

NEWSLETTER

Furness Vale Primary School

Friends Proudly Working Together to Achieve Our Best

The first term of the new academic year is almost at an end. The dark nights and mornings are drawing in and before we know it Christmas will be here. I've been at Furness Vale for almost 2 years now and it is still a privilege and an absolute pleasure to be here. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new families in Reception and Nursery, we hope you have settled in easily and are enjoying your time with us.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Parent's Evenings; both evenings were very well attended and that shows how supportive you are. The findings of the questionnaires will be published soon, they are almost ready. It's very reassuring that all parents feel their children are safe in school. That's so important to us. We strive to be a good school with a caring ethos.

The build-up to Christmas is always a very busy time and this year is no different. We still have some dates to add to the calendar. As always, we will text you or send letters home with any additional diary entries.

In the meantime, let me say how much I'm looking forward to working with the children this term and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any worries or concerns.

Dates for 2018

November

- 5th Return to school
- 5th Little Learners (every Monday)
- 6th Swimming continues today – Class A
- 6th Chess club (every Tuesday)
- 6th Furness Fun Club (6pm-7:45)
- 7th Football After School Club (each week)
- 9th Lacrosse After School Club (each week)
- 14th KS2 Roman Day
- 14th Governor meeting (sub-committees)
- 16th Class A assembly – 9:15
- 16th Children in Need Day
- 19th Classes C and D Open Afternoon at 1:30 followed by phonics meeting at 2:30
- 20th Individual photographs
- 20th Flu vaccine – Reception to Year 5
- 22nd High peak radio recording us
- 26th Time Week
- 28th Full Governing Board meeting

December

- 4th Fit Fence (fencing and archery)
- 5th Rec. height, weight, hearing and vision
- 5th and 6th New Mill High School Show
- 7th Class B assembly
- 11th Movie Night (KS1 and KS2)
- 13th KS2 Pantomime visit (Stockport Plaza)
- 14th Christmas Dinner
- 18th Classes C and D Nativity 2pm and 5:30
- 21st Christmas Jumper Day
- 21st School Finishes

January 2019

- 7th School reopens

There will be more dates to add, they will go on the next Newsletter and on the website.

Toastie Fridays

Starting on the first Friday (9th Nov) back, Stacey (from the PTFA) will be making toast for the children. They can buy it at playtime for 20p a slice. We know how much the children enjoy ice-pops in the summer, so we thought we'd see if they enjoy toast in the winter!

Furness Fun Club

The first Furness Fun Club happened a few weeks ago and was, once again, organised by the PTFA. The idea is that children don't have anywhere to simply 'hang out' when the dark nights begin as it's too dark to play out. Hence, the Fun Club. Dates will be sent out for this half term by the PTFA but it starts on Nov 6th.



Poppies

On 11th November 2018, it will be 100 years since the end of WW1. To commemorate this event, Furness Vale community have ordered 2 of the silent soldiers to place in the village and we have bought 3 poppies to go on the lampposts. We are also making poppies to go on the fencing with the names of soldiers who lost their lives. School will continue to fundraise for the Royal British Legion in the usual way.



Class A have been taking part in the Prince William Award. The Award is the legacy of Prince William, similar to his grandfather who initiated the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award is designed to help children build their character, resilience and confidence to empower them to “be their best”. More information can be found on their website:

www.skillforce.org

Race Night

I would like to say a big thank you to all the members of the PTFA who work relentlessly behind the scenes to support our children and raise funds for the school. Recently, the Race Night was a huge success. Thank you, Glenn and Stacey, for organising and running the whole event.

Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

We're now teaching phonics in a different way using a highly recommended programme called Read, Write, Inc. Phonics. We've been funded through the Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund to receive free training for the next two years. We have always delivered a phonics meeting for parents and this year is no different. The meeting is on Monday 19th November at 2:30pm. The person who works with us to develop our skills will be there to answer any questions you may have. Thank you so much for your patience, while we've been getting started.



Class Assemblies start with Mrs Guy's class on Friday 16th November. Each class is aiming to have an Open Afternoon, 2 assemblies and 1 show throughout the year. EYFS will undoubtedly have more open sessions; they will let you know about them in plenty of time.



Sickness

If your child is sick or has a 'tummy bug' they mustn't come into school for 48 hours after the last episode. This helps to stop the 'bug' from spreading to children and staff. Thank you so much for your assistance with this.



Time Week



26th to 30th November is 'Time Week'. This is when all the children are taught about time. Activities range from knowing there are different times in the day to reading and interpreting timetables and problem solving. Children have a quick assessment the week before and teachers decide which ability group children should be in. Then we have a whole week to teach time. Time is something that is often taught by parents and families (my grandparents taught me!), you could make this one of your homework activities!

Social Media

We all know about the benefits and pitfalls of social media; it's not necessary to explain how beneficial it is when sharing news and information but how devastating it is when something is made public that could be embarrassing or vindictive. In a school setting it's very easy for a concerned parent to share concerns publicly. It is essential that any concerns are shared with the school, otherwise we can't deal with them. Save social media for sharing information and celebrating successes. Furthermore, posting negative or harmful comments could lead children to believe that 'cyber bullying' is in some way acceptable. Talk to us if you have a concern. Thank you to the many parents who support us, work with us and use the appropriate channels to raise concerns.



Messy Monsters

Messy Monsters will be running again in November. It will be open to mums and care givers of pre-school age children. Come and join us on a Friday afternoon at 1:30 for a mix of messy play, music and movement, storytelling, arts, crafts and more... Join us in a warm, welcoming environment where children can experience a range of messy fun and where you can make friends and chat with others. Our price is £1.50 per family and includes a snack and juice for children.



Children in Need

Children in Need day is on Friday 16th November and we're going to do the following: Fancy Dress, Pudsey's Got Talent and a Bring and Buy Sale. We hope the children have a fabulous day whilst raising money for a very good cause!

P.E. Kits

Every child should have their PE kit in school ready for PE lessons. As you know, we're constantly providing the children with different sporting opportunities so that they can hopefully find a sport they enjoy. Children must get changed for PE. PE kit for winter can include white t-shirt, trainers (not pumps), jogging bottoms, sweatshirt, hat (gloves, depending on what sport we're doing) and a raincoat. Children will be outdoors, weather permitting, so they need to be warm. Having all of this in a plastic bag usually means the bag will rip and the clothes end up in lost property, therefore, a stronger bag is recommended.



Roman Day 14th November

This is being kindly funded by the PTFA. The focus is 'How to Survive in Roman Britain'. The children will be asked to dress up like a Roman. More information on what this might look like will be sent out nearer the time. In the meantime – dust down your cotton sheets!!

Times Tables

It is essential that all children in year 5 and 6 know their times tables by heart! Challenge your children to make sure they know them by the end of Year 4!

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons are compulsory. If children are not going swimming for any reason, then a doctor's note must be given. Not having kit or feeling unwell should not stop children from going swimming. We will soon be having our 3rd swimming gala. After Christmas Class B will start swimming.

After School Clubs

Lacrosse, football, Little Learners and chess will all continue again this term. If you are interested in joining any of these clubs, you will be very welcome.

Monday: Little Learners (EYFS and KS1) £2 each week

Tuesday: Chess Club (KS2 with Mr Waring)

Wednesday: Football (KS2) £2 each week

Friday: Lacrosse (Class A) £2 each week

Rugby

RuggerEds are coming in again next term to teach rugby. These lessons were very popular with the children last year and we're delighted to have them coming in again.

Breakfast and After School

Breakfast Club: Cereal, juice and milk are always on offer and crumpets or toast (with jam) are offered twice a week. There are many quiet activities to join in along with games, construction and toys.

After School Club: Snacks and drinks always offered with a wide range of activities to do.

We ask for a minimum of 24 hours notice to ensure we have adequate staff for our ratios. Please let Tracey or Mrs Daniels know ASAP if your child no longer requires a space.