the process of applying for further funds from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Sustainable Development Fund. We will update you all with information about this exciting project as it develops. To get things started we are planning a 'grounds day' for **Saturday 8th October** to start clearing and organising this area before the work starts – if you can join us on the day with a pair of gloves and bulging biceps your help would be most appreciated!

Some of you will have noticed the new 'yellow line' at the main school gate. The line helps visitors to understand where they need to go to check in at the school office (new signs soon, hopefully!) At break time and at the start of the school day we will ask children to remain on the playground side of the yellow line so that staff can monitor who is coming and going into the school grounds.

Most children walk or bus to school and a handful come in cars. Please can I ask that where possible we avoid blocking the lane outside school when children are being dropped off from cars. We also have a designated parking space for the parents of a specific child in school, please can this space be left clear for their use. Thank you.

National Poetry Day 2016 – 'Messages'

Next week the school is marking National Poetry Day on Thursday 6th October. The theme for the day this year is 'Messages' and all classes will be performing a little something in a special assembly on Thursday at 2.30pm that many of you, we hope, will attend.



Unspoken Words

I often scribble in the sand
The words I find so hard to say
And hope the wind will come along
And blow them all your way

By Paul Callus

More details at: <http://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

It seems so long ago now when the children completed their **Sponsored Walk** in the searing heat of July. A massive well done to them, for managing the walk despite the weather and for raising an astonishing £1366 for PTFA funds. And another well done to the adults who helped on the day!



Sedbergh Sports & the Howgill Harriers

Yet again, we have been both astonished and encouraged by the incredible community support our school receives. Despite very wet and windy conditions in early summer a hardy team of school volunteers (both staff and parents) gave their time to support the school at Sedbergh Sports. A significant event this year, as the fell race featured in the English and British Championships Fell Running calendar and had over 230 competitors in the men's race alone.



A team of friends linked to Sedbergh Primary School, organised by the PTFA, provided food and cake at the event and as a 'thank you' Howgill Harriers have made a donation of approximately £2,850 to the school – an astonishing amount of money. The school will be investing this money into redeveloping our library provision in school; buying new books and furniture to provide everything our children need to make fantastic progress with their reading skills, but more importantly, their enjoyment of reading.

In the near future we hope to organise an event in school to formally thank Howgill Harriers for this very kind donation. More information to follow.



Healthy School

A reminder to all parents that Sedbergh Primary School encourages children to make healthy choices about their diet and lifestyle. Please try to ensure that children are provided with healthy snacks at break time and a balanced meal if they bring a packed lunch too. Thank you.



PTFA *Sedbergh Primary School – Parent, Teacher and Friends Association*

*Anyone reading this newsletter will be astonished by how our school is supported by the local community and much of this work is organised by our PTFA. If you have the time please support the work of this group in any way you can to improve the experiences we can provide for children in the school. This might be just baking a cake for us to sell or becoming an active member of the committee and organiser of key events. Our last meeting has been rescheduled for **Wednesday 5th October at 6pm**; it would be great to see you there. Please do contact Gemma Suttle (through school), our PTFA chair if you'd like to get involved.*



**SEDBERGH
SCHOOL**
FOUNDED 1525

Sedbergh School – Local Young People's Fund

A fund that is available to all young people in the Sedbergh area. The fund can be used to cover the cost all sorts of different educational pursuits, such as trips, coaching, music tuition and educational travel. If any parent would like further information about how to apply you can contact me in school or contact the Bursar's Office at Sedbergh School.