



Old Hutton C of E School

Old Hutton, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 0NQ

Email: admin@oldhutton.cumbria.sch.uk

Website: www.oldhuttonschool.org.uk

Tel (01539) 732778

Headteacher: Mrs Andrea Walker BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH, LLE, NLE

Friday 9th February, 2018

Spring Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a very busy, hardworking, short first term of 2018 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:

Animal events news (including news from our link school in Senegal)

Across the whole school this term, we are focusing in different ways on the Science-based theme of **Animals, including a special topic on Birds**. We had great fun **launching our birds topic at the start of term**, while also continuing to develop our Senegal link, through taking part in some exciting art workshops inspired by **Claire Griffel's new book for children, 'The Quetzal Bird' and her art and photography exhibition 'Imagine Senegal and The Quetzal'**, which was showing in Kendal from November to mid-January. Y2 also visited Claire's exhibition at Space2Create and created some fantastic bird-inspired artwork with her. The amazingly colourful collage in our school entrance hall is the result of the whole school's bird art adventures with Claire! Our display also includes some lovely models which were gifts to us from our twinned school, Joachim Fode N'Diaye. We have copies of Claire's Quetzal book for sale in school – please ask in the office (£10 each, proceeds to our Senegal fund). We have decided that this year's fundraising should be to help our link school both provide a generator to boost their new electricity supply and also to help mend their currently broken toilets. Claire shared letters from our Senegal friends and the exciting news that the solar panels for which we fund-raised last year are soon to be installed! In our French lessons in KS2, we are all now busy writing postcards about animals and ourselves to send back to our Senegal penpals.

Our bird work developed into a special **Bird Week, with a visit from Richard Cooper and his birds of prey from Silverband Falconry of Penrith**. This included workshops for the whole school, plus our friends in Pre-School: informative talks, bird-handling, life-drawing and a wonderful flying display attended by many parents and friends. Again, don't miss coming in to see the resulting photos and excellent artwork now on display in school! A huge thank you to the PTA for generously funding both the falconry day and our art workshops with Claire. We hope that many of you managed to take part at home in the **annual January RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch** – lots of birdwatching went on in school, including in a **special afternoon of bird workshops for KS1 led by Jamie Normington of the Cumbria Wildlife Trust**. Other bird work across school has included science investigations, information writing and birdy maths, as well as designing and making bird food and new feeders.

Forest School news

After the winter floods and septic tank repairs, our Forest School area was sadly in need of some attention! A huge thank you to and the team of volunteer staff and friends, led by Rachel and Andy Hayes, who did a **brilliant makeover job** during one weekend, enabling Forest School lessons to resume this term, including all the birdwatching!

Marseille school link news

Today, Class 4 pupils finished writing postcards to their **new penpals at our link school, École de la Visitation in Marseille, France**. This has given us a great, real focus for our learning in French and we are looking forward to receiving replies after the holiday.

Dance news - Arts Award and Dance Platform

In an exciting development this term, **Y4 have begun working towards their next level of the Arts Award ('Explore') in special new weekly Dance sessions** led by Jess Smith of Motion Dance. Jess has been impressed by their talent and hard work and Class 1 were a very appreciative audience for their Bollywood performance this week – well done Y4!

Class 4 have also been practising with Miss Harrison for their own annual dance performance as part of the Kendal Brewery **Dance Platform on 21st March. Don't forget that tickets are needed to attend this event. Tickets are on sale via the Brewery Box Office: 01539 725133.**

Pied Piper news

Continuing the animal theme, **Class 3** have enjoyed practising with Mrs Hulme in their music lessons this term for their part as musical rats (and children!) in two **special concert performances of 'The Pied Piper' at Kendal Town Hall on 7th March** alongside world-famous clarinettist, **Emma Johnson**. We were thrilled to have Emma visit us in school this week for a practise workshop and she was very impressed with Class 3's work – well done everyone! More details will follow after the holiday about this exciting event.

Everest Visitor news

Class 4 were treated to an excellent talk this week by **Dave Nelson** on his **Help for Heroes Mount Everest Base Camp Trek**. This linked very well back to the pupils' Geography topic work on Extreme Environments last term. Many thanks to Dave for sharing his amazing experiences with us!

More Sports events news

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

In January, Y5 pupil William, together with Mr Cooper, 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 (and French!) skills.

Well done to the **KS2 handball teams** who joined in our first ever participation in the Lakes School Handball Festival. Many thanks to Miss Harrison for organising and to Amy Donnini and Sharon White for helping with transport and support.

Next half term, **Class 4** are looking forward to beginning **new weekly Bike Skills lessons** with Jill Eccleston in their Monday PE afternoons – don't forget to come prepared with your bike/scooter, helmet, waterproof coat and some gloves every Monday throughout next half term! Please ask in school if you would like further information.

Extra-Curricular clubs

This half term, thanks to the goodwill of staff and volunteers, we have enjoyed being able to offer pupils an even wider range of extra-curricular clubs: KS1 sports, football, KS2 dance, Warhammer, chess/draughts, mindfulness colouring and choir. For the next half term, please remember that these will change slightly, with KS2 running/sports instead of KS1 on Mondays; KS1 dance instead of KS2, Y6 homework/SATs and Y3/4/5 French instead of Warhammer on Wednesdays. As ever, we are always keen to welcome anyone who is able to help support these in or after school or has other talents/ideas to share - let us know if you are interested.

Stay Safe Online alert!

In school, we do our best to teach our children to become digitally confident citizens as part of our PSHCE and Computing curriculum and work together with parents to ensure safe, responsible use of the internet and electronic devices. We have been made aware that some of our pupils may currently be at risk through taking part in unsafe online activity. We would like to remind parents that **children under the age of 13 are not allowed to have a social media account on Facebook, Instagram or WhatsApp (under 16)**. We are also alerting parents to an online gaming app called ROBLOX which has been reported as containing inappropriate content and providing a platform for unsafe communication with strangers; police advice is to check for and delete the app. For further advice about online safety, schools are advised to direct parents to the CEOP Think U Know website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk), or please do ask in school if you have a concern.

Car parking safety reminder

We remain very much aware of the fact that traffic congestion and parking outside school at the beginning and end of the school day continues to be an increasingly challenging issue. As a priority, we are continuing to monitor this and have a Governors working party researching ideas to try to improve the situation; the traffic police are visiting to support us. In the meantime, please can we again remind everyone to show consideration to others, including our neighbours in the village, by **driving slowly and cautiously in the school vicinity** and **avoiding parking in front of all the private properties opposite the school. It is dangerous and illegal to park on the yellow zigzag lines in front of school.** Please try your

best to park sensibly and always take extra care of the children and yourselves when getting in and out of vehicles, crossing the road and walking to and from school at these busy times. 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 and news shared on our Facebook page!

With best wishes from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Diary Dates February/March 2018

Monday 19th February

Tuesday 20th February

Wednesday 21st February

Thursday 22nd February

Friday 23rd February

Tuesday 27th February

Wednesday 28th February

Thursday 1st March

Monday 5th March

Tuesday 6th March

Wednesday 7th March

Thursday 8th March

Friday 9th March

Saturday 10th March

Tuesday 13th March

Wednesday 14th March

Thursday 15th March

Friday 16th March

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd March

Tuesday 20th March

Wednesday 21st March

SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN FOR 2ND HALF SPRING TERM

Governors' Finance Committee meeting – 9am

Chess and draughts club Class 4 weekly – lunchtime

Class 4 Jill Eccleston PE afternoons weekly including bike skills

Governors' Health & Safety Committee 9:30am

Running Club KS2 weekly 3.30-4.30pm

School Book Bus visit

NO FOOTBALL CLUB

Full Governors meeting 7pm

Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME!

Dance club KS1 weekly 3.30– 4.30pm

New Y6 SATs Homework club weekly 3.30 – 4.30pm

New Y3 – Y5 French club weekly 3.30– 4.30pm

Mindfulness colouring club weekly - lunchtime

Choir weekly - lunchtime

Y2 Orienteering morning at Strickley Farm

Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME!

World Book Day – events TBC

Open the book in Church 1pm - ALL WELCOME!

Class 1 morning at Strickley Farm

Class 3 Pied Piper Concert rehearsal, afternoon, Kendal Town Hall – more details later

Class 3 Pied Piper Concert, Kendal Town Hall – 10am & 1pm – more details later

Y2 Habitats morning at Strickley Farm

NO SWIMMING LESSON

Muslim workshops all day with visitor from Muslim Learner

Services & Multi-faith afternoon – prayer focus, whole school

'Moving mountains' prayer stations event, morning

PTA Mother's Day stall

Kendal Pool Swimathon – more details later

Y1 Strickley Farm visit - afternoon

Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME!

Pupil Parliament meeting with Tim Farron for School Council pupils, Netherwood – all day

Whole School Carnival of the Animals Live music ensemble

PTA movie night 3.30pm-5pm

Y2 Habitats afternoon at Strickley Farm

'Let's get active' sports/healthy focus week

Parents' evening 1: 4 – 6.30pm

NO FOOTBALL CLUB

Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME!

Class 4 Dance Platform, The Brewery, afternoon/evening

Thursday 22nd March

Parents' evening 2: 3.30 – 5pm
Stephanie Inglis – Team GB athlete (Judo) visit whole school & sports event – more details later
Sports relief day – skipathon – more details later
PTA cake stall – sports theme 3:30pm
Open afternoon 1.30– 3.30pm – ALL WELCOME!
Y5 moving up evening at KKS – 5.30pm
Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME!
Easter service 1.15– 1.45pm
TERM ENDS at 2pm

Friday 23rd March

Monday 26th March

Wednesday 28th March

Thursday 29th March

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16th April

Monday 7th May

Monday 14th – Thursday 17th May

Thursday 24th – Friday 25th May

Monday 28th May

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th June

Friday 20th July

TERM BEGINS

Early May Bank Holiday

Y6 SATs week

Class 3 – York Residential – more details to follow

Half Term Holiday

Class 4 – Edinburgh Residential – more details to follow

TERM ENDS at 2pm

School Year dates 2018-19

Autumn Term 2018

Staff training day Monday 3rd September

Tuesday 4th September – Friday 21st December

Half Term Holiday: Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October

Spring Term 2019

Staff training day Monday 7th January

Tuesday 8th January – Friday 29th March

Half Term Holiday: Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February

Summer Term 2019

Monday 15th April – Friday 19th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

Half Term Holiday: Monday 27th – Friday 31st May