

Curbar Primary School
Calver Bridge
Calver
Hope Valley
Derbyshire
S32 3XA

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Email: enquiries@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.curbarprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

Friday 23 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't quite believe that we are almost at the end of this half term. It's been incredible to have everyone back but, boy, we are tired! When it comes around, I hope you all manage a well-deserved rest and we look forward to seeing you after the holiday. School closes for the half term holiday on **Friday 23 October** and re-opens on **Tuesday 3 November at 8:50am** (school is closed to pupils for staff training on Monday 2 November).

A message from me...

I recently sent a message to the PTFA meeting that I couldn't attend and want to share it with everyone. It includes my thanks to the Curbar community and the crucial role of the PTFA in fundraising for key projects.

To you all: I would like to begin by thanking the whole Curbar community. I can't let this opportunity pass without extending a huge thank you to everyone for their support and kindness during the last six months. It has been a testing time for all of us in so many different ways and the school and its staff have been determined to provide some sense of normality. It couldn't have been done without the support of everyone. I often talk to people about the Curbar community and, although experienced in the face of adversity, we have witnessed it in its finest form this year! Most importantly, the children have been amazing since the school returned to full opening in September. They never cease to amaze me with their kindness, good humour, generosity and intelligence.

I think it's worth considering some of the things that the PTFA have recently funded: the installation of the library; books to go in the library; a brand-new interactive screen for years 3, 4 and 5; resources for reception and key stage 1 and more. These are things that, unfortunately, the school's budget would not stretch to. Thanks to everyone who in some way contributed to the purchase of these things now enjoyed by our children.

Prior to lockdown, we had our first meeting and initial discussions about developing our grounds for the school and local community. This is going to continue to be our goal. We have already planted lots of trees from the Woodland Trust for our own Forest School. A parent has begun clearing a massive space behind the Beehive that would be the perfect spot for a yurt or Eco classroom and recently built a fire pit. A governor has cut an exciting maze into the long grass into the field which the children love to explore. Imagine a range of trim trails in this area too. I'm sure you all have lots of other amazing suggestions too.

Outdoor learning has always been an important part of the curriculum at Curbar. We believe it is more important than ever – as a means of ensuring the health and well-being of our pupils and helping teach the children the skills to become 'Happy learners forging our place in the world'.

It's a big and expensive project so thank you in advance for supporting this goal and for continuing to support the school.

PTFA

The next PTFA meetings are set to be held on January 11th, March 8th, May 3rd and June 14th. It is likely that these meetings may have to take place remotely. Please contact Mrs Jen Callard (Chair) if you would like to attend at jcallard@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk

Covid Update

I just wanted to thank you for your help and cooperation with the systems in place and to tell you how amazing all your children have been in school.

However, given the rising rates of the virus, we still need to maintain vigilance in school and observe the rules contained in both Derbyshire and government guidance.

Please help us, and the fight against coronavirus, by:

- Ensuring your child washes their hands before coming to school
- Observing as closely as possible drop off and pick up times for your child
- Leaving the site as quickly as possible so there is a steady flow of people and cars with plenty of spaces to park
- Socially distancing whilst waiting/queueing
- Respecting different levels of personal approaches to social distancing and keeping safe
- Ensuring your child social distances as much as possible outside the school gates
- Leaving the area around the school gate clear so that staff are able to come out for handover purposes at the beginning and end of the day

Once again thanks for your support, it is genuinely appreciated.

623 Breakfast and After School Club

623 are pleased to announce the return of the breakfast and after school club from Tuesday 3 November.

Please find further information and how to make bookings at: <http://www.sixtwothree.co.uk/>

623 are still finalising the details, preparing new risk assessments and planning daily protocols and activities, but we wanted to give you comfort that the childcare will be in place for you. In the meantime, please contact Sally Christian with any questions or queries on 07415 933730. Please find further information and how to make bookings at: <http://www.sixtwothree.co.uk/>

The British weather...

Please ensure children have coats in school each day. Even if it is a bit wet and wild(ish), we like to get our children outside (we're a hardy bunch) and it is much more comfortable if they have a coat! We also ask that the Reception and KS1 children have wellies in school each day so that we can use the whole of the school grounds even when the weather is a bit mucky!

Y6 Transfer to Secondary School

A reminder that the closing date for applications is midnight on **31st October 2020**. Please find further information at Derbyshire Admissions <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

Open Evening

We are holding an Open Evening on Thursday 22 October from 4 – 6pm. This drop-in event – no booking required – is for the parents of children due to start Reception in September 2021. It is an opportunity to meet with staff and see what the school has to offer! Please share with anyone who might be interested.

Gardening

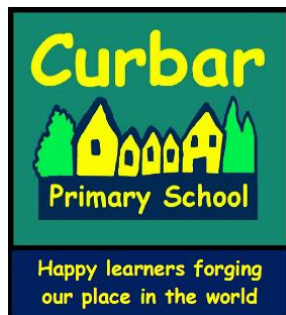
Green fingered or not, we are always looking for volunteers to help keep on top of the school grounds so we have a lovely environment for our children. Whether it be cutting the grass, pruning bushes or sweeping the yard, we are always looking for extra bodies!

Rec to Y6 - Flu Immunisations

The School Health Team are due to visit us on Tuesday 3 November to vaccinate children from Reception – Year 6. Only children whose parents have given consent will receive the nasal flu vaccine. You should have received an email with further details on how to give consent online. Please contact the office if you require further information.

Assembly themes

To support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness of children, we follow assembly themes. Each theme lasts two weeks and is the basis of behaviour for learning across school for that time. The



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weekly citizenship awards are also based on the assembly themes. For your information, the themes next half term are: Anti bullying, cooperation and kindness.

Non-uniform day – Friday 6 November

We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 6 November and asking children to make donations to support a foodbank in Chesterfield. As we don't want to collect food in school, we will be asking people to donate the value of an item or items in cash. Please see our shopping list – but remember that we will be collecting cash! So, if someone wants to 'buy' four bags of pasta they would bring £2 to school. A kind parent has offered to go shopping with the money we raise and take gifts to the foodbank.

Cereal £1.50
Soup £0.50
Pasta 500g £0.50
Rice £0.50
Tinned tomatoes £0.50
Lentils, beans and pulses £1.00
Tinned meat £1.50
Tuna 4 for £3.00

Tinned vegetables £0.50
Tea £1.25
Coffee £2.00
Tinned fruit £1.00
Biscuits £0.50
UHT milk £0.80
Fruit juice £ 0.85

School Photographer

Our school photographer from Tempest Photography will visit on **Wednesday 11 November 2020** to take individual photographs of the children and siblings. Unfortunately, we will not be able to arrange photos with members of the family who do not attend Curbar.

Remote Learning – Google Education

We are in the process of finalising our remote learning offer for children who cannot attend school in the event of self-isolation, closure of class bubbles or closure of the whole school. We will soon be sending out user names and passwords for Google Education via email for all of our children the week after half term. If we went into any immediate lockdown or had to close a bubble we would use our existing offer to support home learning. You will recall that this included an email being sent from your child's class teacher detailing learning for the day.

Diary Dates

Please find a list below of diary dates for the rest of the autumn year. I'm sure that you will be aware that, sadly, we cannot currently run many of the things we would normally be doing. Consequently, I've only included diary dates for the autumn term as I am reluctant to plan too far ahead. However, we aim to be creative and imaginative this year! Please note that events are subject to change.

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| Tues 3 November: | Children back in school |
| Tues 3 November: | Flu immunisations |
| Wednesday 11 November: | Individual/sibling photographs |
| Friday 13 November: | Children in Need day |
| Monday 16 November: | Anti-Bullying week – United Against Bullying/Road Safety Week |
| Friday 11 December: | Christmas dinner day/Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| Friday 18 December: | Class parties and then BREAK UP |

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan, Headteacher