

NEWSLETTER

Furness Vale Primary School

Friends Proudly Working Together to Achieve Our Best

Once again, I find myself writing that I can't believe how quickly the term has gone. It's been an extremely busy time for everyone. The outbreak of chicken pox is still continuing with new children being diagnosed daily. Hopefully, the half term holiday will break the cycle and we'll be back to a full complement of children soon.

The final half term is always the busiest and this year is no exception. Dates that don't appear on here will be added to the website and a text will be sent home to keep you up to speed. There are different sports events that haven't been finalized yet – we'll inform you as early as we can so you can make arrangements if you want to join us for them.

Our next priority...

Next year, we are starting a Phonics and Literacy programme through the Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund (TLIF). We are delighted to be taking part as it entails intensive training and we've purchased £2,800 of literacy resources to support it. We'll have an Open Afternoon to tell you all about it in the autumn term.

This term we also purchased £3000 of guided reading books - sets of books that children read daily in school. Ask your children about them, they're really enjoying reading them. Reading daily massively helps your child learn to read!

There is an undeniable link between children who read regularly and success in reading. Reading daily is essential if children are to become competent and accomplished readers.

Dates for 2018

June

- 4th INSET Day
- 5th Return to school
- 5th Class B – visit to the Apple Store
- 5th Road Safety Week
- 6th Sponsored Zumba
- 7th Class B continue the clarinet and Class A start drumming!
- 9th New Mills Carnival
- 11th PEGS music concert
- 12th High Peak Kids Council (HPKC) meeting
- 12th Field Open Day
- 13th KS2 – 5 weeks of cricket starts today
- 15th Class C – visit to Tesco
- 15th EYFS – Father's Day Tea Party (dads only)
- 20th Bikeability – Day 1
- 21st Bikeability – Day 2
- 21st HPKC Houses of Parliament trip
- 25th Arts week with visiting artists this week
- 27th KS2 – Quad Kids Sports event
- 27th Governors sub-committee meetings
- 29th Groups and Leavers photographs
- 29th HPKC Summer Fair
- 30th Summer BBQ – great weather needed!

July

- 3rd Proposed date for Sports Day
- 4th – 6th New Mills Transition Days
- 4th KS1 Quad Kids
- 10th Full Governing Body Meeting – 6pm
- 11th – 13th NMHS – We Will Rock You
- 19th Class A - Leavers Show
- 20th Y6 Rounders and School Closes

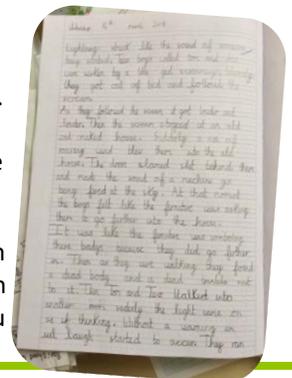
September

- 3rd – 4th INSET Days
- 5th School Reopens

KS2 SATs

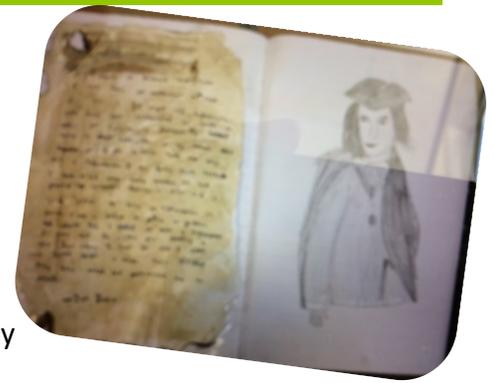
A huge Thank You has to go to everyone involved in this year's KS2 SATs. The children, families and staff have all worked extremely hard to prepare the children for them and I know that each and every child gave it their best – that's all we will ever ask of you!

With the SATs over, the children can now relax and enjoy their final term of primary school. We will do what we can to make the transition to high school as smooth as possible, so please speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns.



Brain Builder Success

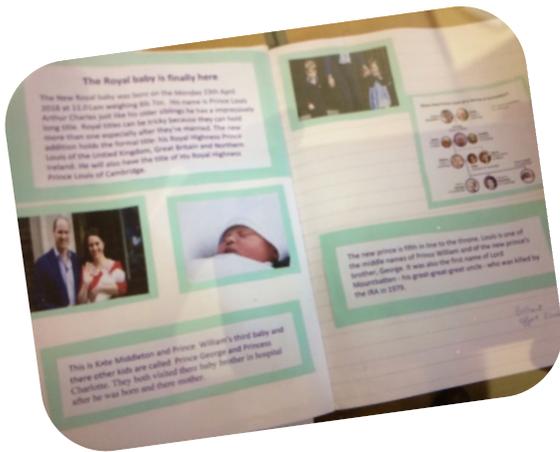
Some of the work produced in the Brain Builder Books has been absolutely stunning. From Reception to Year 6, there are excellent examples of home learning. The Brain Builders are designed to give flexibility over the topics and type of work children choose to do with parents at home. It shouldn't be stressful – getting settled into a routine of doing homework might be challenging, but the actual home learning should be engaging and, dare I say it, fun!



Every Friday, during our Star of the Week assembly, a child from each class is chosen for their outstanding homework. Unfortunately, we've already sent the books back out again so we don't always get to show it. We'll find a way round this somehow, because the standard of learning is too good not to share.

Staffing

In Class C, Mrs Wright has moved on to pastures new and we wish her every success in her future ventures. Lisa has been a much loved and respected member of the team for over 20 years - she will be sorely missed. Sarah O'Neill will replace her as Woodland Leader; she's already attended the training and is looking forward to getting started. Thank you, Lisa, for all you have done for Furness Vale over the years - you're a Star! Otherwise, up to now, the staffing structure will be very similar to how it is at the moment. Some movement is always going to take place but no huge changes are anticipated.



Parent Pay

Mrs Daniels has done a sterling job getting Parent Pay successfully up and running – great dedication!

To spend just 10 minutes in the company of Mrs. Daniels is all it takes to understand this word:

Multitasking!

Thank you for being the person we all turn to when we need something doing, for smiling and answering the phone ever so cheerfully when all sorts of issues are arising and for being able to set up a complex system, almost single-handedly despite the overwhelming workload.

On behalf of us all: it is noted and it is appreciated – Thank You!

NB: Parent Pay is an online payment system and it does involve your bank account. To prevent fraud, it is best to use your computer rather than your phone. Check that you are on the 'https' secure site and always look for the padlock before doing any banking.

GDPR

The new General Data Protection Regulations come into effect from 25th May 2018. This is another big piece of work that we are doing. Letters went home (and are on the website) explaining the changes and how they affect you. We will send more information, as necessary, in the meantime, please complete the forms and return them to Mrs. Daniels.

What's New?

Friendship Awards



As a parting gift to the children and staff, Lisa bought each class a Friendship Trophy and she designed certificates. Each week, someone from each class will be chosen for being a truly kind friend.

There's also an All Year Friendship Trophy – it is going to be very tough to decide who gets that – the decision will rest with the children – Good Luck Everyone!

Times Tables Awards

Mrs. Poolzy has been doing additional times tables practice with groups of children from KS2. It is absolutely vital that children know their times tables by heart – in order, out of order and the division facts. Online, there are loads of times tables Apps that are engaging and fun. Mrs. Poolzy monitors the children's progress, sets homework and completes the award chart – I'm looking forward to seeing who finishes their chart next term.



Friendship Express

Well the Friendship Express is certainly making its way to Furness Vale!

The grass has been ordered, Year 6 are ready with the paintbrushes and Mrs. Parry has been busy buying exciting equipment.

The children are designing their own room, for themselves!

Well done to our competition winners: Macy (for naming the room) and Johnny (for designing the signpost), you'll be helping to make the signpost with some friends.



Music



Class B started learning the clarinet after Easter and will continue to do so until the end of term when we hope to do a 'Show' of some sort. One of our children said: "It's good to learn music and it makes me feel happy."

Class A will have 5 drumming sessions when we come back in June – you can't beat listening to drums being pounded in a small school!!



Sports Provision

At Furness Vale, we strive to provide the children with high quality sports provision. We have brought in specialist coaches to teach specific sports – for example, we brought in trained rugby coaches to teach rugby, etc. This year, children have participated in: rugby, boxing, lacrosse, cricket, outdoor adventurous activities (with White Hall) and Little Learners (Early years and KS1 specialists). Also, children have taken part in a number of sports competitions with the local cluster of schools. We try and use the courts at for football at dinnertime and we held our first swimming gala at Buxton Baths.

On the website, we will be publishing a sports premium report showing how much money has come into school, what we have done with it and how the children have benefitted from the provision. We often feel that there aren't enough hours in the day to deliver everything the children need, so we're looking at options for after school clubs – once again, we'll let you know when we've reached some decisions about what we will provide and when.



Morning Routine



Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and support this week whilst we've been experimenting with the best way to get the children into school safely.

Thank you to Hannah, our Safeguarding Governor, for listening to parental concerns and discussing them with us; we used the information to make necessary changes. The new fob system has definitely tightened security within school.

Again, thank you for being understanding and supportive.