

NEWSLETTER

Furness Vale Primary School

Friends Proudly Working Together to Achieve Our Best

Well, that was a rather short half term!! Despite that, we have had so much going on that we're all a little bemused.

Firstly, a huge 'Well Done' to all our year 6 children for working so diligently towards their SATs for months and finally completing them. Whatever will be, will be! You have done all you can. Thank you for being such troopers! Year 6 children went to High Lea Park on the Friday after SATS to meet other year 6 children within the PEGS cluster to play games and eat scrumptious ice-cream. They also had their party, with more cakes than you can shake a stick at!

Reception children have visited Manchester Airport as part of their Travel topic. Their behaviour was exceptional, and staff complimented us on our wonderful children, and they were delighted with how much information they retained.

Looking forwards, the summer term becomes an incredibly busy time because we're all planning activities and trips - the diary is filling up fast! We have included all events that we have dates for on the right, but more will be added.

This afternoon, we had the pleasure of meeting Martin Thomas and Ian Kidd from Whaley Bridge Town Council. Millie, from year 6, won the 'Litter Picking' Poster Competition and will shortly be going to Reading Matters in Whaley Bridge to spend her £25 voucher. Well done to all the runners-up and thank you to everyone who took part.

The impact of Read, Write, Inc. Phonics on our foundation stage and KS1 children is impressive. The children are all making excellent progress. The main way you can help your child read is to read with them daily and read to them in a storytelling voice.

Dates for 2019

June

- 3rd Little Learners ASC (every week)
- 3rd Marc, from Synergy, will be doing PE with KS2 and the teachers
- 4th Class A – Bamboo Bashing – in school
- 5th New Reception visits start - pm
- 10th Class B – PEGS music concert
- 11th PEGS HPKC meeting
- 19th Class B – Hallé Orchestra
- 20th 5-year old's dental health check
- 20th Class A visit to Toddbrook reservoir
- 22nd COGS Day – join us on the field
- 26th Governors sub-committee meetings
- 27th KS2 trip to Blue Planet Aquarium
- 28th Groups and leavers photographs

July

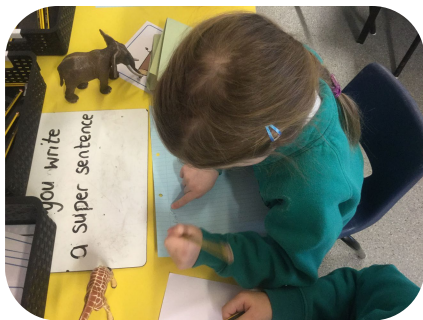
- 2nd Stepping Up day – children go to new classes
- 2nd Y6 transition to Chapel High School
- 2nd and 3rd Y6 Transition New Mills
- 10th Full Governors
- 11th Class A show – families 2pm, adults only 6pm – a creche will be provided.
- 17th Class B Swimming Gala
- 19th Leaver's Assembly and rounders – 1:15
- 19th School finishes

Please note there is no more Lacrosse Club on Fridays and no more Chess Club on Tuesdays. Little Learners will be happening on Mondays starting from the first week back.

Breakfast and After School Club are as usual.

New Reception Intake

We had our meeting for new reception parents this week and were able to share the experiences and expectations we want our new intake to have. Most of the new children will be joining us on Wednesday afternoons after half term. On behalf of the whole school team – welcome to Furness Vale Primary School!



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."

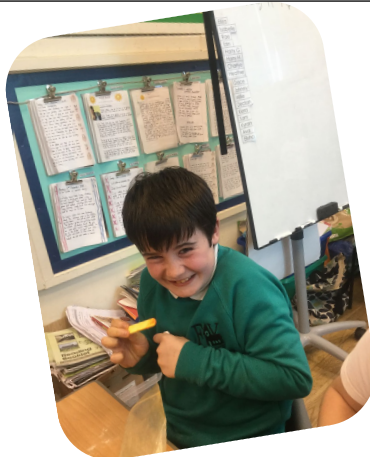
Outdoor Adventurous Activities

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!