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WELCOME BACK

Although the Christmas holidays were slightly longer than normal this year, they seemed to fly by and we're now back at school. I do hope that you have all had a restful break though.

Unfortunately, Mrs Stables has had an operation over Christmas and will be off school for a few weeks until she has recovered. Miss Kimberley Smith will be taking Y5/6 full time until she has returned. Miss Smith is familiar with Cummersdale School as she attended the school herself and has recently returned to Carlisle after teaching in Newham, London for three years. Miss Smith was initially appointed to take Y3/4 part time and she will be doing this role later in the term. In the meantime, Mrs Wakefield will be taking Y3/4 full time.

BUILDING WORK

Over the holidays, pipework and radiators have been replaced in the hall and Y1/2 classroom. The work will continue next week when a new boiler, several new radiators and associated pipework will be installed in the Y3/4 and Y5/6 classrooms. This will mean a certain amount of upheaval in school with some classes being taught in the hall temporarily and not all PE lessons taking place.

Outside school, the contractors have a container and this is likely to be fenced off at certain times during the next three weeks. This may mean that on certain days there will be no access from the car park to the back door of school. Children and parents will need to walk around the front of school and access the rear door going past the kitchen. Sorry for any inconvenience, but it is of utmost importance to keep our children safe. It is anticipated that this work will last no longer than three weeks.

'U' DANCE

Many thanks to all the parents who have returned their 'U' Dance replies for the event on March 10th. Please return these as soon as possible. I'd also like to remind parents that tickets for this event go on sale at The Sands Centre on Monday 16th January.

DINNERS

A menu covering the next three weeks accompanies this newsletter. Please return as soon as possible or by Wednesday 11th at the latest. Payment for dinners can be made online using Schoolmoney or by cash in the office. Many parents credit their account in advance and dinners are automatically deducted from the total. This may be a convenient way of managing payments for some.

SPORT

Flip Flop Flo returns for Enjoy-a-ball next week. She will be taking Y1/2 on Wednesday mornings for this half term. Please come to school changed and ready to do PE at 9am bringing uniform to change into.

Y3/4 children will be going swimming this term until Easter at Morton Pool. Swimming kits (trunks, costume, towel and goggles) will be required on Tuesday afternoons. Mr Jones, Miss Brecken and Mr Dawson will be accompanying the children to swimming.

The school have Ben Davidson, a badminton coach, coming in to school on Thursday afternoons this half term to introduce badminton to the children in Y3 - 6. Please ensure that these children have their kits in school on Thursdays.

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

This week's **Pupil of the Week** is **Lucy Pearson (Y3)** for answering questions and trying hard in Maths. Last week's Pupil of the Week was **Holly Saward (Y6)** for a super performance in the Christmas production.

The winner of this week's **Mrs Vickers Kindness Cup** is **Lola McGinley (Y2)** for always being a good friend and being brave after a nasty bump. Last week's Kindness Cup winner was **Rhys Morris (Y4)** for showing kindness and generosity just before Christmas.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There are no after school clubs next week apart from Gymnastics (Monday after school and Tuesday morning) and Mrs Scott has sent a separate letter to those involved. A full programme of activities will commence on 16/01/17 (see additional letter). Chess club has been introduced and it is suitable for those who want to learn or those who want to practise. There will also be an internal chess competition running in school this half term. Mrs Scott has kindly agreed to take over gymnastics and this will be just for those taking part in the upcoming competition initially. One of the coaches from Carlisle Gym will be coming in to assist too. Thereafter it will be for Juniors (Mon after school) and Infants (Tuesday morning). Zoe has kindly offered to run Cooking Club in Mrs Stables' absence which moves to Wednesdays. Art Club will be for Junior children this half term. Recorders continue on Wednesday mornings and Mrs Wakefield will be running a lunchtime darts club this half term too.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17/01/17	Trip to Tesco for Reception (am)
19/01/17	Eden Rock: Climbing Competition (Y5/6)
23/01/17	David Almond, author of 'Skellig' to visit school
26/01/17	Y6 Literacy Day at Caldew
28/01/17	Boys' Football, The Sands Competition (am)
28/01/17	Gymnastics: County Championships, Carlisle Gym Club
30/01/17	Handwriting Competition
16/02/17	Dental Survey for 5 year olds
17/02/17	Talent Show (pm)
17/02/17	Finish for half term
27/02/17	Half term begins
03/03/17	World Book Day/Reading Competition
08/03/17	Key Steps Gymnastics
10/03/17	'U' Dance Rehearsal (12.30pm) and performance (6.30pm) for Y3/4
18/03/17	ESFA Small Schools Northern Final, Newcastle
20/03/17	The Big Pedal' cycling initiative begins
27/03/17	Y5/6 Liverpool trip departs
29/03/17	Y5/6 Liverpool trip returns
20/02/17	
30/03/17	Key Steps Gymnastics Final: Penrith
07/03/17	Key Steps Gymnastics Final: Penrith Finish for Easter

More dates will be added throughout the term