



Sedbergh Primary School



'Excellence in the heart of the community'

School Newsletter No.4 – Friday 31st January 2020

Please regularly visit our school website www.sedberghprimary.org.uk and keep an eye out for further updates & notifications from our school app.

Reading, reading, reading... 'An app is not a replacement for your lap'

The only way for children to improve at reading is to practise as often as possible. Children need to practise on their own, but it is also very important that they read with an adult. With a grown up, children can check they are reading correctly, improve their fluency when reading aloud and check that they have a good understanding of what is happening in the story or what the information is all about. Comprehension is very important for the oldest children in school who often end up reading alone without fully understanding the words.



To encourage reading at home with an adult, school is launching a **challenge** to complete over the half-term break. We are asking families to take a photo (or short video) of them reading together at home. These can be emailed to school (admin@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk) or uploaded to the EYFS Facebook page. We will display and celebrate the photos in school and every child who participates will receive a small prize.

Rather than a one-off event, we hope that this challenge will encourage all of you to get back into the habit of listening to, reading with and reading to your child. Research proves that the key skill of reading, and being introduced to a wide range of interesting words, has a direct impact on success and happiness in later life. Parents have a very important part to play in instilling a real enjoyment of reading and a love of books.



Governor News

As you know, after our ballot, we have now appointed Rachael Labbate as our new Parent Governor. I would personally like to thank all the parents I spoke to who expressed an interest in this role, and in particular, to Sarah and Rachael for putting themselves forward formally. For me, this demonstrates the strength of our school in our community. Very few schools benefit from so much parental and community support.



Today school has sent home a questionnaire to all families about our 'Curriculum Statement' a document that includes our Values, Vision and Focus. If you have any comments to make about any of the statements or ideas please do jot your thoughts down on the questionnaire and return it to school by Friday 14th February. After we have collected and discussed these ideas we will make a start on finalising our curriculum statement to share more widely.

Our term dates for the Academic Year 2020/2021 are now available on the [school website](http://www.sedberghprimary.org.uk) and on our app. Please can I encourage parents to use these when planning family holidays and please take note of the fact our term dates match those of Settlebeck. Both of our schools will begin the Easter break a week earlier than other Cumbria schools; this might be a good time to book a cheap trip away!

Can I also point out that **this year** the early May Day Bank holiday is on Friday 8th May not Monday 4th. School will be open on the Monday and closed on the Friday. We will send out further reminders nearer the time.



PTFA and EYFS 'Big Build' Update

Tonight we have our 'Big Build Bingo'. On behalf of the school, thank you to Mrs Swallow for organising the event and also a big thank you to all of the parents and families who have donated gifts and time to support the event. A special mention must go to Mrs Bowman for returning to school to organise and decorate the prize hampers.

You will note below that we have a PTFA Film Night planned for Friday 6th March, more details on the PTFA Facebook page. If you can support the event please do get in touch with Michelle Hartley, our PTFA Chair, PTFA@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk

After the half-term holiday, the PTFA will be collecting unwanted toys and bric-a-brac to sell on a stall at Sedbergh Eco Market on Saturday 29th February. Again, if you can help at this event, please let Michelle know. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.



Please continue to return your 'Bags to Schools'. The final day for these to be returned is Tuesday 11th February, first thing in the morning.

Diary Dates – Autumn 2019 & Spring 2020

February 2020	
Friday 7 th	▪ Under 11 Girls' Hockey at Casterton, Sedbergh Prep School
Saturday 8 th	▪ Year 7 & 8 Open Day at Casterton, Sedbergh Prep School – 10am
Monday 10 th	▪ Year 6 Parent's Evenings (only) by appointment
Tuesday 11 th	▪ Safer Internet Day ▪ Final day for Bags to Schools
Wednesday 12 th	▪ Year 6 Parent's Evenings (only) by appointment
Friday 14 th	▪ Half-term begins at 3.30pm
Monday 24 th	▪ School reopens for the second half of the Spring term at 8.50am
Saturday 29 th	▪ Sedbergh Eco-Market (PTFA stall)
March 2020	
Thursday 5 th	▪ 'Big Flute' event at the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal
Friday 6 th	▪ PTFA Film Night at 4pm in the school hall
Wednesday 11 th	▪ Swimming Gala at Casterton, Sedbergh Prep School
Thursday 19 th	▪ Life Education Bus in school (PHSE)
Friday 20 th	▪ Life Education Bus in school (PHSE)
Monday 23 rd	▪ Parents' Evenings for all children except Year 6 this week
Thursday 26 th	▪ Year 3 perform in the Brewery Dance Platform, Kendal
Friday 27 th	▪ Term ends for the Easter holidays at 2pm
April 2020	
Tuesday 14 th	▪ School re-opens for the Summer term at 8.50am
Friday 24 th	▪ Outdoor Learning Day for Year 3 children at Fell Foot Park, Lake Windermere
May 2020	
Friday 1 st	▪ Outdoor Learning Day for Year 4 children at Fell Foot Park, Lake Windermere
Friday 8 th	▪ May Day Bank Holiday (note change of date)
Monday 11 th	▪ Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 22 nd	▪ Outdoor Learning Day for Year 5 children at Fell Foot Park, Lake Windermere ▪ The half-term holiday begins at 3.30pm
June 2020	
Monday 1 st	▪ School re-opens for the second half of the Summer term
Saturday 6 th	▪ Sedbergh Music Festival Children's Concert at 10.30am in St Andrew's Church