

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



26th March 2018

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Newsletter Spring 4 March 2018

Dear Parents

Mr Fonth Paternity Leave

Mr Fonth and his wife are expecting their first child at the start of the Easter break. Mr Fonth will be taking statutory paternity leave for two weeks after the Easter break and then unpaid parental leave for a further three weeks. He will return to work on Monday 21st May.

We have arranged for Mrs Millington, who has worked at St Mark's previously, to cover full-time the first two weeks. She will then continue to cover Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for the following three weeks while Mrs Hardy covers Mondays and Tuesdays. We will arrange cover for Mondays and Tuesdays in Year 4 during those weeks in the next few days. Parents and children will be informed in due course.

We realise that this period includes the End of KS 2 Assessment (SATs) week but have every confidence in the experience of the teachers who will provide cover, both of whom are known to the Year 6 children.

We wish Mr and Mrs Fonth all the best for the birth and the start of a new chapter in their life together as a family.

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Children from Reception to Year 5 enjoyed a range of different activities last week related to the question: **'If the Helm could talk, what stories would it tell ?'** The 12 students on our School Direct teacher training programme investigated the local history and geography of Natland to come up with a fascinating programme of activities to inspire enquiry skills, critical thinking, team work and creativity. We would like to say a huge thank you to the students who worked so hard throughout the week.

National Cross Country Competition

Well done to Kate Collin (Year 5) who finished 7th out of a field of 250 runners in her age group. in the Primary School National Cross County Championships held in Leicestershire this weekend.

Brewery Dance

Well done to the group of dancers from Years 5 and 6 who performed their original dance piece 'A Sky full of Stars' at the Brewery Dance Platform event on Wednesday 21st March. It was amazing and very well received by everyone who saw it !

REMINDERS

Sport Relief: Tuesday 27th March

We are planning to raise money for Sports Relief a little later than the rest of the country. As last week was very busy we are organising a **continuous relay** on Tuesday 27th March. The idea is that there will be someone running in a continuous relay throughout the whole of the school day. We will keep track of the steps run by each child and come up with a total towards the national Billion Steps challenge.

To raise money for the Sport Relief charity we are asking for **each child to contribute £1 to wear sports kit or sporty clothing of some kind instead of their school uniform.**

Reception Class Assembly: Wednesday 28th March at 9.10 a.m.

Decorated Egg Competition – Wednesday 28th March.

Please bring any additional craft materials into school on Wednesday. The ‘eggs’ can be viewed by parents from 3.15p.m. Eggs must be collected from the hall at the end of the school day as we cannot keep any in school.

MUFTI DAY – Wednesday 28th March and P.T.A. CHOCOLATE BINGO

Children may wear their own choice of clothes in return for a donation of chocolate for prizes for the CHOCOLATE BINGO night 6.15 – 8.00 p.m. All welcome.

LOST PROPERTY

We have various items of lost property, mostly coats, school jumpers/cardigans. Please check and if you can use it, please take it. Items not claimed by the end of term will be disposed of or sent to charity.

Thank you to everyone who has provided cakes to support various fundraising events (please collect containers and plates from the entrance hall). We raised £120 to buy beds and sleeping equipment for the Manna House homelessness charity in Kendal. Well done to Laura Child and Emma Holme for the initial idea and the work they did to support this fund raising.

SCHOOL DINNER MONEY

As from Monday 16th April the cost of school meals will be £2.50 per day, £12.50 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.

END OF TERM: 3.30 p.m. Thursday 29th March

Please join us for the Leavers’ Service at 9.15 a.m. in the church. School will finish at 3.30 p.m. MOSAICS will be run as usual from 3.30 – 6.00 p.m. The Summer term starts at 9.00 a.m. on Monday 16th April.

I wish everyone a happy and blessed Eastertide. Enjoy the break.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher