

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



6th June 2018

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Newsletter: Summer 4/June 2018

Dear Parents

Kepplewray: Outdoor Adventure Residential

The children in Years 5 and 6 are excited about their residential trip to the Kepplewray Centre in Broughton-in-Furness from Wednesday to Friday this week. Over the next three days, they will be ghyll scrambling, canoe rafting on Coniston Water, abseiling and taking part in team challenges. Mrs Grant, Mrs Whittaker, Mr Barfoot and Mrs Paxton will be accompanying the children along with Tim Ward the Chair of our Governing Body. All is set fair for a sun and fun-packed adventure.

Kendal Unity Festival - Saturday 23rd June 10.00 – 4.00

The new Mayor of Kendal will begin his term of office with a new festival. The Kendal Unity Festival will be a celebration of the diverse communities, religions, groups and people of Kendal. It is planned for Saturday 23rd June from 10.00 – 4.00 and will take place in Abbott Hall Gardens, the Birdcage and the Brewery Arts Centre. More details to follow.

PTA Summer Fair

Please put the date in your diary and join us for our annual Summer Fair on the evening of Friday 29th June. Fundraising in this, and in the coming years, is for the development of the playground.

Governing Body Update

We will be saying goodbye to a faithful and long –serving member of the Governing Body in a few weeks' time. Di Outhwiate has served the school faithfully for 12 years and has decided it is time to pass on the baton. As a school we would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to Di for her hard work, wisdom and commitment. Thankfully Di has agreed to continue her support for the teaching of maths with Year 6 !

Free School Meals – Eligibility Changes

From 1 April 2018, the government introduced a Universal Credit earning threshold of £7,400 per year for free school meal eligibility. Children who are eligible for free school meals by 1 April 2018 will continue to receive them until at least 2022, without the need for further eligibility checks while Universal Credit is rolled out across the country. All children who currently receive free school meals are not affected and **do not** need to apply again. They will continue to receive free school meals and clothing vouchers until at least 31 March 2022. To ensure children continue to receive clothing grants it is crucial that all parents update any change of personal details, i.e. address/name/parent/guardian during this period to March 2022. Failure to do so may result in delays in receiving clothing grants. Personal details can be updated online (Cumbria County Council Citizen Portal) or contact the Free School Meal Service by calling 01228 606060.

For new applications, we'd like you to support us in encouraging parents/guardians to apply online (Cumbria County Council Citizen Portal) and reminding them of the need to check the eligibility criteria before submitting an online application. This will assist us to avoid disappointment and unnecessary applications. Parents can check their eligibility on our website.

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>

School Transport

Please be aware that any new applications for free school transport must be submitted as soon as possible or transport may not be in place for the start of the school year. On line application form for School Transport (Primary and Secondary Pupils) <https://eforms.cumbria.gov.uk/school-transport>

If your child is currently on school transport and not changing school in September or you have already applied for school transport, you **do not** need to resubmit an application form. However, it is essential that all parents update any change of address details with the school transport team and the school office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions about applying for free school meals or school transport.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher

