

# NEWSLETTER

## Furness Vale Primary School

*Friends Proudly Working Together to Achieve Our Best*

First of all, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone that wholeheartedly supports the school. We have amazing artwork on our fence and brilliant planters at the crossing because one of our parents took the time to apply for lottery funding, be successful in the bid, and then carry out the actions to make the school more visible from the road. This work was then celebrated, with councillors, at the BBQ in June. All this happened because Jim Medway wants his children to be safe and he recognises that the A6 is a dangerous place and he did something about it. Thank you, Jim, it's made a huge difference and we're very grateful for all the time and effort you put in; the school is certainly more visible now.

Next, I'd like to thank the PTFA for all their hard work. They are a small group of people, beaver away behind the scenes, holding meetings, arranging activities, putting all the work in and, ultimately, raising money for the children. This is not a 'closed' group, all are welcome. The PTFA will let you know when the next meeting is. At the next meeting, Sarah O'Neill will step down as Chair; she will continue to support the PTFA, but it's time, after 11 years, for someone else to step up. Thank you, Sarah, for all the commitment, dedication and enthusiasm you and yours have shown! We recognise that whilst you might be leading fund-raising events, your family are always helping out, too!

School is always a very busy place, the days fly by and there's never enough time to do everything we want to achieve. This term has been no different. However, with the support of our families, we have had many successful events, with loads more to come.

Social Media: if anything positive is happening – share it! If it's not positive, or it concerns you, then talk to the staff in school. Most concerns are solved instantly as a direct result of the staff knowing what the problem is. If we don't know about something, we can't act on it. Share positives with others and concerns with us!

### Dates for 2019

#### November

- 4<sup>th</sup> School reopens
- 5<sup>th</sup> Y5 debate at St Luke's
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class B visit to Macclesfield museum
- 8<sup>th</sup> Class A visit to Macclesfield museum
- 8<sup>th</sup> lacrosse After School Club – every Friday
- 11<sup>th</sup> Governors sub-committee meetings
- 11<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATs club starts – every Monday
- 11<sup>th</sup> Little Learners after school club – every Monday
- 19<sup>th</sup> Individual photos
- 20<sup>th</sup> Flu immunisation date
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Class B assembly 9:10am
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Class A STEM day
- 29<sup>th</sup> Class A STEM day

#### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Choir singing at Lyme Hall
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Christingle 1:30 at St John's Church
- 4<sup>th</sup> Full Governing Board meeting 6pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Y4 visit to Mellor Church
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class A assembly
- 12<sup>th</sup> Production – EYFS and KS1  
2:00 – families  
5:30 – Adults only – creche provided
- 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas dinner
- 19<sup>th</sup> Class B – Romiley Theatre a.m.
- 19<sup>th</sup> PTFA Movie night
- 20<sup>th</sup> Father Christmas might visit the good boys and girls in school!
- 20<sup>th</sup> School closes

#### January:

- 6<sup>th</sup> School reopens

## New Governors

Throughout the year, the school is supported by governors, they help us make decisions about policies, put policies in place, keep a close eye on the budget and challenge the school as it provides a good education for the children. We are looking for more governors to join our team. Please get in touch if you are interested in learning more about this role.



## Drumming

Class B have been doing Djembe drumming this term and will continue next term. The children love participating and, for many, it's something to really look forward to. The benefits of drumming are huge. In short, it helps to: reduce tension anxiety and stress; boost the immune system and release negative feelings, blockages and emotional trauma.

Sophie Sully teaches string instruments on Friday afternoon, ask if you'd like to know more.

## Sport

Marc from Synergy has been teaching general fitness and kick boxing this term to KS2. The children look forward to their sessions with him and they definitely have fun. Martial Arts are renowned for encouraging discipline, self-control, concentration and coordination. Rarely, have I met a trainer who also insists on having fun and making sure all lessons are enjoyable – that's Marc's talent and the children are lucky to have him.

Dave Best is still teaching lacrosse on Fridays and running an after-school club for KS2. More great sport from a very experienced coach. Dave is passionate about lacrosse and would love to see some of our youngsters taking it up as a sport. KS2 PE is every Thursday and Friday.

Last, but not least, is Zoey from Little Learners, an early-years and KS1 specialist. The children are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of specialists. KS1 PE is on Monday.

## STEM at White Hall

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths is usually talked about more in KS3. However, we have the opportunity for the older children to take part in a STEM project with White Hall. The project is for 3 days and will consist of: 1 day spent on site at school with White Hall staff, 1 day spent at White Hall and 1 day spent at a local business. The business we intend to visit is Buxton Water. We haven't done this before, so I hope the children enjoy it next half term.

## Art with Year 5

On Fridays, Tracey Regan, our resident artist, has been completing art activities with the year 5 children. I have been a little bit wary of some of Tracey's ambitious ideas: "Can I use a blow torch to set fire to the paint?" and, "Can I make paint bombs – I'll make sure they don't explode inside?" being just two of them! Once the risk assessments were completed, it was time to get to work – photos are included for your perusal! Tracey also organised the trip to Manchester Art Gallery to visit Katy Medway, an art teacher from the gallery, where they made some excellent artwork and had a fabulous day. Brilliant!!



## PE Kits and Uniform

As mentioned above, we have a team of specialist staff providing a great PE service – all we ask of the children is that they have full PE kit, give everything a try, behave appropriately and have fun. When children don't have the correct P.E kit, it slows lessons down for everyone – searching for spare kit is not the best use of anyone's time! P.E. kit will change as winter approaches – dark bottoms, white top (with sleeves), dark sweatshirt (not hoodie) and trainers. Children will be allowed to wear hats and gloves, too. Please make sure the children always have their P.E. kit in school on the correct days.





## Volunteers



For many different reasons, people choose to volunteer in schools. We currently have 4 volunteers and their input and enthusiasm are commendable. Most volunteers are looking to start either a teaching or a teaching assistant training programme. Some are retired and just want to give something back to the community or to spend time supporting children with reading. Every volunteer brings different skills and we really enjoy working with you for the benefit of all.

## Family Support Worker

Recent changes to the Early Help system have meant that the school has now employed (with the PEGS cluster) 2 family support workers. They will have many different roles, but primarily they will provide advice, support and practical guidance for parents. As a parent, I know there is no guidebook or set of rules to follow. At times, we all need that little piece of advice, guidance or reassurance from somebody knowledgeable and supportive. Our support worker is called Debbie Hussey. She will be running courses and programmes for parents and will be available to talk to if you are experiencing concerns.



## PEGS – Peak Edge Group of Schools

Furness Vale Primary is part of a cluster of schools within the New Mills area. We do a great deal of work together behind the scenes to benefit the children. So far, this year, Y6 children, parents (who chose to go) and all staff have had Online Safety sessions. Also, three groups of children have visited other schools – KS1 did drama and writing, LKS2 did computing and UKS2 children will be learning more about keeping safe online. We also have a Y5 debate happening, too. Our motto is 'Stronger Together' and we truly are.



## Paper Caper

Paper is collected daily by the school. Volunteers take the paper to be skip that is parked in the Soldier Dick. It is then collected, and the school receives money depending on how much is collected. The last date for paper caper, this year, is 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Thanks to all the volunteers who always help out – your time and effort is hugely appreciated. If you can help to move paper from the school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November (usually in the afternoon) then please get in touch.



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 from September 3<sup>rd</sup> will be:

Breakfast Club:	7:45 onwards	£3:10
	8:00 onwards	£2:60
After-school club:	3:20 to 4:00	£3.10
	3:20 to 4:30	£4.10
	3:20 to 5:00	£5:10
	3:20 to 5:30	£6:75

## Breakfast and After School Clubs