

## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – March 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our March newsletter. We've had a wonderful first week back after the half term holiday. World Book Day was a great success with children making a tremendous effort and coming to school dressed as their favourite character. Classes carried out activities linked to literature throughout the day and had a fantastic fun filled day. At the end of last half term children in Year 4 learned about France and French customs through their work on Play in a Day, followed by performing a short play for their parents and friends. The Life Education Bus was brilliant as always and provided learning opportunities for all our children from Nursery to Year 6. The VSA Film night was a marvellous success and raised approximately £150 for school, as was the non-uniform day – thank you to everyone for sending in donations for our Easter Fayre Raffle. We are now looking forward to Bingo on Friday night and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come and support this annual event. There are lots more enhanced curricular and fund raising events booked for the rest of this half term – all dates below.

### **WRITING COMPETITION**

We had some fantastic entries to our writing competition last half term called 'The Life of a Bird'. Well done and thank you to all the children that took part for their hard work and tremendous writing. Congratulations go to the winners and runners up, who had obviously put an enormous amount of effort into the competition and produced some fascinating pieces of writing. The winners were Ethan Cooper (Juniors) and Emily Nancollis (Infants) and the runners up were Abigail Hill (Juniors) and Isabella Leslie (Infants).

We are running another competition this half term which is called 'A Cumbrian Tale'. It is a short story competition and the setting should be based on the area we live in – this could be St. Bees itself, the sea and cliffs, mountains and lakes etc. What the story is about is entirely up to those entering and it could be any type of fiction e.g. comedy, mystery, quest or science fiction. The competition deadline is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and the winners will be announced on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April after the Easter holidays. Happy writing everyone!

### **HANDWRITING**

As part of our focus on writing this year we are also holding half termly handwriting competitions which are completed in school. Each half term the class teachers choose a child to be their 'Handwriting Champion'. Examples of the winning children's handwriting will be displayed in the hall for everyone to see and aspire to. This half term's Handwriting Champions are:

Year 6: Tilly Stamper

Year 5: Rowan Walker

Year 4: Lily Nancollis

Year 3: Rhiannon Money

Year 2: James Whaley

Year 1: Daisy Smith

Reception: Coby Todd

Congratulations to you all! Keep up the good work! We will be judging and choosing our next 'Handwriting Champions' during the last week of this term.

### **CURRICULUM NEWS**

#### **BLP**

We are continuing to work on our Building Learning Programme and this term's focus is Perseverance and 'Stuck Strategies'. We are talking to children about how to keep on trying not give up as well as identifying things they can do to help themselves if they 'get stuck' doing a task. Many of the strategies we discuss are

applicable to all walks of life, not just school work so we hope that all our children improve at 'getting stuck in' instead of 'getting stuck'!

### **SCIENCE WEEK**

The week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> March is Science week and we're holding Science activities, workshops and practical events all through the week. Mrs. O'Reilly, our Science Subject leader is organising the week and we'd like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to come into school to lead the activities with each of our classes. It's promising to be a very exciting week that with activities that will fascinate and enthuse our youngsters in Science for years to come.

### **READ, WRITE, INC.**

We have started using our new Phonics programme this half term and are thrilled with the children's early efforts. RWI is proving to be a very user friendly resource which reinforces previous learning relentlessly to ensure that no child 'slips through the net'. If you are interested in finding out more about the RWI programme, there are many parent resources on their website link, including videos on how to help at home and how to pronounce all the pure phonics sounds when supporting your child to read.

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

### **INSPIRE MATHS**

The maths curriculum has had the most changes since the new primary curriculum was introduced in 2014. As such, we have been carefully reviewing a range of new resources for some time to support our mathematics work in school and ensure we are teaching the mastery curriculum to an outstanding level. Following this review, we have recently purchased the *Inspire Maths* Programme from Oxford University Press. *Inspire Maths* is a whole-school primary maths programme based on the leading Singapore Maths series *My Pals are Here!*, and is currently used in almost 100% of Singapore's state primary schools. *Inspire Maths*:

- includes accessible Pupil Textbooks which introduce concepts in a highly scaffolded way, enabling all children to develop critical thinking skills, make mathematical connections and become confident mathematicians.
- is built on a Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract (CPA) approach, ensuring secure foundations and a deep understanding of mathematical concepts.
- uses a spiral progression to develop fluency and reasoning, and builds strong conceptual understanding and problem solving skills for mastery.

This is a big investment financially for school and we are determined to ensure that school staff have the best essential training to deliver these resources effectively. As with all things, there is a large cost implication for the training to go with this scheme however, we have been extremely fortunate that a sponsor, Dixons Department Store, has come forward to donate £5000 for all our staff members' continued professional development. We are therefore looking to begin our training towards the end of this academic year to enable us to fully implement the scheme in September 2017. To find out more about the Singapore method of teaching and/or the Inspire Maths Programme you can access research findings and further information using this link: <https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/series/inspire-maths/?region=uk> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/0/24925787>

### **RED NOSE DAY**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, we will be supporting Comic Relief. Red Noses will once again be on sale from the office at £1.00 each. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the St Bees Triers are organising another inspiring fund-raising event and the kick start takes place in St Bees from noon on the 24<sup>th</sup> to noon on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016. School will be supporting 'The Longest Journey Home' by walking the same walk we did last year and counting up the miles to add to the total. In a special assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> March, Nancy Lawton an ex-governor will be coming to talk to the children about who the funds are for and how we can get involved. The idea is to cycle, run or walk and be sponsored for every mile you do. They have an app for you to add your miles to when you have completed an activity and this will keep a running total of everyone involved. The money raised through this event will be split between Comic Relief and Calderwood House in Egremont.

St. Bees Triers will be making direct contact with many of the groups in the community, asking them to galvanise their members to participate in this village challenge. If you want to know more please contact them via email: [charity@triers.uk](mailto:charity@triers.uk) or search Facebook for St Bees Triers Charity Challenges, where you can sign up for the event!

School will also be supporting this event by providing children with Cards to record any miles they do both before and after the event to ensure we help St. Bees Triers complete this challenge. The cards will run in a very similar way to the 100 mile challenge children took part in last year. This was where children recorded how many miles they cover through swimming, walking, running or cycling and each 25 mile achieved will be awarded a certificate in school.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March - BINGO in School Hall, 6.30pm
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Year 3 Parent Assembly
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March - VSA meeting @ The Albert 7.30pm
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Year 2 Parent Assembly
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Y5 at Tullie House – “Meet the Vikings”
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Year 1 Parent Assembly
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Comic Relief Day
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Year R Parent Assembly
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Library Bus visit to school
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March - VSA Easter Fayre
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Year 4 Residential
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April - END OF TERM - School closes at 1.30 pm
  
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April - School re-opens for the Summer Term

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Sharp,  
Headteacher.