

NEWSLETTER

Furness Vale Primary School

Friends Proudly Working Together to Achieve Our Best

I just want to share with you what it was like outside at playtime today: everyone was playing; a nursery child (on his first visit) fell over and, before the adults got there, 3 older children went to help him up; our Nursery/Reception helper (Y4) was sat with a group of young children on the mats telling stories and having a lovely chat; many of the older children were playing catch, some were chatting; a group of children were sat under the climbing frame playing cards; the sun was out, nobody had any issues and it was lovely!! Not all days are like this; children fall out, fall over, feel left out or vulnerable, argue or have a bad day. That's life! And they have to learn how to cope on a bad day. Every parent has different strategies to support their child after a bad day. The best way is to listen, reassure and find ways forward. The worst way is to dwell on it, to lay blame, to repeat it, to embrace all the negative things that have ever happened and share that negativity! If it's more than just a bad day, share your concerns with us, we will listen and take appropriate action. Furness Vale is a good school because of the hard work and dedication of the staff, the amazing children who learn here and the wonderful support we get from parents. Your support and involvement mean everything to us!

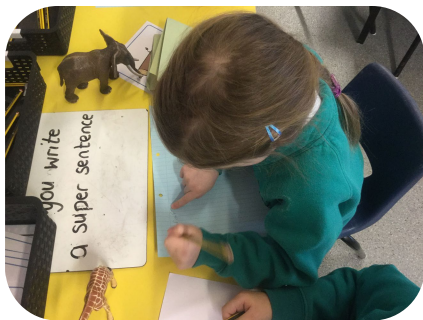
This Friday, children will be visiting our shop, with their virtual money, for the first time! All the staff have been giving children gold coins which are collected and stored electronically (similar to Nectar Points). They will exchange them for toys and games. Our highest earners are our children whose behaviour and learning set excellent an example to others. Well Done!!

Toastie Fridays

This has now come to an end. Thank you to everyone who helped out, you were amazing. The PTFA newsletter will let you know how much was raised.

RWI Phonics

Read, Write, Inc. Phonics is a huge success, children are reading and writing better than ever before. We still have a lot of work to do to help all the children learn to read and write fluently but we are delighted with the progress they are making. Keep it up children, we are very proud of what you are achieving!



Dates for 2019

April

29th Return to school
29th Little Learners (every Monday)
29th Year 6 After School Club (every Monday)
30th Swimming continues today – Class B
30th Chess club (every Tuesday)

May

3rd Lacrosse After School Club (each week)
6th Bank Holiday Monday
7th Y6 SATs after school club
10th Class D – Airport Visit
13th KS2 SATs - Monday to Thursday
17th Y6 after SATs celebration, High Lea Park
24th School Closes – half term

June

3rd School re-opens
10th PEGS music concert
19th Class B – Hallé Orchestra visit
26th Governors sub-committee meetings
28th Photographer for class groups & leavers

July

10th Full Governors
11th Class A show – families 2pm, adults only 6pm – a creche will be provided.
17th Class B Swimming Gala
19th Leaver's Assembly and rounders – 1:15
19th School finishes



Assemblies

We've had assemblies from Class C and D – Class C did a Rainforest assembly and Class D made us all emotional with their Mother's Day assembly. Mr Waring's class performed Shakespeare's 'Hammy Hamlet' – I've never seen such a long script and they performed it brilliantly! Thank you to all the staff for their hard work and creativity! And thank you parents/carers/families for your amazing support.

Nursery

Welcome to our new starters in the Nursery. We hope you've had a great start and are enjoying your time with us. If you are interested in a Nursery place, we offer 15 and 30 hours funded child care. We have a nursery prospectus for you to look at; it shows what we offer and how our nursery is organised. Please call us and arrange a visit if you are interested. Ofsted recognised the quality of provision we offer. They stated:

“Children make strong progress through their Nursery Year. They are well prepared for the curriculum in Reception and get off to a flying start. Children quickly acquire knowledge of the sounds that letters make.”

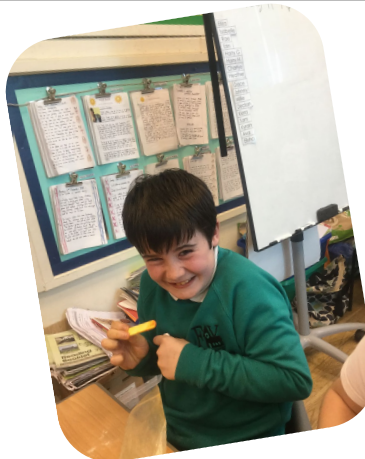
Outdoor Adventurous Activities

Class B spent 6 days at Whitehall last term and the children had a fantastic time. To be able to offer this free to children has been a real bonus. It's one of the areas we've been using the Sports Premium – the money the government give us through the 'Sugar Tax' (our full expenditure is available on the website). For the older children we have been forging links with volunteers at Torside Reservoir and Toddbrook Reservoir – hopefully, we will have some news on some summer fun on the water!!

Swizzles Sweets

It was very exciting to have the food technician, Chloe Cohen from Swizzles, visit us. The children had written persuasive letters to Swizzles explaining how they'd love to be sweet tasters. Chloe came over with bags full of sugar, acid and different flavours – as you can tell from their faces and expressions, they made some interesting combinations. Despite the amount of sugar floating round the room, Chloe had a great time and is looking forward to doing more work with us in the future. Thank you, everyone, for making sure Chloe had a great time when she came to see us.

Fitness!



In June, Marc from Synergy fitness will be working with the children in KS2. He will be doing fun fitness sessions to improve energy levels. This is additional to the lacrosse and football we do on Fridays with Dave Best, Little Learners for the younger children on Mondays and Sam on Wednesdays. The children get a good variety of experiences and we hope they enjoy the sports offered.



25 Years' Service



It is with pleasure that I let you know that Mrs Whittaker was achieved the 25-year service award this month. The staff and children of Furness Vale are very lucky to have had such a loyal, caring and wonderful member of staff in their school for over 25 years. The staff and children have contributed to a booklet and every single message is full of praise for such a caring, kind, thoughtful and hard-working teaching assistant. Thank you, Mrs Whittaker, for being who you are and for everything you do! You're a Star!

Text Messaging

As you know, the funding that comes into schools has been significantly reduced over recent years and this makes us think, constantly, about creative ways to spend wisely.

The text messaging service we use is very expensive – over 5p per text. From September, we are going to trial using class Dojo as the main way to communicate messages to parents – this is a free service.

We will make sure all parents have a log in and ask you all to turn notifications on so that you get messages instantly. There will be a transition time in the summer term where we continue with text messages and trial the new method. We will be asking for your feedback so that we can find out if it's working, tweak what we do and make it as effective as possible.



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!



Sharing the Arts

As part of the PEGS cluster (Peak Edge Group of Schools), we regularly meet up and share activities. Children have been to creative writing, outdoor art, forest schools and other workshops. A group of children represented us at an Arts Festival at New Mills Primary. Looking at the picture, I can only say – like mother, like daughter! The children's behaviour was impeccable and other schools commented on how helpful and kind our children were - thank you and well done!!



Parent Pay

Parent Pay is now working very successfully. Parents can easily see how much they owe to school, make payments and see what's been paid. Early and prompt payments are essential for balancing finances and for the smooth running of the school. Therefore, accounts need to be cleared weekly, especially dinners and clubs. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.



Stockport County came and delivered an excellent assembly on keeping healthy and eating correctly. 100% entertaining!!

Breakfast and After School Club - Price Increase

Breakfast and after-school clubs are run daily with extended school provision from 7:45am to 5:30pm. Breakfast Club starts at 7:45. The children have cereals, toast and drinks and a range of activities to do. After-school club also has snacks and drinks and has different creative activities to make part in – making ornaments, jewellery, pizzas, dens, etc. If you would like to book a place, simply call the school or let Mrs Daniels know.

Staffing – Tracey Regan and Tracy Jennings run the Breakfast Club together whilst Toni Kania and Kayleigh Gill run the After-School club on different evenings.

Price Increase – From 29th April 2019 prices will change:

Breakfast Club:	7:45 onwards	£3:00
	8:00 onwards	£2:50
After-school club:	3:20 to 4:00	£3.00
	3:20 to 4:30	£4.00
	3:20 to 5:00	£5:00
	3:20 to 5:30	£6:50

Online safety

I included this snippet of wisdom in the last Newsletter but it's worth mentioning again, especially as the children will be entertaining themselves with electronic gadgets during part of the Easter Holidays. Whilst the children are off it's worth doing a 'History' check to see what games they're playing and to see what sites they have visited; sites can hold damaging material and you might not even know your child has seen something they shouldn't. Check all games and sites through a search engine. 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 and can be incredibly difficult/ impossible to forget!