

HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,



Welcome back to the Autumn term everyone! We are so looking forward to opening our doors again tomorrow and hope that the children have all enjoyed their summer break. The first newsletter always has lots to share but, as always, please do get in touch if you have any queries or comments about the upcoming term. The teachers will be sharing any relevant individual class information separately as required.

Congratulations Mrs Coulthard!

We are delighted to announce that Miss McDermott celebrated her wedding in the summer holidays and is now returning to school as Mrs L Coulthard. We wish both Mr and Mrs Coulthard lots of happiness for the future!

Menu for this week

The meals for the first three days of term will be as follows:

Wednesday 4th September – Sausage in a bun

Thursday 5th September – Chicken wraps

Friday 6th September – Fish and waffles

We will then be starting next week, Monday 9th September 2024, on Week 1.

School menu changes

We have noticed that there are a small number of menu choices that are less popular than others and so would like to experiment with a few alternative options over the coming weeks. Sam Proud, our school cook, will be replacing the Wednesday option of the Week 3 menu with an alternative to see how well the new meal options are received. Once we have trialled each option, we will then let you know if we are making any permanent changes to the menu. We would love to encourage as many children as possible to give the new possibilities a try but please do let us know if your child would prefer the baguette or jacket potato option instead. The options that will be trialled will be (in no particular order): warm cheese and ham wraps, chicken pie, chicken tikka and rice, and a cooked breakfast.

Value of the term

As you know, we have ten core school values that underpin our curriculum and the experiences we provide for the children. The values were chosen by staff, pupils and the community a few years ago and are as follows: *community, outdoor learning, confidence, happiness, safety, supportive, respect, creativity, kindness and friendship*. Each half term, we will be selecting a focus value which will be central to our learning in school and will be explored in our collective worship sessions. This half term, our value is **community**.

Picture News assembly – Friday 6th September 2024

We are planning to join in with a live virtual assembly on Friday which has been organised by 'Picture News'. The assembly is designed for KS1 and KS2 pupils and is on the theme 'Celebrating our differences and overcoming adversity'. The aim of the assembly is described as follows: "Following the events over summer, we will come together to explore the British Value of mutual respect and tolerance and will celebrate uniqueness and the importance of our communities." More information about Picture News can be found at www.picture-news.co.uk.

Welcome to Mrs Graham!

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs R Graham as our new School Business Manager and she can be contacted at admin@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk or via the school office.



School uniform

We are looking forward to seeing the children return in their school uniforms tomorrow. There is always plenty of second hand uniform available from the school office so please get in touch if there is anything that we can provide you with. The requirements of the school uniform can be found on the school website at www.high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk under PARENTS – SCHOOL UNIFORM.

School times

A reminder that children in Nursery to Year 2 begin their school day at 8.40am and end at 3.10pm. The school doors will open at 8.35am to allow for a prompt start. Children in Year 3 -6 begin at 8.50am and end at 3.25pm. Siblings of the younger children can arrive at the earlier time and are supervised on the school playground until 8.50am. Similarly, younger siblings are able to wait in their classrooms at the end of the school day until 3.25pm to allow parents to collect all siblings at the same time. We do ask that parents adhere to the correct arrangements for their child's year group to enable us to ensure we have the correct staffing ratios. A member of staff will be outside at the beginning of the school day from 8.35am to supervise the children as they arrive and we do advise that the children are not left unattended on the school grounds before this time.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Our Breakfast Club doors (located at the hall entrance) open at 7.45am and close at 8.25am. Breakfast is served until 8.15am only. After School Club runs until 6pm (with a small additional charge for the 5.30-6pm session). More details about session costs and booking details can be found on the school website.

Parking / one-way system

We always like to begin the new term with a parking and travelling reminder. As the traffic can be very busy at certain times of the day, we do advise a one-way system through the village at peak times which does help with the flow of vehicles. It is recommended that cars enter at the Penrith end of the village and exit at the Carlisle end. We do also ask that all vehicles are parked considerately and safely, ensuring that all driveways and pathways can be accessed. The bus bay is able to be used as a 'stop and drop' area in the mornings but should not be used to wait in or park in as access is required at all times.

Changes to collection arrangements for your child

A reminder that, if you wish your child to be collected by an adult who is not part of your regular pick up arrangement, we do need to be notified of this by the parent/carer of the child in advance. This can be done by telephone, email or by speaking to the member of staff on duty at the gate in the morning. If you advised us of any arrangements last year, we do already have these recorded and only need to be advised of any changes.

Year 5 & 6 'Understanding Money' workshops

We are pleased to be offering our Year 5 & 6 children some 'understanding money' workshops as part of the Everfi platform sponsored by the Cumberland Building Society. We will be joined on Friday 20th September by a representative who will create individual logins for each of the pupils to access the Everfi platform and complete a range of activities to develop their understanding of finances in preparation for the wider world.

Family Learning classes for Key Stage 1 parents

A reminder that we are hosting Family Learning sessions in school with a tutor who will be focusing on the topic of supporting your child with Key Stage 1 Maths. The course will cover 5 weekly sessions from 9-11am and will start on Tuesday 17th September 2024. If you are interested in signing up, please do let us know. There is a minimum number of places that need to be achieved for the sessions to go ahead so please get in touch if you would like more details.

Harvest Festival & Christmas performances!

It feels very strange to be mentioning Christmas already but we always try and provide as much notice as possible for our Harvest Festival and Christmas performances and so I am delighted to announce the dates for 2024. The Harvest Festival will take place during the morning of Wednesday 25th September 2024 and more details about the arrangements will follow. The Christmas performances will take place as follows:

Nursery & Reception – Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 9.15am

Year 1 & Year 2 – Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 2pm and Thursday 5th December at 9.15am

Year 3 & Year 4 – Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 2pm and Thursday 5th December 2pm



In addition, Year 5 will be leading our Carol Service on Tuesday 19th December at 1.30pm and Year 6 will be performing later in the year as part of their leaver's events. More information about all of the performances will be sent out nearer the time.

PE Days

For the Autumn term, the PE days for each class will be as follows:

Reception – Thursday & Friday

Year 1&2 – Tuesday & Thursday

Year 3&4 – Monday (plus intensive week of swimming w/c 14/10/24)

Year 5 – Tuesday (plus intensive week of swimming w/c 7/10/24)

Year 6 - Monday (plus intensive week of swimming w/c 7/10/24)

The children do not need PE kits this week, PE sessions will start the week commencing Monday 9th September 2024.

Medication procedures

We just wanted to make you aware that we do have to follow strict guidelines in regards to medication in school should your child require it. Any medication brought into school from home should be prescription only and should be provided in the original packaging, clearly marked with the prescription details. We will also need you to fill out forms outlining the administration details. When antibiotics are required, we often find that those requiring to be administered 3 times a day can usually be done at home around the hours of the school day without needing to be given in school. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch to discuss things further.

Morning snack & drinks

We ask that children bring a refillable bottle to school each day which contains water only. Children are also entitled to free milk up until the term they turn 5 years old and then, after this, parents can sign up to pay for daily milk through the Cool Milk Scheme. The children in Early Years to Year 2 are provided with a free piece of fruit for morning snack which is funded through the government's free fruit for schools scheme. Children in Year 3-6 are welcome to bring in a snack of their own if they wish but we asked that this is a healthy snack, ideally fruit based or a suitable savoury alternative such a bread sticks or crackers (no crisps, sweets or items containing chocolate please). We also ask that any food brought into school does **not** contain nuts due to allergies in our school community.

Dates for the diary:

Wednesday 4th September 2024 – School reopens for the Autumn term

Monday 9th September 2024 – Fairtrade fortnight starts

Thursday 19th September 2024 – Global art trail exhibition for parents 3.30pm (more details to follow)

Tuesday 24th September 2024 – Year 6 trip to Carlisle Courts and street art trail

Wednesday 25th September 2024 – Harvest Festival & lunch (more details to follow)

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 – Whole school project day (non-uniform / team colours are welcome)

Friday 25th October 2024 – School closes for half term holiday

Monday 4th November 2024 – School reopens

Thursday 7th November 2024 – Outdoor Learning Day

Friday 8th November 2024 – Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church (children only)

Monday 11th November 2024 – Anti bullying week activities in school

Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th November 2024 – Parents evening appointments

Wednesday 13th November 2024 – Individual school photographs

Friday 15th November 2024 – Children in Need (non-uniform)

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 – Y1&2 Christmas performance at 2pm

Wednesday 4th December 2024 – EYFS Christmas performance at 9.15am and Y3&4 Christmas performance at 2pm

Thursday 5th December 2024 – Y1&2 Christmas performance at 9.15am and Y3&4 Christmas performance at 2pm

Tuesday 10th December 2024 – Theatre by the Lake trip for Year 2-6

TBC – Cinema/theatre trip for Reception – Year 1

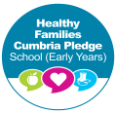
Wednesday 18th December 2024 – Toy Day

Thursday 19th December 2024 – Christmas lunch and parties

Friday 20th December 2024 – School closes for the Christmas holidays

Tuesday 7th January 2025 – School reopens for the Spring term

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher