

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



20th March 2019

Newsletter 4 Spring 2019

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Dear Parents

World Down Syndrome Day Thursday 21st March WEAR ODD SOCKS

We will be marking World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday by asking all the staff and children to wear odd socks. We will take the opportunity to find out more about Down Syndrome in classes and in a whole school assembly in the afternoon. This year's strap line is 'see the ability', so we will be focusing on achievement and activity.

Parking Outside School

We all know how busy it can be on the road at the beginning and end of the school day. Can I remind all parents that the only way we can keep children safe at these times is if all drivers show patience, care and consideration to others.

Specifically, please:

- leave the bus bay completely clear
- do not park on either of the two narrower sections of Oxenholme Lane each side of the front of school
- keep the driveways of neighbouring houses clear
- make sure that children are accompanied across the road

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Brewery Dance Platform

Congratulations to the children from Years 5 and 6 who are part of the after school dance group run by Mrs Shone. They have been working hard since October last year to choreograph an original dance piece which will be performed this evening at the Brewery as part of the annual Dance Platform event. A few of us have had the privilege of seeing a preview of the dance, which is a very poignant piece based on the story of Malala and her fight for the right to education for all children around the world.

Spring Poetry

The Poet Tree outside the school office has now been turned round to the spring section. If any children or adults would like to write and submit poems on the subject of spring for display, please let Mr Barfoot have them over the coming weeks. If you have not read the selections of autumn and winter poems, please make time to have a look next time you are in school.

P.T.A. Playground Fund

We have been successful in our bid for a grant from The Clark Foundation and have been awarded £4000 towards the playground fund. One of the criteria for awarding a grant is where Clarks employees, or ex-employees live and/or benefit. A lot of families in school have friends and relatives who worked for Clarks (K Shoes) when it was a major employer in the area. **A very big thank you to the Clark Foundation for this generous award.**

School Dinner Money

As from Tuesday 23rd April the cost of school meals will be £2.55 per day, £12.75 per week. This reflects increases in the costs of the minimum wage, transport and food. I hope that you will agree that our meals are still good value at this price, especially as the children have a choice of main meal made with fresh and local produce.

Apply for free school meals and clothing vouchers

Universal Credit earning threshold for free school meals: If you receive Universal Credit and are not already claiming free school meals or you have not applied as your child is currently in Key Stage 1 (universal free school meals), make sure you don't miss out and apply online now (https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE)

Do you qualify for free school meals and school clothing vouchers?

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available for your child(ren) if you receive one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- An income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of April 2012 does not exceed £16190. Note: From 1st May 2009 where you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment ceases, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your children are entitled to Free School Meals, this may be extended
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit.

If you receive working tax credits you may not be eligible for free school meals or clothing grants.

The information above is on the Cumbria County Council website where you apply online to check whether or not you are eligible for free school meals and clothing vouchers. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office with any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher

REMINDER – DIARY DATES

Wednesday 27 th March	5.30 p.m. Kirkbie Kendal School Year 5 Moving Up Evening
Wednesday 3 rd April	CHOCOLATE 'MUFTI DAY' – Children can wear their own choice of clothes in return for a donation of chocolate for prizes on Chocolate BINGO night.
Thursday 4 th April	6.15 – 8.00 p.m. CHOCOLATE BINGO
Friday 5 th April	10.00 a.m. Easter Celebration in St. Mark's Church (led by Year 4) 3.30 p.m. Break for Easter holidays
Tuesday 23 rd April	Summer Term begins

