



NEWSLETTER

12/12/22

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This is the final newsletter of the term. Christmas festivities are well under way here at Cummersdale with rehearsals for the Nativity, the pantomime trips having taken place and we've even seen a few flakes of snow. Next week is another busy week with a nativity, a trip for Reception and Christmas Dinner. Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors of the school, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We finish school at **1.15pm** on Tuesday 20th December and I look forward to seeing everyone return to school refreshed on Wednesday 4th January.

INFANT CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

On Monday the Infants are involved in a production of 'Boogie Woogie Nativity' which will take place at Caldew School's Performing Arts Theatre. During the morning, the children will be transported to Caldew for a rehearsal. All children will return to school for lunch.

The show will begin at **1.45pm**. Here are a few reminders which will help things run smoothly:

- Entrance to Caldew is through the door to the theatre at the front of the school to the left of the main Reception. Do not arrive before 1.30pm – don't worry, all seats have a good view.
- There is limited parking in the layby at the front of school, the car park besides the sports hall or street parking which is not too far away. Do not park in the bus bays at the side of school though. *(one year the performance was delayed as some parents had to move cars)*. All cars on site need to be moved by about 2.30pm though.
- We are assuming that the vast majority of children will be picked up from Caldew. However, if this is not possible parents must let school know so that they can be transported back by minibus with the teachers after the performance.
- Uniform and packed lunch boxes will be left at school on Monday and not taken to Caldew. If it is essential to pick up uniform/packed lunch, please return to school after the performance.
- Costumes should be returned to school the following day but should not to be washed.
- Tuesday (the next day) is a PE day and children should come in PE kits as normal and will bring their uniform home at the end of the day
- The theatre holds 100 people which is generally enough, but please be prepared to squeeze up.
- This means that 2 seats per child have been allocated. Whilst there probably will be spare seats, please try and stick to this guidance.
- There is no charge for entrance but there will be a retiring collection which helps to fund travel to Caldew, costumes, music and copyright charges. Please remember some change for this.
- It is expected that the production will end by **2.30pm**.

The children in Y3 – 6 will be travelling to Caldew during the morning to see a dress rehearsal.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY – Wednesday 14th December

As well as Christmas dinner for all, we will be taking part in ‘Knit-ivity Day’ for Eden Valley Hospice. Children will be encouraged to come in a Christmas jumper, or anything festive and make a donation to this worthy cause.

RECEPTION FARMERS DEN SOFT PLAY VISIT – Thursday 15th December

The children in Reception will be visiting Farmers Den Soft Play Centre in Annan on Thursday 15th December. The class will travel by minibus, have a play, a drink, biscuits and crisps before returning to school in time for lunch. There will be no charge for this trip.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Thursday 15th December (In School)

The children in Reception class will lead a Christingle Service which will take place in school. The children will hear about the meaning behind this symbol and the whole school will light their Christingles and bring them home afterwards. It will also be a chance for Y3/4 to share their sign language Christmas songs and Y5/6 to liven everyone up with a couple of songs too.

This will take place in school, not at St James’ Church as listed provisionally in the newsletter on 11/11/22. Unfortunately, this means that parents are unable to attend.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY – Monday 19th December

The younger children will have a Christmas Party during the morning with the older children having theirs during the afternoon. In between, there will be a party buffet for all to enjoy. It will be non-uniform that day for all and children may wear either party clothes or just something Christmassy. No donations necessary.

DINNERS

A new dinner menu has been issued today.

If you would like to have a Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 14th December or the Christmas Party Buffet on Monday 19th December, please let the office know. Both are priced at £2.10.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Just a reminder that today was the last day of After School Clubs. After School Care continues next week and until Monday 19th December for those who need it.

There will be a new selection of new After School Clubs in the New Year, details of which will come out early next week.

NORTHERN GAS NETWORKS ASSEMBLY

There will be an assembly led by northern gas networks to make the children aware of what is happening nearby on Peter Lane and along the cycle path to Dalston. The assembly will also have an important safety message too.

EDEN ROCK – Tuesday 13/12.

The final climbing session for Y6 will take place this Tuesday.

RECEPTION HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

Children in Reception will be having their height and weight measured by the nursing team on Wednesday 14th December.

GOVERNANCE

The school's governing body looks at the strategic direction of the school and supports and challenges the headteacher in the running of the school. It comprises of 4 parent governors, 3 co-opted governors, 1 local authority approved governor and a teacher governor along with the Headteacher (ex officio) and a clerk.

Our current governors are:

Mrs Flo Bell (Chair)
Mark Wilson (LA)
Gail Mounsey (Parent)
Lorna Bell (Parent)
Fay Scott (Teacher)
Kerry Makepeace (Clerk)

The school's governing body is going through a period of transition at the moment with some long-standing governors deciding to step down after several years of service. We have vacancies for two parent governors and two co-opted governors which we would like to fill in the New Year. We currently meet 4 times a year with some governors also attending sub-committee meetings. I have attached some additional information about becoming a governor and details of how to apply. Alternatively, if you would like to find out more, speak to either myself or any of our current governors who will explain what is involved.

I must take this opportunity to thank James Johnston who has been a governor for 12 years, 10 of which as Chair, Sarah Dickinson who has had periods of Acting Chair and Vice Chair and Philippa Wakefield who has been the teacher governor for 5 years.

COST OF LIVING – SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND FAMILIES

Cumbria County Council has committed 'Household Support Grant' funds to support families experiencing Food and Utility hardship. Families can access the information on the support available through the councils 'Ways to Welfare' website.

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/costofliving/default.asp>

ATTENDANCE

Attendance has been generally good this week, considering the number of bugs that have been going about. Well done to Y4 who have 99.23% attendance this week. However, it is Y5 who have the best attendance this half term (96.94%) and the best this year (96.06%) – just edging ahead of Y3 who have 96.05%.

HOUSE POINTS

Following a good week, Skiddaw have taken over the lead and are in pole position with just over a week to go.

Skiddaw	1080
Blencathra	1054

Helvellyn 1046
Cat Bells 982

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

The **Pupil of the Week** this week is **Riley Kirk (Y5)** for lovely manners around school, trying hard at swimming and impressing Mrs Wakefield with his writing. Last week's winner was **Elliot Ramsay (Y2)** for great acting and learning of lines for the Nativity.

The **Kindness Cup** goes to **Joel Redfern-Faulkner (Y6)** for being especially kind and considerate when his teacher was unwell. Last week's winner was **Joey Armstrong (Y6)**.

The **Enjoy-a-Ball** Trophy go to **Eliza-Mae Lucock (Y6)** for a big improvement in her climbing technique and confidence. Last week's winner was **Delilah Dalton (Y2)** for helping another child on the Action Ant assault course.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12/12/22	Northern Gas Networks Assembly
12/12/22	Infant Nativity, Caldew School (1.45pm)
14/12/22	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Knit-ivity Day (Christmas Jumper Day!)
14/12/22	Reception Heigh and Weight Measuring
15/12/22	Reception Soft Play Trip, Farmers Den, Annan
15/12/22	Christingle Service (In School)
19/12/22	Christmas Party Day
20/12/22	End of Term (1.15pm)

More dates will be added throughout the term