Thursday 13 October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

It now feels that autumn has well and truly arrived at Curbar. Class 2 are about to visit Eastern Moors for their annual ‘stag watch’ and scarecrows are being assembled in class 1. As usual, it has been a busy and exciting time at Curbar and half term is soon upon us. I hope you all manage a well-deserved rest (if that’s possible!) and we look forward to seeing you after the break. School reopens on Monday 31 October.

**Welcome**

Mrs Sam Wardle is joining the school until Christmas as a PGCE student from Sheffield Hallam University. She will be based in class 1.

**Attendance**

The attendance for the school year so far is 97.44%, which was just above our target of 97%. Well done everyone! Any children who have managed 100% attendance and punctuality this half term will receive a certificate in our end of half term assembly. As ever, please ensure your child is at school regularly and punctually. The gate to the playground will be opened just before 8:50am so please aim to have your child at school by 8.50 – 8.55am. **If** your child arrives late to school, please remember to sign them in at the school office. The gate onto the yard will be closed at 9.00am to secure the school site. Please note that the playground is not supervised by school staff before 8:50am and we cannot guarantee the safety of the children. *Please refer to the school’s ‘Attendance and Punctuality’ policy on the school’s website for further information.*

**Early Bird Winners**

Well done to Aaliyah (second time winner!) in class 2 and Alice (first time winner!) in class 3 who have won this half term’s Early Bird prizes for arriving at school on time.

**Curbar Commotion**

*216 runners + 16 degrees (in the sun) + 9.8 mile course + 48 course marshals + numerous other volunteers + countless drinks and pieces of cake = an amazing Curbar Commotion and £1485 raised for the school.*

Thanks to the PTFA, especially Luci and Lewis, for organising the wonderful Curbar Commotion. Thanks to all the runners who took part and thanks to the army of cake bakers, tea makers and marshals who all volunteered their time and energy to make this event the success it is. Thank you.

**Parents Evening**

Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 October mark our first parents evening of the year. If you haven’t done so already, please sign up on the appointment sheets which you will find on your child’s classroom door. There will be an opportunity to talk to the class teacher and view your child’s books. Some of the governors will also be offering tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat for any interested participants. We will also be looking to sell some more PTFA calendars (on offer to parents at £9!) We look forward to seeing you.

**Travel Smart Week – 17 – 21 October 2016**

Travel Smart is where we encourage pupils to make the most of their school journey as a way to help them keep fit, beat traffic jams and pollution, as well making sure they remember to travel safely too. As part of Travel Smart Week 17 to 21 October 2016 pupils will be ‘Going Wild’ for active and environmentally friendly travel in our safari themed campaign. Pupils are encouraged to be ‘Striders’ and walk to school for all or part of the journey, or to join the ‘Rollers’ travelling by bicycle or scooter. Those who can't stride or roll to school can be ‘Riders’ and travel to school by car share or taking the bus. You should have received a leaflet with further information or you can find out more about our Travel Smart Go Wild campaign at <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/road_safety/children_schools/travel_smart/resources/travel_smart_week/default.asp>

**Cluster Sports Events**

We have already taken part in Y5/6 football, Y1/2 football and whole school cross country events within the Lady Manners cluster. I know the children (and staff!) have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in these events and we have enjoyed much success. Morgan, Farrah and Iskander in class 3, all finished highly and have been invited to complete in the next cross country event in November. Holly in class 1 finished second out of almost one hundred runners in her event. However, the highlight is the award of the ‘determination trophy’ to our school for the cross country event. All of our children were resilient runners who were determined to complete the course and support each other. There is a rumour that some staff were brought to tears by the attitude of many of our children. Well done!

**Important Stuff**

At the start of the year, many key school documents are updated, added to and approved by the school leadership including the governing body. The most relevant documents are listed below.

*Safeguarding* – a new child protection policy is available in school. Included in this is references to key personnel in school with regard to safeguarding including: Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Simon Beahan and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Miss Claudie Pattison.

We have also updated our ‘First Aid’ and ‘Administration of Medicines’ policies.

*Teaching and Learning* – new teaching and learning, behaviour for learning and homework policies have been produced.

I will also be sending out a letter next week informing you of the school improvement priorities for the year.

**Safeguarding Links**

At a recent meeting I have been made aware of some useful links that contain up to date and useful information that support the safety and wellbeing of our children. I hope you find them useful.

CEOP Command – Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre <https://www.ceop.police.uk/>

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> This includes details about Childline and advice about how to stay safe online.

Net-aware - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> A guide to social networking and how to keep children safe.

**Book fair**

Thanks to all those who have attended and supported the book fair. The school is able to use 60% of the money raised to order new books for our school!

**Governors**

School governors volunteer their time, skills and expertise as part of the school leadership team to support school improvement priorities. They will soon be sending out their first ‘Governor Newsletter’ to inform parents who they are, what they’ve been up to and what they plan to get up to!

**Reminder**

You recently received a letter informing you about a meeting about parenting in the 21st century led by Debbie Hadley from the Matlock Multi Agency Team. We know you work hard to provide your children with the best and we also know how difficult it can be, especially surrounding the area of technology and social media. Do you often find yourself asking - *Should my child have a phone? What is a safe amount of screen time and who decides? Who are they contacting on their/my tablet? Should I turn the Wi-Fi off? How do I set a filter on my Wi-Fi? What time is a reasonable time for ‘no screens’ and bedtime? What are other parents doing about these things?*

The meeting will take place at **Bakewell Methodist Junior School on 17th October 4-6pm**.

**Creswell Crags**

Class 2 recently stepped back in time and visited Creswell Crags to support their learning about prehistoric Britain. They had a guided tour of the caves, embarked on an archaeological dig and had a tour of the area. Next week they are attending a prehistoric event at Chatsworth! I expect them all to be experts on their return to school!

**PTFA events**

The PTFA AGM is to take place during the next half term. You will be informed of the date and venue when this is confirmed. Please keep an eye out for information about the upcoming Christmas Wreath making event too. The PTFA do an incredible job of supporting the school in many ways but with the main purpose of raising money for our school. They have recently supported funding for the MUGA and school visits. Our main focus is now the raising of funds to improve provision for computing in school. Please contact the PTFA if you think you can offer any help – it will be much appreciated.

**Assembly at All Saints**

Reverend James Croft will be leading a short harvest themed assembly for the children on Tuesday 18 October at All Saints at 1:05pm. All welcome.

**Rewards for behaviour for learning at Curbar – a reminder**

Children receive many rewards at Curbar. One of the more high profile is the ‘Golden Tickets’ given out by any member of staff in the classroom or on the playground for children who demonstrate excellent behaviour. Once children receive 20 golden tickets they will receive their bronze lapel badge. They can then go on to achieve silver (40 golden tickets) and gold (60 tickets). This is part of our new behaviour policy. This includes the ‘Curbar Code’ which was written in consultation with the children and Pupil Parliament:

**Curbar Code:**

Be ready for learning and always try our best

Care for ourselves and each other

Care for our school

There will be an assembly at the end of each half term to present the accompanying certificates.

**Flu Immunisation**

If your child is in years 1, 2 or 3 you should have received information about flu immunisations that are being administered in school on Friday 4 November 2016. Please ensure you read the information carefully and return the consent form if you would like your child to receive the immunisation.

**Healthy Snacks**

We want our children to live active and healthy lifestyles whenever we can. Children in class 1 will all receive a healthy snack in the morning and don’t need to bring one from home. However, for all those other children who would like a snack from home, we ask that it is a healthy option (i.e. not crisps or chocolate!)

**Class newsletters**

After half term, you will be receiving your class newsletter that indicates what is being learnt in class over the course of the next half term. It will also indicate key days for when your child should be receiving and returning homework.

**Website**

The school website is a useful resource for information and key dates. It is updated regularly and can be found at [www.curbarprimary.co.uk](http://www.curbarprimary.co.uk) Please remember you can also find us on Twitter (@curbarschool - if you wish to follow) and Facebook.

**Enquiries@**

Please ensure all general email communications to school go to the [enquiries@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk) address. This means the school office will have an overview of all messages sent to school.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan, Headteacher

**Key dates for the next half term**

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| Monday 31 October 2016 | Start of Autumn Term 2 – School Open to pupils  ENTERPRISE WEEK |
| Thursday 3 November 2016 | Cluster Dodgeball Event for Y1/2/3 at Longstone School pm |
| Friday 4 November 2016 | Flu Immunisations for children in year 1, 2 and 3  Enterprise Week Farmers Market – 3.10pm  Class newsletter to go home |
| Monday 7 November 2016 | Resource Management Governor Meeting – 5.30pm |
| Monday 14 November 2016 | ANTI-BULLYING WEEK – ‘Power for Good’ |
| Tuesday 15 November 2016 | Assembly at All Saints Church led by Revd. James Croft – All Welcome – Time TBC |
| Wednesday 16 November 2016 | Y6 Cluster Parliament Event at Bakewell Junior |
| Thursday 17 November 2016 | Individual photographs 1.15pm onwards – families/siblings to attend after school |
| Friday 18 November 2016 | Children in Need fundraising day (‘The Spotacular!’) |
| Monday 21 November 2016 | ROAD SAFETY WEEK |
| Tuesday 22 November 2016 | Standards and Curriculum Governor Meeting – 5.30pm |
| Tuesday 29 November 2016 | Class 3 ‘Sing 2gether’ event – venue and time TBC |
| Thursday 8 December 2016 | ‘Aladdin’ - Whole School Pantomime Visit to Chesterfield |
| Thursday 15 December 2016 | EYFS/KS1 Nativity at All Saints Church – 2pm and 6pm |
| Friday 16 December 2016 | Citizenship of the Term Assembly  Christmas Dinner in school for children and staff  Save the Children fundraising day - Christmas Jumper Day! |
| Tuesday 20 December 2016 | Party Day!  End of Autumn Term - School closes for Christmas holiday |
| TBC | PTFA AGM – Date, Venue and time TBC  Christmas Wreath Making – Date and Time TBC |

This calendar is subject to changes.