Tuesday 9 January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

A happy new year to you all and, although it seems like an early return to school this year, Christmas now seems but a hazy and distant memory. I hope you all had a good break and managed some rest!

**Parental Questionnaire**

A parental questionnaire was sent home before Christmas. I appreciate that this was a busy time of year and attach a spare questionnaire for you to complete. We would appreciate you taking the time to fill this in as we always value your thoughts and the school is always looking at ways of improving. If you complete the form and feel strongly about a particular aspect of the questionnaire, please feel free to arrange an appointment to discuss this further. Parents and carers can give their views of our school at any time of the school year using an online questionnaire called Parent View on which you will find the same 12 questions. You can register with an email address and a password at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete. **If you haven’t already done so, please return the questionnaire to school by Monday 15 January (note extended deadline).**

**Y3 – Y5 swimming**

Swimming resumes on Tuesday 9 January 2018. The children leave school at 2pm to return to school by the end of the day for pick up as usual at 3:30pm. Please ensure their swimming kit is in school each Tuesday for the next 10 weeks.

**Running Club**

Lunchtime ‘**Running Club’** will resume on Thursday 11 January 2018. A letter has been issued to interested children in class 3. Please note that the sessions led by Mrs Walton will now take place for the rest of the half term on a Thursday lunchtime. The children will continue to use the MUGA and access the grounds at Cliff College for the session. The club will go ahead regardless of weather conditions so the children will need to have a full change of PE kit including socks and trainers. Gloves, hats and waterproof coats may be a necessity on some occasions.

**Extra Time After School Club**

The Monday Extra Time after school club will be run by Mr Richard Hollidge this term. The new cycle (multi skills) begins on Monday 15th January. Richard will also be running sports sessions each Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes on the school yard. Mr Tom Ellison will begin Friday handball sessions from Friday 12th January. You should have received a letter last week with details about the after school sports offer.

**Early Bird Winner**

Well done to Alex in class 2 who won our recent ‘Early Bird’. Remember – the early bird catches the worm!

**Let it snow!**

There may come another point when we get a dollop of snow. We will always endeavour to open school. However, when there is particularly severe snow or ice, the school has to consider the safety of the children, parents and staff in getting to and from school. We also have to ensure that there are enough adults in school to supervise and teach the children. Sometimes, due to travelling distances, it is difficult for staff to get to school or arrive on time. If there are adverse weather conditions, the school will text parents as soon as we have made a decision about whether school is open. We will also put a message on the school website and inform Peak FM. Please ensure your up to date contact details are with the school office.

**Start of the day…**

It is great to see so many children getting to school punctually so that the children are in the classrooms ready to learn at 9am. We open the school gates at about 8.40am but please be advised there is no staff supervision on the playground until 8.50am. Please be advised that the classroom doors are open for you at 8:50am unless an arrangement has been made with school staff to go into a classroom earlier.

**After School Clubs**

After School Boosters will start taking place for our current Y6s from Tuesday 23rd January 3.30 – 4.15pm.

**Diary dates attached**

Please find the term dates up until the Easter break. Please note these dates and events are subject to change.

**Applying for your child’s primary school place 2017 – 2018**

If you have a child (or know of someone who has a child) born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 they will be eligible to start school in September 2018.  An application to Derbyshire County Council will need to be made for a school place. The closing date for applications is midnight on Monday 15 January 2018. Please note that all applications made on time receive equal consideration. Applying after the deadline may reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school - particularly if it is popular.

Full information is available in ‘How to apply for a place at primary school – a guide for parents 2017/18’. You can find this guide for parents at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions) If you want your own copy of this information, email [admissions.transport@derbyhsire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.transport@derbyhsire.gov.uk) or ring 01629537499. If your child has a statement of educational needs or an Educational Health Care Plan contact the county special needs section on 01629536539. Please share this information with other prospective parents who might not have children at the school and feel free to tell them that we are a great school!

**School Data – Compare School and College Data**

The 2017 end of key stage 2 data for Curbar (and any other school!) is available at <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/find-a-school-in-england> You can explore our school’s data and information in more detail and compare any school and college – just follow the simple instructions. We are always looking at ways to improve provision at Curbar but we are very proud of last year’s end of key stage data and the work of both last year’s Y6’s and the staff.

**Maths meetings**

As part of our maths development in school we will be offering a couple of maths meetings to parents on Wednesday 31 January and Wednesday 7th February from 4pm. These sessions, which should last no longer than an hour, will explain Curbar’s approach to teaching maths and explain some of the methods that we use. A new maths policy and calculation policy will soon be available on the website. We hope that the sessions and information will give you a greater understanding of how maths is taught and how you might be able to support at home.

**Assembly themes**

To support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness of children, we follow assembly themes introduced by myself every Monday assembly. Each theme lasts two weeks and is the basis of behaviour for learning across school for that time. The weekly citizenship awards are also based on the assembly themes. For your information, the themes for this half term are: new challenges; fairness; patience and safer internet use (Safer Internet Day – 6th February 2108).

**PTFA**

The next PTFA meeting is taking place on Monday 15 January at 8:00pm at the Derwentwater Arms.

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 agreed to provide funds to renovate the pergola above the school yard. Please contact the PTFA if you think you can offer any help – it will be much appreciated.

**Audited school funds**

The audited school funds are available for viewing at the school office if anyone would like to see them. Please contact school to arrange an appointment.

**Young voices**

Children of class 2 are attending the Fly DSA Arena Sheffield on Friday 19th January for ‘Young Voices 2018’ <https://www.youngvoices.co.uk/> Parents should have received tickets from school and T shirts are on the way! If anyone still requires tickets, please contact the arena direct. Children will have lunch at school as normal and leave school for Sheffield at 12.30pm. We aim to be back at school by approximately 10.15pm but you will be informed by text on the evening.

**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 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please contact the office if you think you might be able to provide help on the odd day.

**Class 1 at the Village Hall**

Class 1’s PE sessions will take place at the Village Hall from Friday 12 January. Please pick up the children at 3:10pm from the Village Hall each Friday unless advised otherwise. Those children who attend 623 or are taking part in Extra Time After School Club will be walked back to school by Mrs Ridgeway and Mr Ellison.

**Grit Delivery**

We have had half a tonne of grit delivered for the school grounds during the winter months. Please feel free to contact me if you have an hour to spare to help me move the bags from the pallet by the roadside to the side of School House! They’re will be a cup of tea and a biscuit for any volunteers!

Kind regards

Simon Beahan, Headteacher

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| **Curbar Primary School Diary Dates Spring Term 2018** | |
| **Half Term 3 (34 days)** | |
| Tuesday 2 January 2018 | **Whole School Training Day – School closed to pupils** |
| Wednesday 3 January 2018 | Start of Spring Term 1 – School open to pupils |
| Friday 5 January 2018 | *No Shine Assembly*  Extra Time After School Club starts – last session of cycle (every Friday) with Mr Ellison |
| Monday 8 January 2018 | Extra Time After School Club starts – last session of cycle (every Monday) with Mr Hollidge |
| Tuesday 9 January 2018 | Y3 – Y5 Swimming resumes each Tuesday from 2.00 – 3.30pm (10 weeks) |
| Wednesday 10 January 2018 | Class newsletters to go home |
| Thursday 11 January 2018 | Lunchtime Running Club (details to follow/permission required) |
| Friday 12 January 2017 | Weekly Shine Assembly for parent/carers (every Friday 9.10 – 9.30am) – invited by text the week before if your child is a recipient of an award.  Class 1 at Village Hall for PE (pm session – pick up pupils from Village Hall at 3:10pm)  Extra Time After School Club new cycle starts – Handball (every Friday) |
| Monday 15 January 2017 | PTFA Meeting – Derwentwater Arms – 8.00pm – All Welcome  Extra Time After School Club new cycle starts – Multi sports (every Monday) |
| Tuesday 16 January 2017 | Revd. James Croft assembly at school |
| Friday 19 January 2018 | Class 2 go to ‘Young Voices’ concert at Sheffield Arena 12:30 – 10:00pm |
| Monday 22 January 2018 | Resource Management Governor Meeting - 6pm |
| Tuesday 23 January 2017 | Booster Session for year 6 starts (every Tuesday 3.30 – 4.15pm) |
| Monday 29 January 2018 | National Story Telling Week |
| Monday 5 February 2018 | Safer Internet Week - ‘Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you’ |
| Tuesday 6 February 2018 | Safer Internet Day - ‘Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you’ |
| Thursday 8 February 2018 | Y5/6 Hockey – Bishop Pursglove, Tideswell |
| Monday 12 February 2018 | Standards and Curriculum Governor Meeting - 6pm |
| Tuesday 13 February 2018 | Revd. James Croft assembly at All Saints Church – 1.05pm – All Welcome  PTFA Pancake Event – After school TBC |
| Thursday 15 February 2018 | Awards and Attendance Assembly (Behaviour and attendance) |
| Friday 16 February 2018 | School closes to pupils for half term holiday |
| **Half Term Holiday – Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February 2018** | |
| **Half Term 4 (20 days)** | |
| Monday 26 February 2018 | Start of Spring Term 2 – School Open to pupils  Fairtrade Fortnight  Extra Time After School Club starts – last session of cycle |
| Thursday 1 March 2018 | Y3/4 Dance Festival – Matlock Arc |
| Friday 2 March 2017 | Curbar ‘World Book Day’  Extra Time After School Club starts – last session of cycle |
| Monday 5 March 2018 | Extra Time After School Club new cycle starts - details TBC |
| Tuesday 6 March 2018 | Revd. James Croft assembly at school |
| Thursday 8 March 2018 | Y5/6 High 5 Netball Festival at Longstone |
| Friday 9 March 2018 | Extra Time After School Club new cycle starts – details TBC |
| Monday 12 March 2018 | Resource Management Governing Body Meeting - 6pm |
| Tuesday 13 March 2018 | Revd. James Croft assembly at All Saints Church – 1.05pm – All Welcome |
| Wednesday 14 March 2018 | Class photographs |
| Monday 19 March 2018 | Full Governing Body Meeting - 7pm  Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.40 – 6pm |
| Tuesday 20 March 2018 | Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.40 – 6pm |
| Thursday 22 March 2018 | Awards and Attendance Assembly (Behaviour and attendance) |
| Friday 23 March 2018 | Sport Relief Day  Citizenship Award of the Term for parents/carers – 9.10 – 9.30am  PTFA Easter Egg hunt in school  End of Term - School Closes to pupils for Easter holiday |
| **Easter Holiday – Monday 26 March 2018 – Friday 6 April 2018** | |
| Monday 9 April 2018 | Start of Summer Term 1 – School Open to pupils |