

Curbar Primary School
Calver Bridge
Calver
Hope Valley
Derbyshire
S32 3XA
Tel: 01433 630266
Email: enquiries@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk
Website: www.curbarprimary.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

Tuesday 19 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

With me steadily working my way through the chocolates in my advent calendar and panicking about yet purchased presents, it seems that Christmas is just around the corner. We close for the Christmas break on **Thursday 21 December 2023 at 3:15pm**. School will reopen to pupils on **Monday 8 January 2024 at 8:40am**.

On behalf of myself, the governors and the staff, a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the school in some capacity during the year. I hope that you all have a peaceful, healthy and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Happy Holiday!



Staffing Update:



Mrs Wilson: As you know, Mrs Carol Wilson is taking well-deserved retirement and will be leaving us at the end of this term having worked at the school for over 20 years! I would like to thank Mrs Wilson for all that she has done for the children at Curbar, both past and present, as both the school cook and caretaker. It is the end of an era and I am sure you will join me in wishing her a happy, healthy and well-earned retirement.

Mrs Stirling: Mrs Chantelle Stirling has taken the very difficult decision to leave Curbar at Christmas to take up a permanent and full-time teaching position at a school in Chesterfield. Mrs Stirling joined us for a day in October 2021 and has never left! As well as being a talented teacher, I would like to thank Mrs Stirling for her hard work and the care she has shown our children. She has also become a bit of a tortoise expert! We wish her lots of luck and best wishes in her new school. They will both be much missed members of our school team but I know they will stay in touch and let us know how they are getting on.

The Office: Mrs Steph Marshall-Hilton has begun her role as our new School Business Officer and will be based in the office daily from 8.30 - 1.30pm. Mrs Marshall will continue to work with Mrs MacDonald after Christmas. Please feel free to pop in and say hello if you haven't already done so.

Class 1: Miss Jeffries will continue to teach class 1 after Christmas until further notice.

Curbar and Longstone collaboration

As you have previously been informed, the Curbar and Longstone collaboration is coming to an end. From January 2024, I will be returning to Curbar as a teaching headteacher. This was a role I had prior to the collaboration with Longstone and I am really looking forward to getting back into the classroom. I will be teaching class 3 from Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Taylor will continue to teach every Thursday and Friday. I would like to thank staff, pupils and parents for their support whilst we worked with Longstone. I know both schools are very keen to continue working together in an informal capacity after Christmas.

Welcome!

DCC Catering Services have arranged for **Mrs Emma Clemson** to be our new cook from January 2024. I know Emma from her time in the kitchen at Longstone and she has jumped at the chance to join the Curbar team. **Mr Andrew Parker** has been recruited as our new caretaker and is looking forward to



getting started after the Christmas break. Both Emma and Andrew have been in school this week to meet staff and take part in handover. I know they will fit into our staff team superbly and I know you will join me in giving them both a warm welcome.

Christmas Celebrations



We have enjoyed lots of Christmas festivities during December. Amongst other things, we enjoyed the school nativity at the church, Christmas dinner, a trip to the Panto (oh, yes, we did!), Decoration Day and Christmas jumper day. Thanks to everyone who supported and enjoyed these events. It is a magical time of year and it's a credit to our staff, wonderful children and our wider school community.

Enterprise Week Extravaganza – Thursday 21 December at 2pm

Enterprise Week is taking place in school this week culminating in an **Enterprise Week Extravaganza at 2pm on Thursday 21 December** to which all parents and carers are invited. Each class has been given £30 to create and stage some exciting games during the week for adults to come in and enjoy with the focus on raising some money for school! There will be games, organised and run by the children, in each classroom. So please come and join us to share in this year's Extravaganza - but don't forget to bring plenty of loose change! If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send your child to school with some money so that they can also enjoy our extravaganza. The Extravaganza will end at 3pm and all children will return to class in readiness for the end of the day.



Ofsted Report – 15 and 16 November 2023

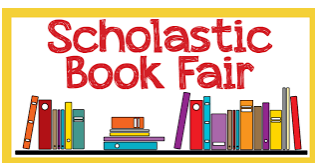
If you haven't already had the pleasure, the Ofsted report can be found at:
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50235543>

The Curbar PTFA

We are so lucky to have such a wonderful and dedicated PTFA. They have run some tremendous events this term to raise money for the school including the Christmas Fayre (£1000), the Bonfire and Firework event at the Eyre Arms (£2500) and the Curbar Commotion. We also had a hoard of volunteers who helped at the November muck in. Thanks to everyone who has contributed in some way. Money raised this year has contributed towards: a Mayan archaeologist in class 3; playground items as chosen by the children (delivered via Santa); tickets for whole school panto; laptops and I pads; outside storage; cookery equipment; annual magazine subscriptions; toilet decoration, cleaning and refurbishment...Incredible - thank you so much!



Scholastic Book Fair



We will be holding another Scholastic Book Fair the week beginning 15 January 2024. Children can choose from a range of stimulating books to buy to inspire and excite reading. Not only does it allow your child to pick some amazing products, but the school earns money for free books. Result – we love spending money on books!

Party Day – Thursday 21 December 2023

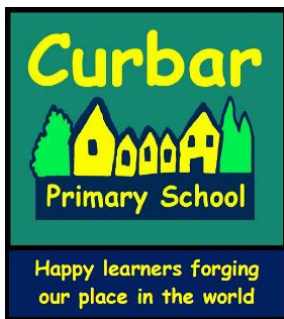
Children can come to school in their party clothes on the last day (note of caution: it could be a bit mucky on the yard at break and lunchtime!). Children are invited to bring non-electronic games to enjoy in the morning.



New Starters in Reception for September 2024



If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 - you'll need to apply for their infant or primary school place by midnight on 15 January 2024. They'll start school in September 2024. You can apply online at:
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx> or call 01629537479. 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. 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



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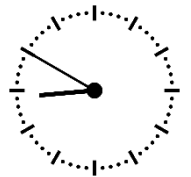
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free to tell them that we are a great school! **It might be worth telling them that early years provision was given an 'Outstanding' grading during our recent Ofsted inspection.**

Start of the day...

New year, new routines! It is great to see so many children getting to school punctually so that the children are in the classrooms ready to learn at 8.50am. The classroom doors are open for the children at 8:40am unless an arrangement has been made with school staff to go into a classroom earlier. Please ensure your child is punctual so that they can make the most of the learning opportunities provided for them.



Attendance Letters

In January, you will be receiving a termly letter detailing your child's attendance information for the autumn term. Our aim is that all of our children are here **on time every day**. However, we know that is not always possible as children can become unwell – there's lots of viruses and bugs going around at the moment! However, the government continue to make the importance of regular and punctual attendance clear to schools. The aim of the letter is to ensure you have the full information about your child's current attendance and are aware of the importance of good attendance whenever possible.



Y3 and Y4 swimming

Swimming begins on **Tuesday 16 January 2024** for children in Birch class (Years 3 and 4). The children leave school at 2pm to return to school by the end of the day for pick up at approximately 3:30pm (the buses can run late!). Please ensure their swimming kit is in school each Tuesday for the next 10 weeks. You will receive a separate letter with further details and will need to return a consent form to school.



Forest School

Weekly Forest School sessions will continue for children in Reception to Year 2 from **Tuesday 9 January 2024**. They will be joined by children from years 5 and 6 (as years 3 and 4 begin swimming in January). Parents of Y5 and Y6 children will receive further information and will be required to give consent for your child to take part (this will be put on Parent Pay). Children will need to come to school dressed in appropriate outdoor wear – it might be wet, cold and mucky!

Reception and KS1 children to be collected from the Village Hall after PE each Friday

Reception and class 1 PE sessions will continue to take place at the Village Hall each Friday afternoon starting on **Friday 12 January 2023**. Please pick up the children at 3:10pm from the Village Hall unless advised otherwise. Those children who attend 623 After School Club will be walked back to school by staff.

Class 2 and 3 PE at the Village Hall each Monday

Class 2 and class 3 weekly PE sessions will take place at the Village Hall each Monday afternoon starting on **Monday 8 January 2023**. Class 3 children (years 5 and 6) will walk down straight after lunch and will return to school at approximately 2pm. They can be picked up as normal from school at the end of the day. Class 2 (years 3 and 4) children will then walk down and will need to be picked up at 3:10pm from



the Village Hall unless advised otherwise. Those children who attend 623 After School Club will be walked back to school by staff.

Let it snow!



There may come a 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 Facebook and the school website. It could be that we decide to open a little later to allow children and staff to travel to school safely. It could be that we decide it is in the best interests of everyone to close the school for the day. In making any decision regarding change to our usual arrangements, we are mindful of the health and safety of all concerned as well as understanding of the difficulties families may have in terms of planning in advance, finding childcare etc. We will do our very best to make sure that any decisions are the right ones given the information available to us and that they are communicated to you in good time. We are sure that you will also have contingency plans in place – and let's hope that we don't have to use them! Parents need to make their own judgement regarding the safety of their journey to and from school.

Healthy Snacks



Have a break... have a piece of fruit! We want our children to live active and healthy lifestyles whenever we can. Children in Reception and key stage 1 will all receive fruit each day 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. We are seeing

Allergies in School

We ask that children only bring food items that are 'nut free' and 'shellfish' free into school. We have a child with allergies to these food products



Getting in touch...

Please note that there isn't always anyone in the office. If you need to get in touch then please ring the school, leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively, email the school at enquiries@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk

Fundraising

Thanks to all those who donated to our recent fundraising events in school. We raised over £90 for the British Legion through our Poppy Appeal. We raised over £180 for Children in Need through our non-uniform day and cake sale.

Diary Dates

We will distribute spring term dates after the Christmas break.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan
Executive Headteacher