

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



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Oxenholme Lane,
Natland, Kendal,
Cumbria, LA97QH
Telephone: 015395 60719
Fax: 015395 61769
e-mail: admin@st-marks.cumbria.sch.uk
website: www.stmarksschoolnatland.co.uk
Headteacher: **Peter Barfoot**

Newsletter 3 Spring 2019

Dear Parents

Fund-raising: Fairtrade Fortnight and Comic Relief

It has been a busy few weeks with a number of national fund-raising and other events happening in quick succession. Thank you to parents for all your support, both financial and in helping children with costumes etc. The children have had a lot of fun, increased their understanding of some important social issues and raised some impressive amounts ! The Fairtrade cake sale raised over £250 and we collected £450 selling noses and from donations on Red Nose Day.

'Off by Heart' Poetry Competition

Well done to all the children who learned poems 'off by heart' for the competition during Book Week. The finals held on the Friday were a great occasion and a wonderful celebration of poetry. The standard of all the performances was very high so congratulations to the winners in each class

Christian Value: Thankfulness

Our focus this half term is on thankfulness and the importance of being grateful for all that we have. It is clear in the Bible that it is possible to 'give thanks to God in all circumstances'. Although this is a challenge at certain times, it is an important message and the key to happiness in so many aspects of human existence. A simple 'thank you' from someone can make a person's day. Please reinforce this message at home with your children.

Maths Development

The progress children make in maths has been an issue in school for a while. We have worked hard in the last couple of years to completely shift the focus of our teaching and to try to change the attitude of children to a more positive view of maths. Our teaching is now far better balanced to include the learning and application of facts alongside an increased emphasis on problem solving and developing fluency and confidence with number. The 'Learn Its' and 'Beat That' tests, as well as the whole school Mathletics subscription, are helping in this regard. We have been very fortunate to have the support of Joanne Thornhill from Cumbria's Learning Improvement Service. Joanne has worked closely with Mrs Whittaker, our Maths subject leader, and the Governing Body, to observe teaching (with planned learning walks through maths lessons in each class) and a close scrutiny of the work in children's books. Evidence from these activities and careful analysis of termly assessment data, is showing a significant improvement in outcomes and progress. The help and support that parents are giving to children at home is also crucial in this, so thank you and please continue to work with your children and stay positive about maths at home !

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher

