Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for theSummer Term. We hope you have had a lovely Easter and that we are going to have warm, sunny weather from now on. The children have already been on the field a few times, which is lovely as they have so much space.

We are also applying for Big Lottery funding to further develop the facilities in the playground.

**Playground gate**

A new lock and intercom system has been fitted to the playground gate. The intercom is a link to the raised room that houses the younger nursery children and the before / afterschool provision. This provides much better security for all those children during the periods before and after school.

The gate will be unlocked at 8.30am to allow school children into the playground. Any children who are let in via the intercom before this will be charged the standard rate for breakfast club, as they become the responsibility of the staff running this provision.

Please don’t drop off children to wait on the pavement as this is not secure and not covered by school insurances.

The gates arelocked again once all the children are inside. Children who arrive later than 8.45am should be brought into school via the front door. The gates are opened at 3.10pm for children to be collected / leave school. They will then be locked again to keep the children attending after school activities and the after school club safe.

**New CCTV cameras**

New and extra cameras have been installed enhancing school and nursery security.

**New school meals ordering and paying system**

All families have been sent a letter about the new online ordering and paying system for school meals starting on Tuesday 2nd May 2017. All meals must be ordered and paid for using this system. There will be a short “instruction” session for anybody who would like to attend on Friday 29th April 2017 at 2.30pm in the school hall.

If you don’t have access to the internet please come into school at 8.35am on the first day of the week and a computer (and support) will be made available.

Letters about any outstanding dinner monies already incurred will be sent home by the end of this week. All of these accounts need to be settled by half term, Friday 26th May.

**Elections in May and June 2017**

Please note that the school will remain **OPEN**on both Election Days.

**Extra-curricular activities**

Lots of exciting projects and opportunities have been planned for all the children this term. A brief outline overview is given at the end of this newsletter. Separate information will be sent out to the relevant classes as the term progresses.

**Key Stage 2 Tests 2017**

These take place from Monday 8th May to Thursday 11th May. Letters have been sent home about this before, but another copy of the timetable is below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday 8th May** | **Tuesday 9th May** | **Wednesday 10th May** | **Thursday 11th May** |
|  |
| English reading test | Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar tests | Mathematics paper 1Mathematics paper 2 | Mathematics paper 3 |

**Phonics screening (year1) and Key Stage 1 Tests (year 2) 2017**

These take place in May and June. Results will be reported to parents and carers by the end of term. However we don’t publish dates for these tests to make sure that they are “low key” and to prevent the children becoming stressed.

**Staffing for September 2017**

All year groups will continue to be taught by the same teachers for the next academic year.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Teacher** |
|  |
| Reception | Miss Marwood |
| Year 1 | Mrs Redhead |
| Year 2 | Mrs Bell |
| Year 3 | Mr Thornhill |
| Year 4 | Miss Stevens |
| Year 5 | Mrs Mackie |
| Year 6 | Mrs Carter |
|  |

Miss Horne will continue to work at school part-time covering Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time for some of the teachers on a weekly basis.

Timetables for the Teaching Assistants are being arranged this term, but each class will have assistance for part of the week.

**Confucius Institute (University of Lancaster)**

This is an education initiative which is funded by the Chinese Government. The group is based at the University of Lancaster and provides education programmes to teach children about the Chinese culture and language. We have been successful in arranging to work with this group for (at least) the summer term.

We will start with a China Day, which will build on the work the children have already done about Chinese New Year. Following this the year 4 class will have a lesson once per week for an hour led by Chinese teachers where they will learn more about the country, culture and customs.

A selected group of children from years 4, 5 and 6 will also have the opportunity to learn Mandarin Chinese for an hour per week. This is an unusual and exciting opportunity for our children and we are delighted to be part of this project. If it is successful we may be able to continue this link next year.

**Cricket Coaching**

Cricket coaching will begin using part of the extra PE funding on Wednesday 25th April for years 5 and 6. This will be run during school time in the afternoon. We are also hoping to start an after school cricket club. If anyone is interested in helping with this please speak to Miss Marwood or myself.

Years 4 and 5 will continue to do karate on Wednesday afternoons as well.

**Extracurricular Activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| *Lunchtime clubs* |
|  | ChoirArt – Rec |  | School Council |  |
| *After school until 4.00pm* |
| NetballYears 3 - 6FootballYears 4 to 6BadmintonGardening | Staff meeting | ComputingYears 3 to 6Dance ClubR, 1 and 2 | Table tennisY3 to 6 |  |
|  |

*Barrow AFC Community Sports are also running multi skills for years 1 – 2 on Tuesdays after school. This runs from 3.15 to 4.15pm*

**Coffee Club**

This is a regular coffee morning for our senior citizens and some mothers and toddlers (or babies). You are most welcome to come and join us.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Coffee morning** | **Event** |
|  |
| Thursday 4th May | 9.30 |  |
| Thursday 18th May | 9.30 |  |
| Thursday 1st June |  | Half-term |
| Thursday 8th June | 9.30 |  |
| Thursday 22nd June | 9.30 |  |
| Thursday 6th July | 9.30 |  |
| Wednesday 19th July |  | 1.30pm Special Event |
|  |  | Summer Holiday |

**Medical conditions**

Please keep us up-to-date about all medical conditions. We also need to know about food and nut allergies, so that we can keep all the children as safe as possible. Please remember to make sure your child has a spare inhaler in school if they are asthmatic.

**Jewellery in school**

Please can all parents remember that jewellery is not allowed in school. This is primarily for the children’s safety. The only exception to this is plain stud earrings for children who have pierced ears. **However these should be removed for PE as soon as the six week limit for new piercings is over.**

**Parking outside school**

**Please don’t park or stop on the yellow lines outside school or across the back lanes to the houses on North Row. This is for the safety of ALL our children.**

**Autumn Term starts on Monday 4th September 2017**

Yours sincerely

Wendy R Jacobs

Headteacher

**Advanced warning of Diary Dates**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Year group | Times |
|  |
| 26.04.2017 | Taster Cricket | 2 | 11.00am |
|  | Cricket coaching (12 weeks) | 5 and 6 | Afternoon |
| 28.04.2017 | Lunch Shop talks - ordering | All parents | 2.30pm |
| 28.04.2017 | Years 1 and 2 assembly | 1 and 2 | 2.45pm |
| 04.05.2017 | Coffee Club |  | 9.30am |
|  | China Day | 4 and 5 | Assembly / all day |
|  | Brockhole Visit | 3 | All day |
|  | Visit to Roose Library | 1 | Morning |
| 08.05.2017 | SATs WEEK | 6 | Mornings |
|  | Robotics workshop | 5 |  |
| 10.05.2017 | PTA meeting | Parents | 2.30pm |
| 11.05.2017 | China lessons start | 4 | Afternoon |
|  | Mandarin Chinese | Group | Afternoon |
| 18.05.2017 | South American dance workshops | All | Workshops |
| 22.05.2017 | Cultural Diversity Day | All | All day |
|  | African storytelling | All | Workshops |
| 23.05.2017 | Waste Recycling | 6 | Afternoon |
| 26.05.2017 | Break-up for half term | All | 3.15pm |
| ***Spring half term holiday*** |
| 05.06.2017 | Second half term starts | All | 8.45am |
| 06.06.2017 | Fell walking | 2 | All day |
|  | Turkish dance workshop | 5 | Morning |
| 07.06.2017 | **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS** | All | 8.45am |
|  | Turkish dance workshop | 5 | 1.15pm |
| 08.06.2017 | Penny Farthing Experience | All | Workshops |
|  | Fell walking | 2 | All day |
|  | Cast rehearsal at Dowdales | 5 | 1.15pm |
|  | New Reception Parents’ Evening | 4 yr olds | 5.00pm |
| 09.06.2017 | Cast rehearsal at Furness Abbey | 5 | 1.15pm |
|  | Full performance | 5 | 3.00pm |
| 12.06.2017 | Junior Citizens scheme | 6 | Morning |
| 14.06.2017 | New Reception Visits | 4 yr olds | 9.30am |
|  | Cool Science workshops | 3 classes | Workshops |
| 15.06.2017 | Cool Science workshops | 4 classes | Workshops |
|  | Sizergh Barn visit | 4 | All day |
| 16.06.2017 | KS1 Sports Afternoon | R to 2 | 1.15pm |
| 19-21.06.2017 | London Residential | 6 | 3 days |
| 22.06.2017 | New Reception Visits | 4 yr olds | 1.30pm |
| 23.06.2017 | KS2 Sports Afternoon\* | Y3 - 6 | 1.00pm |
| 30.06.2017 | PTA SUMMER FAIR | All | 3.00pm |
| 04.07.2017 | Teddy Bears Picnic | N and R | 10.00am |
| 12-14.07.2017 | Barhaugh Hall Residential | 4 | 3 days |
| 20.07.2016 | Break up for the Summer Holiday | All | 2.00pm |
|  |

\*Please note the change of date for Key stage 2 Sports Afternoon