



NEWSLETTER

29/1/21

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Here is a short newsletter to keep you up to date during this period of lockdown.

HOME SCHOOLING SO FAR

As we approach the end of January, I must thank all families for engaging so positively with the home learning. You are doing a wonderful job. Teachers are impressed with the amount that you are getting through, your commitment to getting on and your willingness to follow instructions and do the very best that you can. I really do understand and appreciate the difficulties you may be facing in your own lives but hopefully, for many, what we have set does enable you to have some degree of routine.

The Prime Minister suggested that schools will return on 8th March. This is a 'proposed' date. The Government have also said that this is 'hopeful' but it "depends on lots of things going right" for example: achieving the target of vaccinating everybody in the four most vulnerable groups with a first dose by 15th February. All being well, 'things will go right' and school will open its doors once more. Cummersdale School will be working closely with Cluster schools, Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Health Team to do what is right for us in relation to data for Cumbria and Carlisle.

School is closed for half term and no work will be set during this period.

STAFF TESTING

From last Monday, all the staff who have been in school have been carrying out lateral flow Covid tests twice weekly.

STAFF NEWS

Miss Giovannini will unfortunately be leaving school before half term. She is leaving to take up a new position at Newtown Road Day Nursery. Monica has been at the school for three and a half years during which time she completed her apprenticeship and fully established herself as a teaching assistant in Reception. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her every success as she begins a new challenge. I am sure Miss Giovannini will spare us some time to come and say goodbye when school returns.

ZOOM CALLS

Thanks to all those pupils who have joined in with Zoom calls, either to support learning or just to have a catch up. The staff and I are very pleased with the response. Ideally, children should be ready for a Zoom call in a similar way as if they were attending a lesson – they should be dressed, not having breakfast or even in bed!

ST JAMES' CHURCH

St James' Church will be running a special free online holiday club for primary school age children during the February half term (Monday 15th to Friday 19th February). The holiday club will be on both YouTube and Zoom. Although it is online, they are asking people to sign up for the holiday club, so they can arrange to send them free of charge all the craft materials that they will require for the activities planned. For further information please contact Kate (kate@stjamescarlisle.org.uk).

As a church they operate both a food bank and food pantry, and offer free books and DVDs to those who want them. They are able to deliver food parcels to those living in Denton Holme, Longsowerby and Cummersdale. For those living outside these areas, they ask if you are able to, to arrange for someone to come & collect the food parcels from Cornerstone.

The food pantry is for those people who are on low incomes, and would struggle to pay for a normal shop, but would still like to make a small financial donation. They arrange to come & use the food pantry and choose the items they want. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 for ten items or £5 for twenty items. This money then gets reinvested back into the food bank.

If anyone needs help they are asked to contact the Church on 01228 549796.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

It is very tight at the top of the Fantasy League and there are some double game weeks coming up. Nicole Leathers 'Sassy Squad' top scored last week, with I O County still leading the way at the top.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Next week is the official Mental Health Awareness Week. Staff have adjusted their planning to take this into consideration as we feel that this year, probably more than ever, children's mental health is of great importance.

AND FINALLY...

I do hope you and your families are all safe and well. I know that the teachers and teaching assistants are doing everything they can to make home schooling as easy and as painless as possible. Do get in touch, either with them, or myself, if there's anything else we can do.