

NEWSLETTER

Furness Vale Primary School

Friends Proudly Working Together to Achieve Our Best

Well, what a term this has been!! We've had assemblies, Fit-Fence, Productions, days out, a Roman day and lots more happening. Each term is always busy and this one is no different. The staff and children are definitely looking forward to having a rest over the Christmas break and we hope it's a very special time for all our families.

Ofsted visited and spoke highly of the community engagement and how hard we all work together for the well-being of the children. We will continue to develop writing and handwriting and we're looking forward to getting the children's views on what our curriculum should look like. We want to know what they want to learn! This year, we came 4th in the Derbyshire Performance tables, well done and thank you to everyone involved in last year's SATs – the children did their absolute best and did us proud!

Next term, we will be working with Whitehall again, this was very popular last year! We'll continue to have assemblies and next term's show will be by Class B. Already looking forward to that!

For now, have an amazing Christmas and New Year; we can all come back fresh and excited for the new term.

Toastie Fridays

This has been very successful, and the children really enjoy their slice of toast on a Friday morning. Thank you to the volunteers from the PTFA who come and make the toast, butter it, jam some of it and sell it on the yard. This will happen again next term – 20p a slice.

Dates for 2019

January

7th Return to school
7th Little Learners (every Monday)
7th Year 6 After School Club (every Monday)
8th Swimming continues today – Class B
8th Chess club (every Tuesday)
11th Lacrosse After School Club (each week)
15th KS2 SATs Parents Meeting 3:30pm
18th NO Lacrosse after school (just this week)
21st Time Week – everyone learning time
31st Year 5 visit NMHS (Y7 return to us)

February

8th Class C Assembly
12th Parents Evening
13th Parents Evening
15th School Closes – half term
25th School re-opens

March

6th Governors sub-committee meetings
15th Class A assembly
18th Governor Strategic Briefing Meeting 6pm
20th Full Governing Board Meeting
29th Class D assembly

April

4th Class B Show – 2pm and 6pm
12th School Closes for Easter
29th School re-opens

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.



Assemblies



We've had assemblies from Class A and B – both based on the Romans, which is what the children have been learning about. We've also had a Nativity – Angel Express – performed twice by KS1 and EYFS children. Having the support of families at the events is so important to us. Thank you so much for coming out to share these events with us.

Rewards

All the children have been rewarded for their hard work and effort this term. Classes A and B went to the pantomime where they watched Sleeping Beauty and had yummy ice-cream! There was a hiccup on the way back because the coach broke down – we were prepared to bring the children back by train when fortunately, it started working again. EYFS and KS1 visited Matlock Farm, they had a lovely festive day. They took part in a nativity with a real donkey! They sang Christmas songs and visited the Big Man himself. After an adventure play session they headed out to feed the animals. What a lovely start to Christmas.

Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

I can't begin to tell you how exciting it is to see the children in their phonics groups every day. They are making great progress, daily, and it's so rewarding to see that all the training and hard work is paying off. The parent's meeting was very well attended, and I know that parents were saying they feel more confident now that they understand the programme better. The reception children will be moving onto Red Books soon, which means they will finally be able to bring books home. This is a very successful programme and children are getting a flying start in reception. It is also worth noting that children who attend our nursery are making accelerated progress, Ofsted recognised this, please share the fact that we have a nursery and take children when the term after they turn three.

Roman Day

The Roman topic in KS2 was fabulous, the children all took part in assemblies and showed their extensive knowledge of the subject – well done! Plus, the Roman visitors helped them to understand how Roman's lived, how they fought, what games they played and what they ate. The children participated fully and learnt even more about what life was like in Roman times. You all looked amazing, the costumes were used for the assembly and the Roman Day – some stunning hair styles – fabulous! This was funded by the PTFA.



Fit Fence

The children really enjoyed fencing and it was fabulous to watch. Seeing them with all the protective gear on doing the basic moves was a real treat. I'm always trying to bring different sports into school – even if it's just for a taster! Great Fencing, everyone!!





Time Week

Time week will be the week beginning Monday 21st January. We are aiming to do 5 days of time with children in ability groups led by different staff. We'll do a short assessment to make sure the children are in the right groups. Parents and grandparents often teach children to tell the time – please continue to do this. It's vital that children can tell the time – younger children need to know the days of the week, months of the year, seasons and older children need to understand timetables, 24-hour clocks and solve time word problems.

Sharing Information

It is always the aim of the school to let parents know well in advance about events that are taking place. Especially ones that are out of school hours or involve parents. Our main channels of communication are: newsletters, text messages, phone calls (if essential), class dojo, the website and Facebook. We are in the process of adding Twitter to that list. When it's set up, if you follow us on Twitter, my understanding is that you will get notifications when we post something. We're trying to share as much information about what's going on in school as we can, whilst keeping it simple and easy to access.

The PTFA also send information out regarding dates and times of events. They will also put the information on Twitter and Facebook for everyone to see.



Messy Monsters

Messy Monsters will be running again in January. 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 the children and refreshments for the adults. You're all welcome!



Whitehall

I'm delighted to let you know that, once again, we will be going to Whitehall. Class B will be going every Friday for 6 weeks starting on 11th January 2019 – permission slips will be sent home shortly. It's a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, try new challenges and practice teamwork! There is no cost to parents – we'll be using the Sports Premium money to fund this.



Whitehall Memories

A MESSAGE FROM WHITEHALL: Our outdoor education service, which manages the centre, applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for help to capture its unique history and thanks to a £10,000 grant has now launched an appeal to collect memories for a new project 'White Hall Outdoor Education Centre - A People's History'. We want to hear 'My White Hall Story' from the centre's first visitors who will now be in their 80s and from all those visiting over the last seven decades to the present day. Stories will be collected by letter, email and phone and also in person at an open day where ex-students will be invited to see how the centre works and share their memories. If you have a 'My Whitehall Story' to share you can do so by email, post or in person. In particular, they are very short on female contributions.

Email: my.whitehall@derbyshire.gov.uk

Write: White Hall Centre, Manchester Rd, Buxton, SK176SX.

Tel: 01298 23260

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. After Christmas Class B will start swimming.

After School Clubs

Lacrosse, 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)
Friday: Lacrosse (Class A) £2 each week

Online safety

I know it's an incredibly busy time of year and many parents are excellent at online safety but whilst the children are off it's worth doing a 'History' check to see what games they're playing. Then check the games through Google. We have had a few children going on sites that are highly inappropriate – please be mindful that once seen, an image can't be unseen!

Breakfast and After School

Breakfast and after-school clubs are run daily with provision from 7:45am to 5:30pm. For prices and further information have a look at the prospectus on the website (or phone Mrs Daniels in the office). Snacks, drinks, games and activities are always welcome.

We have another change of staff – Maria is finishing after-school club – Thank you for all your hard work. Toni Kania will be doing 3 evenings and we're just waiting to see who will do the other 2.