Tuesday 31 October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school and I hope you had a good half term break.

**Excitement explained!**

Just before half term, we were visited by two fire engines and their crews! But after a brief evacuation of the main building to the Beehive due to a faulty light in class 3 - all was safe and well. Lunch was soon served and everything was back to normal!

**Dairy Dates**

It is the (whisper it!) Christmas half term and there are lots of exciting things happening over the next 7 weeks or so. Please find updated diary dates for up until Christmas at the end of the newsletter. Please note they are subject to change.

**Class newsletters**

You will soon 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.

**School Clubs**

Mrs Sargen will be starting a cookery club and Miss Pattison will be continuing with archery on Wednesday 8, 15 and 22 November 2017 from 3.30 – 4.15pm. Sheets will be put up soon for the children to sign up and a subsequent letter will be sent home for permission slips to be returned. Mrs Walton will also be holding a lunchtime running club on Tuesday 7, 14 and 21 November – more details to follow.

**Curbar Muck In**

Following the success of last year’s ‘Muck In’, we have provisionally arranged a date for a pre winter Muck In/Out. Keep your diary free on Saturday 11 November. More details to follow.

**Remembrance Day**

The children will have an opportunity to donate to the British Legion and buy a poppy over the next couple of weeks.

**PTFA events in November and December**

The PTFA AGM is taking place on Friday 17 November at 7:30pm at the Derwentwater Arms. All are welcome to join the meeting and get some food. The Christmas Wreath making event is taking place on Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm at the Eating House. The Christmas Disco is set to take place on Friday 15 December at the Village Hall.

**NSPCC – ‘Speak Out, Stay Safe’**

The NSPCC’s ‘*Speak out. Stay safe’* programme is visiting our school on Friday 10 November to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they’ll be presenting an assembly to the children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6. For further information, please visit the NSPCC website at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/working-with-schools/speak-out-stay-safe-service/> A letter with further information will be sent prior to their visit.

**Anti-Bullying Week – 13 - 18 November**

Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme this year is **‘All different; All equal’** with the following key aims:

- empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique;

- help children and young people understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, able to be themselves, without fear of bullying;

- encourage parents and carers to work with their school and talk to their children about bullying, difference and equality;

- enable teachers and other children’s workforce professionals to celebrate what makes us ‘all different, all equal’ and celebrate difference and equality. Encouraging them to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying, creating safe environments where children can be themselves.

Amongst other things, we will also be asking both parents and children to complete a friendship survey. Please find more information at: <http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

**Children in Need**

We will be celebrating Children in Need day on Friday 17th November. The Pupil Parliament will soon be deciding what exciting events will be taking place to raise money for this worthy cause. Please visit the website for more information: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/corporate2/childreninneed>

**Doodlebug Day**

We have invited Ian Brealey ([www.thedoodlebug.net](http://www.thedoodlebug.net)) to carry out some exciting art/maths workshops with each class focusing on skills based learning and a growth mind-set. This really supports the work the school is doing around behaviour for learning amongst our pupils. I know the children will really enjoy these sessions!

**Individual Photographs**

Individual photographs are taking place in school on the afternoon of Wednesday 15 November. Please bring younger siblings to school at the end of the day if you would like to have their photo taken with your child.

**School Uniform**

Parents can now order uniform directly from the School Trends website at [www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk) Additional details will be sent home to explain how this works or contact school if you have any questions. We do have some items in stock so contact Mrs Rumney in the first instance. We will notify you when all the stock has gone and school uniform will then only be available to purchase online.

**School Improvement Priorities Reminder**

You recently received a letter informing you of the school improvement priorities for the year. Both the school improvement priorities (areas for development) and self-evaluation judgements are made by school leadership (including the headteacher, governors and the Derbyshire County Council school improvement partner) against OFSTED benchmarks. We look at a range of evidence from across the school and identify areas for development that we believe will support children in their learning during the coming year. The areas for development are:

* Ensuring the children recognise and can become ‘good learners’. We will hear them say such things as: ‘I will do better next time by…’, ‘I will keep trying’, ‘There is always room for improvement’, ‘I will learn from my classmates’.
* To raise achievement in maths by increasing the focus on reasoning skills i.e. using mathematical understanding to problem solve.
* To raise achievement in writing, especially for those with higher ability.

**Lunchtime Support**

Last year the PTFA and school requested volunteers to help with lunchtime supervision so school staff can take children to use the MUGA more regularly. We are now looking for volunteers who can help on any day during the week but especially on a Monday, Thursday and Friday. Please sign up on the PTFA noticeboard in school if you are able to help.

**Head lice**

It seems there are cases of head lice again in school. It is a common problem wherever there are lots of children in one place and Curbar Primary School is no exception. There is a lot of advice regarding head lice and it is important that you follow the instructions of any products that you may use or from the pharmacist. However, I reiterate the advice given by the school nurse recently:

* If you find head lice or ‘nits’ it needs to be treated quickly and effectively. Contact your pharmacy if you want further advice to this letter or for recommended products.
* Treat the WHOLE family even if there is only one person with a case of head lice.
* Treat the WHOLE family again a week later.
* You don’t need to keep your child off school.
* Check TWICE WEEKLY even if clear of head lice (the sooner they are found the better!)
* It is recommended and easier to check with wet hair, using conditioner and a ‘nit’ comb.
* Tie up and plait long hair whilst at school.
* Please let us know if your child has head lice so we can inform other parents that there are head lice in school.

The following link on the NHS website provides further information:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan, Headteacher

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| Autumn Half Term 2 (37 days) | |
| Monday 30 October 2017 | Start of Autumn Term 2 – School Open to pupils |
| Thursday 2 November 2017 | Cluster Dodgeball Competition and Fun Festival for Y2/3/4 at Bakewell Junior School |
| Friday 3 November 2017 | Class newsletters to go home |
| Thursday 9 November 2017 | Shine Assembly – 9:10am  Cluster Sports Hall Athletics for Y5/6 at Matlock Arc |
| Friday 10 November 2017 | NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe whole school assembly and class 3 workshop |
| Saturday 11 November 2017 | Curbar Muck In Day – details to follow |
| Monday 13 November 2017 | ANTI-BULLYING WEEK – ‘All different; All equal’  UK Parliament Week  Standards and Curriculum Governor Meeting – 6pm |
| Tuesday 14 November 2017 | Flu immunisations in school: Reception – Year 4 |
| Wednesday 15 November 2017 | Individual photographs from 1.15pm onwards – families/siblings to attend after school |
| Thursday 16 November 2017 | Cluster Tag Rugby Competition and Fun Festival for Y5/6 at Longstone School |
| Friday 17 November 2017 | Children in Need fundraising (‘The Spotacular!’) inc. after school cake sale  ‘Doodlebug Day’- Maths/Art/Growth Mindset workshops in school.  PTFA AGM – 7.30pm at the Derwentwater Arms. |
| Monday 20 November 2017 | ROAD SAFETY WEEK  Class 3 at village Hall for bowls/PSCO stranger danger session – pm |
| Wednesday 22 November 2017 | Class 3 to attend performance of ‘Oliver’ at LMS – 1:45 – 3:00pm |
| Friday 24 November 2017 | Fire Safety talk from Derbyshire Fire Service to classes 1 and 3. |
| Monday 27 November 2017 | Class 1 and 2 at village Hall for bowls/PSCO stranger danger session – pm |
| Thursday 30 November 2017 | Online Safety talk at LMS for parents of children in class 3 – 6:00 – 7:00pm. |
| Friday 1 December 2017 | Children to watch Babbling Vagabonds performance of ‘Prince Stroppy Pants and the Christmas Caper’ at Cliff College - time TBC |
| Thursday 7 December 2017 | ‘Peter Pan’ – Whole School Pantomime Visit to Chesterfield |
| Monday 11 December 2017 | Full Governing Body Meeting – 7pm |
| Thursday 14 December 2017 | Christmas Nativity at All Saints Church – 2pm and 6pm |
| Friday 15 December 2017 | Citizenship of the Term Assembly – 9:10am  Christmas Dinner in school for children and staff  Save the Children fundraising day - Christmas Jumper Day!  Class 3 to attend LMS Christmas Concert – 1.30 – 2.30pm |
| Tuesday 19 December 2017 | Party Day!  End of Autumn Term - School closes for Christmas holiday |
| Christmas Holidays – Wednesday 20 December 2017 – Tuesday 2 January 2018 | |
| Tuesday 2 January 2018 | Whole School Training Day – School Closed to pupils |
| Wednesday 3 January 2018 | Start of Spring Term – School Open to pupils at 8:50am |