



Old Hutton C of E School

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Friday 17th February, 2017

Spring Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a very busy, hardworking first term of 2017 we have all had! As we now look forward to a well-deserved half term holiday, here is our latest news round-up and some information points to share with everyone:

Pupil news

A very special welcome to new pupils **Riley (Y5), Nate (Y3) and Bea (Y1)** and their families, who have joined us during the last few weeks.

Staff news

Ms Kay Horsfall is leaving her post as assistant leader of the After School Club after half term. Kay has been an excellent member of the ASC team over the last year and a half and will be much missed by pupils and staff. We wish her well for the future. We are currently recruiting a replacement for Kay in ASC. **Mrs Sam Scarr** is also leaving us after a short time as Midday Supervisor and voluntary helper on Wednesdays. A big thank you to both staff for all their hard work in school.

I am pleased to share the news that, as head of our outstanding school, I have been asked by Cumbria Local Authority to become an **Adviser**, part-time, for the rest of this academic year. This work will bring many advantages for school: forging new links with other local schools; providing staff development and opportunities for staff and pupils to share our outstanding practice with others; and raising our school profile. In addition, it will create a new funding stream, helping us to offset the effects of the impending national cuts to school budgets. For the next half term, my new role means that I will be out of school most Tuesdays and Wednesdays working as part of the advisory team responsible for school improvement in the South Lakes area. I will be in school as usual on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and will continue to work with Miss Fisher teaching in Class 3 on Thursday/Friday and teach French across school. When I am out, Mr Cooper will be in charge of school in his role as Assistant Head. Please get in touch with either me or Mr Cooper if you would like any further information or have any questions about this new development.

Peer Review news

We are very pleased to report that **we achieved excellent 'Outstanding' grades in all areas in our Peer Review**, which took place in January and is part of the monitoring and evaluation process for all schools in Cumbria. Our reviewers, Matthew Jessop (head teacher of Crosthwaite School) and Jim Gordon (KPC executive officer), spent a day in school, observing lessons across school, talking to pupils, looking at pupils' books and sharing information about our assessment, progress results and curriculum. They were extremely impressed with everything they saw – well done everyone!

Senegal link news & VIP visitor!

At the beginning of term, our younger pupils took part in a fantastic **African art day, including a visit to Claire Griffel's Senegal-inspired art exhibition** at the Space2Create gallery in Kendal for Y2 and art workshops back at school for Classes 1 and 2 with local artist Emily Jackson; the stunning collage they created together is now proudly displayed in Class 2! Thanks to Claire, Emily and all the parents who accompanied Mrs Hopkins and Y2 to the gallery.

On Monday we had a special **visit from our MP and Liberal Democrat Party leader, Tim Farron**, who spent the morning with us to find out more about our Senegal twinning project, as well as meet our link co-ordinator Claire Griffel and our pupils and tour the school. Matthew and Molly (Y6) were enthusiastic tour guides and everyone enjoyed meeting Tim as he visited each class and watched Claire's film of our partner school. He was particularly impressed by our Senegal-inspired artwork, pen pal letters written in French and the fantastic fund-raising we have done so far in our Solar Panels for Senegal appeal, including **an amazing giant cheque for £100 raised by Libby and Lily (Y4)** through asking for donations to the appeal instead of birthday presents this year! A HUGE well done for your

generosity, girls! There is a lovely report and photo about Tim's visit and our Senegal link in this week's Westmorland Gazette – don't miss it!

Sports events news

Mrs Hadwin and the Class 3 staff team have been very impressed by our Y3 and 4 pupils' progress in their **swimming lessons** at Kendal Leisure Centre this term – keep up the good work everyone!

Y1 and 2 pupils took part in an excellent **KS1 Small Schools Gymnastics afternoon at QKS** last week, watching some incredible demonstrations by the talented QKS students and having a go themselves with great enthusiasm! A special well done to Harry and Archie for winning medals! Thank you to QKS for hosting the event and to Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Halliwell and all the parents who accompanied and helped with transport.

In January, Mr Cooper together with Y5 pupils Ed and Toby had a wonderful week away on the **Cumbria Schools Ski Trip** to Les Menuires in the French Alps, enjoying some great snowy adventures as they improved their skiing skills. Ed and Toby shared their news with the rest of school in an excellent presentation afterwards – well done boys!

Mr Cooper would like to pass on his thanks to all pupils who have participated with such enthusiasm and developed their skills and confidence on the slope well in his weekly **Ski Club** over the last 2 half terms. The club has now finished for this year.

Music events news

A HUGE well done to Class 3's string orchestra for giving a brilliant performance alongside music groups from lots of other local schools in the **Big Play music platform event** held at The Brewery on Tuesday this week. It was a wonderful musical evening in which our pupils showed such talent and confidence – we were all so proud of them! Many thanks to Yvonne Hulme for teaching the pupils to play and to Mrs Hadwin, Mrs Birch and Miss Fisher for accompanying them to the event, as well as to all parents and families who came along to support and enjoy the concert.

Birdwatching news!

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch both at home and school. Classes 1, 2 and 3 had lots of fun spotting so many different birds in our wildlife area, including 2 amazing woodpeckers! Our results provided lots of interesting data to use in our Maths statistics lessons.

Author visits

This half term, we have had some excellent author visits and workshops across school to inspire pupils with their Reading and Writing. Class 2 had a special visit from parent Sam Scarr, who shared her own story-writing and illustrating skills. Class 3 enjoyed a very active football-themed workshop with author and football coach, Scott Cormack of Little Kickers, followed by them planning and writing sequels to Scott's book 'Ali B versus the Universe', of which they all received a copy. Classes 3 and 4 were visited by poet Holly Carr, who led poetry-writing sessions inspired by the outdoors and Wordsworth's work.

PTA news

Thank you to the PTA for all their hard work in organising the exciting events this half term to raise extra funds for school including, the Valentine's Day Disco and the end of term Cake Stall.

Car park safety reminder

Unfortunately, there has been an incident this week where a member of staff's car has been damaged while parked in the church car park. It appears to have been caused by one car door being opened into another. Please can we remind everyone to take extra care when parking and when getting in and out of vehicles, to keep themselves, their own and others' property safe. Thank you.

Events coming up next term

Please see below for details of events and activities we have planned so far for the rest of this term and some key ones coming up in the Summer. Watch this space for more coming soon... and don't forget to keep track of what we're getting up to in school via the photos, videos and news shared on our Facebook page!

With best wishes from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Diary Dates

February 2017

Monday 20th February: HALF TERM
Monday 27th February: New half term starts.

March & April 2017

Wednesday 1st March: Ash Wednesday Service (2.50pm) – ALL WELCOME
Monday 6th March: English (Reading & Grammar) Information evening for parents.
Wednesday 8th March: Yr 5/6 Netball tournament.
Tuesday 14th March: Open The Book in Church (2.50pm) – ALL WELCOME
Wednesday 15th March: Class 1 and 2 Lakes Aquarium visit.
Windermere school Cross country - KS2.
Saturday 18th March: Open The Book in Church (2.50pm) – ALL WELCOME
Swimathon – Kendal Leisure Centre.
Monday 20th March: Big Pedal fortnight starts.
Tuesday 21st March: Dance Platform Class 4 – The Brewery Arts Centre.
Wednesday 22nd March: Open The Book in Church (2.50pm) – ALL WELCOME
Thursday 23rd March: Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament – Class 3 – TBC.
Monday 27th March: Parents evening (3.30 - 5pm).
Wednesday 29th March: Open The Book in Church (2.50pm) – ALL WELCOME
Friday 31st March: Book Bus visit.
Monday 3rd April: Open Afternoon (1.30 – 3.20pm).
Parents evening (5 – 6.30pm).
Tuesday 4th April: Kirkbie Kendal School Moving Up Evening – Yr5.
Wednesday 5th April: WW2 Evacuees morning – Lakeside – Class 4 – TBC
Thursday 6th April: Experience Easter afternoon in school.
Friday 7th April: Easter Service in Church (1.15pm) – ALL WELCOME!
End of Term. School finishes at 2pm.

Summer TERM 2017

STARTS: 24th April 2017 **ENDS:** 20th July 2017
HALF – TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
EARLY BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 1st May