Monday 4th September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. We hope you have enjoyed a good summer break and been able to relax and catch up with family and friends. It was so wonderful to see everyone, parents and children alike, arriving at school with a smile; all enthusiastic about starting their learning; and eager to share their news.

This morning we have welcomed two new pupils who joined Skiddaw Class; our Reception children have enjoyed a lovely first morning in Bowfell; and next week we look forward to welcoming our two nursery children who will be joining us for some mornings during the week. A special welcome to all our new families joining us this term.

**Classroom Drop-Ins**

We would like to invite you and your children into school on Monday 18th September at 3pm until 4pm to look around school and visit your child/children’s new classroom. You will have an opportunity to talk informally with staff. If you would like a private conversation with your child’s classteacher about a specific issue please make a separate appointment for another time. Parent-Teacher Interviews take place just before half-term (Tuesday 17th October) but we appreciate that if necessary you may want to talk to us privately before then.

**Christian Value: Respect**

This term’s Christian Value is RESPECT. This week the children and the staff will be joining together in our collective worship to introduce our new value and begin to develop our understanding of the importance of mutual respect and tolerance of everyone within our local and global community. We will be learning more as we progress throughout the term through our collective worship, our assemblies and the wider curriculum through the promotion of our British Values.

**Uniform**

The children look incredibly smart at the start of the school year and thank you for supporting our school uniform policy. Please can I remind parents that all uniform needs to be clearly named so that lost/misplaced items can be reunited with their owners quickly. PE kit should be in school everyday. Stud earrings are permitted but should be removed by the wearer for PE lessons; including swimming. Nail polish should not be worn in school and long hair should always be tied up.

Swimming: Our junior children swimming this term should wear a swimming cap. We have a small supply in the school office, if pupils do not already have one; priced £3.

**Communication with parents**

The website calendar is updated regularly with forthcoming events and regular clubs and activities taking place in school. It is a fantastic way to keep in touch. We also keep parents informed by displaying a calendar list inside the school playground noticeboard; through newsletters and via text messages. You can also print out the diary dates and events from the website. Our School Blog page enables you to see the learning and experiences your child is encountering, in and out of school, on a weekly basis.

**Dates for Your Diary**

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| 4.9.17 | New School Year Begins |
| 11.9.17 | Nursery Children Start |
| 12.9.17 | Kidsafe Follow-up Session for children in years 3/4/5 |
|  | Football Club Starts KS2 children 3.15-4.15pm |
| 13.9.17 | Swimming for Skiddaw and Scafell Class |
| 14.9.17 | Westmorland County Show |
| 18.9.17 | Class Drop-Ins 3-4pm |
| 22.9.17 | Good Work Assembly 2.30pm All welcome |
| 25.9.17 | Phonics and Reading Meeting for Reception Parents 5.30pm |
| 29.9.17 | Harvest Service at St. John’s Church 2pm |
| 3.10.17 | Tapestry Meeting for Nursery and Reception Parents 5.30pm |
| 4.10.17 | Dallam Hockey Challenge Year 5/6 pupils |
| 5.10.17 | Library Van visiting School |
| 6.10.17 | Tempest Individual Photographs and Family Groups |
| 9.10.17 | Scafell Cyclewise Training all week |
|  | Toddler Taster Session |
| 13.10.17 | Pupil Parliament at Netherwood Hotel |
|  | Come and Play Bowfell Class 2pm |
| 17.10.17 | Parent-Teacher Appointments from 3.15pm |
| 18.10.17 | Dallam Netball Challenge Year 5/6 pupils |
| 20.10.17 | School Closed for Staff Training |
| 23.10.17 | School Closed for half-term holidays |
| 30.10.17 | School re-opens after half-term break |

Further events will be added during the course of the term so please also check the interactive website calendar. When necessary, letters are sent with further information and permission reply slips. Please look in your child’s bag to ensure you are getting information when it is sent out to you and please respond as early as possible.

**Good Work Assemblies**

Good Work assemblies take place every Friday afternoon in school where the children are able to share their learning from the week and we celebrate our achievements. Parents are invited to join these at least once a half-term. The first GW Assembly for parents this year is at 2.30pm on 22nd September. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Attendance:**

Attendance for last year was higher than the previous year; almost reaching our school target of 98%. A record number of pupils received certificates and prizes for 100% attendance during the term and the entire year in our assembly on the final day. Thank you to everyone for supporting our attendance policy and avoiding unnecessary absence from school as much as possible. Punctuality is also extremely important as children who arrive at school on the last minute, or after the bell at 8.45am, often do not settle as well into their learning at the start of the school day. Children arriving later than 8.45am must report to the school office immediately so that the register is marked accordingly. If your child is going to be absent, please notify the office either via the telephone or email before 9am.

**Site Security**

Please may I remind everyone about our responsibilities to keep all our children safe when they are arriving at school and throughout the school day. Please can you keep our gates closed as you enter and leave the school grounds and only use the official entrances into school. Parents must be out of the school building when the morning bell rings at 8.45am so please give yourself time if you need a quick conversation with Mrs Coker or one of the classteachers before school. Discussions requiring more time or of a confidential nature need to be arranged in advance so that we can ensure we can provide the required attention. Please may I also remind parents to please refrain from opening the front door of school to visitors and other parents at all times.

**Free School Meals**

A new online application process for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants is now available to families in Cumbria. This incorporates a quick and simple eligibility checker and with changes to the criteria for receiving such grants, it may be worth taking a look to see whether you may be entitled. Alternatively, you may like to pop into the office to talk to Mrs Coker confidentially; she will happily share with you some of the criteria necessary to receive this support.

**Returning Reply slips and money**

Please can all parents use the class-box system to return all paperwork to the office. Each class has a box where all communication with the office is collected and then taken down to the office immediately after the register has been taken. This system saves Mrs Coker’s precious time and teaches the children to be responsible and develop their independence. We really would appreciate everyone’s cooperation with this system.

**County Show**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to accompany us on our trip to the show this year. We will look forward to you joining us and would ask that you arrive at school at 8.35am on Thursday morning to meet with myself about arrangements for the day. If you stated on the reply slip that you were interested in coming but did not make a commitment, please can you let us know your intentions as soon as possible.

I do hope that you always feel welcome in school as everyone strives to be approachable and keen to help and offer support. If you have any questions, concerns or would just like a conversation about any aspect of your child’s learning or welfare; please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child’s classteacher or myself.

With my very best wishes

Jane Farraday