Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for the Spring Term. We hope you have had a really enjoyable Christmas and New Year. As usual we have a busy and exciting curriculum planned for the children, including involvement for parents. We do hope you will be able to join us for special assemblies and some of the extra activities we have prepared.

**Coffee Club**

The coffee club for senior citizens, which used to be held in St Perran’s Church, is restarting on Thursday 14th January 2016. The coffee club runs from 9.30 to 10.30am. A list of dates for these is at the end of this letter – so if any grandparents or other friends would like to come and join us please give them a list of the dates.

Mrs Wright and Mrs Shaw facilitate the running of this. Groups of year 5 children will make cakes or biscuits for the coffee morning and then help to serve and entertain the visitors.

**Snow Closure**

Although the weather is rain at the moment, snow could fall in the next couple of months – the details about what to do if there is heavy snow are below.

We will always make every effort to keep school open, but if the weather becomes more severe this term there could be a possibility that the school would have to be closed. This would primarily be for the health and safety of the children, and also because we have to have the correct staffing levels for the number of children in school.

Any decision regarding the closure of the school because of snow or freezing temperatures overnight will be made by 7.00am. BBC Radio Cumbria and Bay Radio Stations will be informed. Please listen to the local radio stations accessible on:

Bay Radio - 96.9fm/102.3fm/ 103.2fm.

Radio Cumbria - 95.6fm/96.1fm and 104.1fm.

The radio stations announce which schools are closed because of bad weather at quarter to and quarter past the hour. The radio Cumbria web-site is also very efficient and can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/cumbria](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cumbria) which has a link from the front page straight to the list of schools that are closed.

In the event of the school being closed Mrs Wright, Mr. Kendall and Mrs Carter will walk to school just in case any children arrive. They will then make arrangements for these children to be collected as soon as possible.

The closure plan will remain in place for as long as snow or sub zero temperatures are forecast.

**Shakespeare in year 5**

The children in year 5 are beginning to rehearse a production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare. Although some of the language is quite tricky they are all trying hard, learning the words before the actions are added!

Two years ago the current year 6 were fortunate enough to participate in a very special project with Blackwell’s Arts and Crafts House and The Wordsworth Trust to produce and perform “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at Blackwell’s. This was really successful; all the parents of the class were transported by school to Windermere to watch the children perform. As this was such a success we have been asked to take part in their second project, again this is just for one Cumbrian primary school – we are so proud!

In March professional actors and others will work with our year 5 children to produce a version of “Macbeth”. This, again, will be provided free of charge. On March 10th the children will travel to Dove Cottage in Windermere and then onto Blackwell’s Arts and Crafts House which is near Windermere for an introduction. Professionals will then come into school to work with the children and to develop the play. The performance will take place at Blackwell’s on Thursday 17th March.

Transport will be laid on so that all parents can go to watch their children.

**Karate**

Seven children in year 6 have elected to carry on with karate to try to gain the higher belts. Lessons for them will take place at 2.00pm on Monday afternoons.

On Wednesday afternoons year 5 will continue their karate lessons and year 4 will start their sessions. The Karate teacher is called Natalie Shields; she is a fantastic teacher, who develops self discipline and control. Parents will be invited in to watch “gradings”. Some children have their own karate suits which can be ordered from Natalie. Please make sure that all children have their PE kits in school on that day.

**Yo-Kids**

The children in years 1 and 2 will start a ten week course doing “Yoga for Kids” on Tuesday 12th January. Please make sure that all children have their PE kits in school on that day.

**Mindset Training 20th January 2016**

A specialist trainer is coming into school to do some work with children and staff about having a “positive mindset” about learning. This will involve brain training games, including brain maths and brain plasticity. At the end of the day the trainer will hold an assembly for parents where you can find out what training games your child has been doing and how you can help them at home. This assembly will take place at 2.30pm in the hall.

The purpose of this training is to enhance the children’s learning capabilities and boost self confidence for all. Please try to support your children with this approach.

**Quantum Theatre 22nd January 2016**

This is a special opportunity for the children to learn mathematics in a very different way. There will be two separate sessions – one for years R – 2 in the morning and one for the older children in the afternoon.

Mathematics will be taught through age appropriate drama. The title of both shows is “The Miscalculation of Capt'n Half-Inch”. The morning performance begins at 10.30am and the afternoon performance at 1.30pm. Parents, carers and grandparents are welcome to come and watch the theatre company with their children if they would like to.

**Hats on for the Hospice 29th January 2016**

Children are invited to come to school wearing a hat and bringing in a £1.00 donation to be given to St Mary’s Hospice in Ulverston. This fund raising event is being carried out by most schools and colleges in Barrow and South Lakes to raise money for our local hospice. We hope you will agree with us supporting this.

**After school activities – Spring Term 2016**

Activities all start next week.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| *Lunchtime clubs* | | | | |
|  | Choir | Girls Football  Years 5 and 6 | School Council |  |
| *After school until 4.00pm* | | | | |
| Forest schools  Years 1 and 2  Hockey  Years 3 and 4  Football  Years 4 to 6  Badminton | Staff meeting | Gymnastic team  Years 5 and 6  Code Club  Years 3 to 6 | Netball  Years 3 to 6  Gymnastic team  Years 1 to 4  *(Table tennis will start later in the term for years 3 to 6)* |  |

**Class Assemblies 2016**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Which class or classes** | |
|  | | |
| 22nd January | Year 3 | |
| 29th January | Year 2 | |
| 5th February |  | |
| 12th February | Year 4 | |
| *Half term* | | |
| 26th February | | Reception and year 5 |
| Thursday 3rd March | | Year 1 |
| 4th March | | Mother’s Day – all children |
| 11th March | | Year 6 |
| 18th March | |  |
| Thursday 24th March – 9.30am | | Easter – all children |

**Advanced warning of Diary Dates**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **For which year group** | **Times** |
| 11.01.2016 | Shakespeare workshops | 5 | Morning |
|  | Karate starts | 7 x y6 | 2.00pm |
| 12.01.2106 | Yo-Kids starts (10 week course) | 1 and 2 | Afternoon |
| 13.01.2016 | Robotics workshop | 3 | All day |
|  | Karate starts | 4 and 5 | Afternoon |
| 20.01.2016 | Mindset Training | All | All day |
|  | Parent’s Assembly – Hall | All | 2.30pm |
| 22.01.2016 | Quantum mathematical theatre | All | am and pm |
| 29.01.2016 | Hats on for the Hospice Day | All | All day |
| 12.02.2016 | Break up for half term | All | 3.15pm |
| ***February half term holiday*** | | | |
| 22.02.2016 | Second half term starts | All | 8.45am |
| 23.02.2016 | Barrow AFC football coaching | Option | 3.00 – 4.00pm |
| 02.03.2016 | Book Week Storytelling Day | All | All day |
| 03.03.2016 | World Book Day – dressing up | All | All day |
| 04.03.2016 | Mother’s Day Assembly | All | 2.30pm |
| 10.03.2016 | Puberty Talks | 6 | Morning |
| 15.03.2016 | Forensic science day | 2 – 6 | All day |
| 16.03.2016 | Parent consultations | All | 9.00 – 4.50pm |
| 22.03.2016 | Parent consultations | All | 3.00-4.50pm |
| 24.03.2016 | Break up for Easter holiday | All | 2.00pm |
| ***Easter Holiday*** | | | |
| 11.04.2016 | Start of Summer Term | All | 8.45am |
| 13.04.2016 | K’Nex workshops | 3 and 4 | All day |
| 14.04.2016 | “Sword in the Stone” literacy, musical theatre | All | Afternoon |
| 04.05.2016 | “Forces” special science day | All | All day |
| 09.05.2016 | Key Stage 2 SATs Tests | 6 | 4 days |
| 12.05.2016 | Bee Bots workshops | 1 and 2 | All day |
| 19.05.2016 | Skipping Day | All | All day |
| 27.05.2016 | Break up for half term | All | 3.15pm |
| ***Spring half term holiday*** | | | |
| 06.06.2016 | Second half term starts | All | 8.45am |
|  | School photographs | All | 8.45am |
| 07.06.2016 | Fell walking | 2 | All day |
| 09.06.2016 | Fell walking | 2 | All day |
| 14.06.2016 | Barrow AFC cricket coaching | 3 – 6 | 3.00 – 4.00pm |
| 27-29.06.2016 | London Residential | 6 | 3 days |
| 04/05.07.2016 | Secondary Transition Days | 6 | Both days |
| 13-15.07.2016 | Barhaugh Hall residential | 4 | 3 days |
| 21.07.2016 | Break up for the Summer Holiday | All | 2.00pm |
| ***Summer Holiday*** | | | |

Yours sincerely

Wendy R Jacobs

Headteacher

**Coffee Club dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** |
|  | |
| Thursday 14th January | 9.30 |
| Thursday 21st January | 9.30 |
| Thursday 4th February | 9.30 |
| Thursday 11th February | 9.30 |
| Half term | |
| Thursday 3rd March | 9.30 |
| Thursday 17th March | 9.30 |
| Thursday 21st March – Easter Service | 9.30 |
| Easter Holiday | |
| Thursday 21st April | 9.30 |
| Thursday 5th May | 9.30 |
| Thursday 19th May | 9.30 |
| Half Term | |
| Thursday 16th June | 9.30 |
| Thursday 30th June | 9.30 |
| Thursday 7th July | 9.30 |
| Thursday 21st July – Leavers’ Service | 9.15am |