

# December Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have a few more events in school before the Autumn Term draws to a close. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for all of the tremendous support you have given the school this term, from attending events, supporting your child with their reading/homework and donating to our charity events. We never take your support for granted. Mrs Broom

## Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and Carol Service (2:30pm)

We will be decking out the hall on Monday lunchtime for our annual Christmas Lunch. Lunch will be served by our wonderful 'Friends of Ambleside School', who will also be providing a special treat for each child in the school.

In the afternoon, at 2:30pm, we will all head over to St Mary's Church for our Carol Service. Along with singing some carols together, each class has prepared a song and some readings to perform for you. Everyone is invited so do come along if you are able to.

## Instrumental Tuition

Thank you to the parents who responded to my letter earlier in the term about instrumental tuition. We have been able to appoint a piano teacher through an independent provider and those of you who returned slips asking for piano lessons have all now had these set up.

We still have a number of families interested in guitar and flute lessons and we are still actively trying to recruit someone to teach these. Once we have been able to find a tutor, we will contact you directly about them.

The piano tutor's timetable is now full but, if you are interested in lessons for your child, please let the school office know and we can put your name on a waiting list for when spaces become available. The cost of a 30-minute lesson is £16.95 (with fees for the term paid in advance).

## School Lunches



I am pleased to confirm that Windermere School will continue to provide our school meals from January onwards. The quality of food that they have been preparing for us has been exceptional and I would encourage anyone thinking of trying school meals to give them a go. They are excellent value for money.

It has been a challenging half-term keeping the school kitchen operating, since the resignation of our school cook in October, and I must extend a huge thank you to the amazing team of volunteers behind the scenes who have made it possible to provide a hot meal every lunchtime this past 7 weeks. Many of our school governors have given up their time to help collect the school meals, serve them to the children and do all of the washing up every day. Mrs Shingler was instrumental in organising our kitchen volunteers and bringing in extra help from our local community. We cannot thank them all enough!

We have just appointed a new kitchen co-ordinator for January who will take over the running of our lunchtime service.



## PE Kits – January 2024

Just a reminder that, from the start of the spring term in January, we will no longer be asking the children to come to school in their PE kit on the two days that they have PE. There is no official PE kit for the school and children can continue to use the same clothing or footwear that they currently wear for a PE lesson. They just need to have anything that they want to change into in a bag which they can keep on their peg in school.

When the school moved to a red uniform, these details were put on the school website and remain the same:

*Our children are active and often outdoors and so our uniform reflects this. We are likely to get muddy or wet at times! Our School Council were instrumental in developing our uniform, insisting on criteria that the uniform was bright, easily washable and not too expensive. The red is available in major supermarkets.*

- *Black skirt, trousers or shorts*
- *A red polo shirt*
- *A red sweatshirt or cardigan*
- *White, grey or black socks*
- *Black trainers or dark coloured active/walking shoes*
- *Pumps for use indoors or as a change of shoes when needed*

*Children will also regularly need wellies and a warm coat. We have waterproofs in school for all children from Nursery to Year 6.*

*No jewellery is permitted except a watch and one pair of small stud earrings.*

*On PE days:*

- *more active shorts or tracksuit bottoms/leggings for when it's cold outside,*
- *their usual red school shirts and jumpers*
- *Older children may wish to bring a change of shirt for hygiene reasons.*



## OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning

We have some very exciting plans for changing our playtimes in mid-January in order to offer a wider range of activities and types of play for your children. We have started working with a company called OPAL who have been auditing our school grounds with us and helping us to look at using our amazing spaces in a more creative way. We are so fortunate with the number of outdoor spaces that we have and can't wait to get started.

You will have received a survey about playtimes during the last week which is linked to this project and, if you have any opinions or thoughts on your child's current experiences of playtimes, please do share them via the survey.

## Contacting the Headteacher or School Office

We are still receiving some messages via Class Dojo for either Mrs Broom or the school office. Class Dojo is a tool used primarily by the class teachers to communicate with you and is not checked by Mrs Broom or Mrs Firth. Please use the admin email address if you need to send a direct message to one of us.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

There's still time to donate to our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' before we take our donations over to the food bank on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Each day of advent has a food item attached to it.



## Reporting Pupil Illness

Just a reminder that any time your child is off school ill, please telephone the school office to let us know. Call at any time before 8:50am on the day. If no-one is able to take your call, please leave a message on the school answerphone.

*Class Dojo and email should not be used for reporting pupil absence.*

If a child is absent, and no-one has contacted us to tell us the reason for the absence, we have a duty of care to contact you to find out why your child is not in school. This is part of our safeguarding procedures for checking that children are safe and well.





Our Key Stage 2 children were inspired by a talk given by former professional footballer Lee Staton. He talked about following your dreams, perseverance and about how to find the strength to face challenges when things get tough.



Our Reverse Advent Calendar will be donated to the local food bank.

