

February Newsletter

After what seemed like a very long January, we are nearing the end of the first half-term. The weather has certainly provided us with some challenges but every day takes us one step closer to spring with lighter evenings and brighter skies! A big thank you to the parents who went out of their way to get their children to school during the recent snow and ice. I know that many of you travel in from outlying villages and travelling into Ambleside was very challenging. The paths around town were particularly icy and treacherous but, thankfully, we managed to get everyone in safely. Again, another big thank you to the two parents who helped me spread salt around our entrances—it was much appreciated! Whilst most of us had the worry of travelling around in the ice and snow, the children, at least, made the most of the weather and enjoyed getting out onto the school field to play in the snow. There's a lot happening inside school this term. Our current after-school clubs are proving to be very popular; we have a new piano teacher (Mrs Wilkinson) working with us on Mondays and our Key Stage 2 children are preparing for not one but two big performances: the Young Voices in Manchester and the Dance Platform in Kendal. We have also been putting the finishing touches to our new play curriculum for lunchtimes and will start on the first day back after half-term. Take a look on our school Facebook page for regular updates.

Mrs Broom, Headteacher



Dates for the Spring Term 2024

Tuesday 6th February - Young Voices, Manchester
Friday 9th February - Year 5/6 Art Workshop at The Lakes School
Monday 12th February – HALF-TERM WEEK
Tuesday 20th February – Year 5/6 parent meeting regarding London Residential Trip (5pm-5:30pm)
Tuesday 5th March – Year 1/2 Road Safety workshop
Thursday 7th March – World Book Day
Monday 11th March – Year 5 visit to the 'Easter Experience' at St Mary's Church, Windermere
Wednesday 13th March – Year 5/6 London residential
Thursday 14th March – all classes, Outdoor Learning Workshops with the University of Cumbria
Monday 18th March – Parent Consultations
Tuesday 19th March – Parent Consultations
Wednesday 20th March – Cross Country Event, Windermere School
Thursday 21st March – Year 5/6 Dance Platform at the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal
Thursday 28th March – Last day of spring term
Monday 15th April – School closed for pupils
Tuesday 16th April – start of summer term

Office administrator hours

Just a reminder that our school office administrator, Mrs Firth, does not work on a Wednesday and the school office is unmanned. If you need to get a message to us during the school day, please leave a message on the school answerphone which will be checked throughout the day.

Reporting a child absent

We are still receiving messages on Class Dojo about children who are absent. ALL pupil absence should be reported by telephone call to the school office by 9:00am. Please leave a message on the school answerphone if no-one is able to take your call. Your message will be listened to and recorded on the register. Parents who have not telephoned school to report their child's absence will initially receive a text message reminder to call school, then a telephone call from a member of staff and in some cases, where the school is unable to contact you, a home visit to carry out a welfare check.

Checking on messages regarding absent pupils is a key part of our daily safeguarding procedures.



ClassDojo



Our Rewards System

The staff team have recently reviewed the school's behaviour policy and, as part of that, we decided to update our whole school reward systems. We will continue to give out a certificate to a standout child every week but will now call this our 'Star of the Week'. Each 'Star of the Week' has their name and the reason for their nomination read out by their class teacher in our Friday Reward Assembly. They are awarded a certificate along with a 'Star of the Week' lanyard to wear in school for the week. Individual teachers can then give special privileges to their 'Star of the Week', such as being the line leader for the week or the register monitor. These differ according to the age range of the class as, understandably, children grow out of things and a privilege to someone in the Early Years class may seem unimportant to a more mature member of Key Stage 2.

Along with our 'Stars of the Week' we also announce who the Class Dojo Champion is for the week. You will have noticed that teachers have added new Dojos onto the platform. In doing this we hope that it will be more obvious to children and their parents what the Dojo points have been awarded for. The weekly Dojo champions get to choose an item from our Dojo prize box or choose a voucher. We currently have vouchers which entitle the champion to come to school in non-uniform for one day and vouchers to skip the lunch queue for one day. We are hoping that the School Council will be able to suggest some extra vouchers that we can add to the prize box!

Equipment Wanted!

We have been putting together resources for our new playtime curriculum which will run at lunchtimes after half-term.

We are currently looking for donations of the following items:

- toy cars or trucks
- dolls or action figures
- any metal kitchen pots and pans

Please do not buy any of these. We are only looking for donations of unwanted items if you have any of these at home taking up space!
Thank you



Our School Values

We have 6 core Christian values which form the basis of our school life. These are:
hope, trust, fellowship, friendship, thankfulness and forgiveness.

This half-term we have been focusing on the value of '**Forgiveness**' and we will be moving onto '**Trust**' after the half-term holiday.





Early Years during their weekly Forest Friday.

Enjoying the January snow!



Our year 5 and 6 children have been working with The Lakes School on a 3D art project modelling clay.

