



Sedbergh Primary School



'Excellence in the heart of the community'

School Newsletter – Monday 25th September 2017

School is back in full swing with so much going on already. I do hope that your children (and you) have settled back into the routine of life during term time. The holidays feel like they're a long way off! Already we've had a lot going on in school; the Year 6 children have completed their 'Bike ability' Course and enjoyed a visit to the Westmorland Show, and Year 1 have enjoyed a summer themed day just to name of couple of activities.

2 important diary dates: Friday 29th September at 2.30pm – National Poetry Day Assembly & Wednesday 18th October at 3.30pm the opening of our Science and Wildlife Garden.



This week we have welcomed a new face into school. Emily Davies will teach dance sessions with the Year 5 and 6 classes on Thursday afternoons. Emily is a member of the Youth Arts teaching team at the Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal and we are lucky to be able to use her expertise in our school. All classes will have the opportunity to work with Emily before the end of the Academic Year.

The team here at Sedbergh Primary have come up with an ambitious plan to make some big improvements to parts of the school building, in particular the Key Stage 1 and Early Years area of the school. We need to improve our classrooms but also improve access and facilities for children with disabilities. Over the coming months we will need lots of willing volunteers to help us raise funds to complete this work. You will know that budgets in education are increasingly tight, with little help to make necessary improvements, and therefore I'm hoping that as a community we can work together to raise the necessary funds and achieve these plans. Please do get in touch if you have any imaginative fundraising ideas!

As usual, can I please ask that all parents use these newsletters, letters from teachers and the school website as a means to stay on top with everything that is going on in school. Please do catch me on the yard (or make an appointment to speak with me) if you have any concerns about your child's experience in school.

Home School Agreement & Acceptable Use Agreement

With this newsletter you will find a **Home School Partnership** and an ICT **Acceptable Use Agreement**. We update these each year as they clearly outline the expectations we share for children when they attend our school. Please can I ask that parents take the time to talk these through with their children, sign them and return them to class teachers in school. We are considering the development of a social media platform for the school (Facebook) and therefore there are some new sections to the Home School Partnership for parents to consider.

You will see that we are planning a Harvest Assembly in school for mid-October. We are hoping that families will donate to a harvest food collection of dried goods. We will again, also ask you to nominate someone local to you who might appreciate a box full of food supplies. The remaining food that isn't donated locally will be sent to the King's Food Bank.



Nursery Hours – we still have places for Nursery aged children in our EYFS class. Remember all children are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare and now many of you may well be entitled to 15 additional hours (30 altogether). We now provide lunchtime and afternoon sessions. Please see our website for guidance on how to check your eligibility and speak to us if you'd like to book some extra sessions.



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.

Governor Updates

I can confirm the appointment of **Darren Mitchell-Whiteside, Pat Tunna** and **Charlotte Robson-Peall** to our Governing Body. We are still looking for members of the local community to join our team. Please talk to me or our Chair of Governors, Jonathan Taylor (chair@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk) if you would like more information.



Sedbergh Primary School PTFA

Any help you can offer is always appreciated. We need more PTFA committee members and still rely on offers of help for events during the year. We'll always text when we need your help but please do make yourself known to Gemma Suttle (PTFA@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk) if you want to get stuck in! Please find Diary Dates for PTFA events below. There is also now a PTFA page on the school website.



Free School Meals & the Pupil Premium Grant – I regularly try to remind all parents to check if they are eligible for Free School Meals, particularly parents of children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Yes, all children in these classes do already receive Free School Meals as a result of their age but it is worth registering for Free School Meals if you are eligible as a result of your income employment or benefit circumstances. We can help you check this out. Any eligible parents benefit in other ways through access to grants and vouchers and the school receives additional funding to support the cost of trips and visits. If you have any questions or want to know more, please contact Mrs Scarr or Mr Towe – and don't be embarrassed to ask – this is help that your child is entitled to.

Diary Dates

September 2017

Wednesday 27 th	'The Chit Chat Chalk Show' dance event for children in Years 1 & 2
Friday 29 th at 2.30pm	National Poetry Day Assembly – parents welcome

October 2017

Friday 13 th	Pupil Parliament Day
Monday 16 th	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 17 th	Parliament Outreach Assembly
Wednesday 18 th at 3.30pm	Science and Wildlife Garden Opening Event – families welcome
Thursday 19 th	Casterton Cross-Country Event
Thursday 19 th	School closes for the Half-Term Break
Friday 20 th	Staff Training day
Monday 30 th	Back to School

November 2017

Thursday 2 nd	PTFA Meeting at 3.30pm here at school – all parents very welcome (we need you!)
Tuesday 7 th & Wednesday 8 th	Parents' Evenings (by appointment)
Wednesday 8 th	U8 & U9 Tag Rugby at Casterton
Thursday 9 th	U9 Netball at Casterton
Friday 10 th	Remembrance Assembly
Friday 10 th	PTFA Quiz Night at 6.30pm
Wednesday 15 th	Tag Rugby Festival (Selected Juniors)
Thursday 16 th	U11 Netball at Casterton
Friday 17 th	Children in Need
Friday 24 th	PTFA Discos
Monday 27 th	Christmas Enterprise Week begins, the Book Fair is in school all week

December 2017

Friday 1 st at 3.30pm	Christmas Enterprise Fair
Thursday 7 th	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performances
Friday 8 th	Dukes Theatre Visit (Y2 to Y6)
Wednesday 13 th	EYFS Christmas Plays
Friday 15 th	Carol Service with Settlebeck in St. Andrew's Church
Friday 15 th	School closes at 2pm for the Christmas Holidays

January 2018

Wednesday 3 rd	School reopens for the Spring Term
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Please regularly visit our school website www.sedberghprimary.org for further updates.