



NEWSLETTER

10/1/25

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Welcome back and a Happy New Year to all. The new term has started well and I would like to welcome Cassia Harding and her family who has joined Y2. After school clubs begin again next week and I have listed at the bottom of the newsletter the confirmed dates of events which are taking place in school this term.

BAD WEATHER DAYS

The school will do its best to remain open throughout the winter. However, in the event of extreme weather, school may be forced to close and we will notify parents as soon as possible by text message. What is more likely is that school is open for those who can get here safely with perhaps a reduced staff and an alternative curriculum. On these occasions do take care getting here avoiding any risks with children bringing suitable outdoor clothing.

EDEN ROCK – Tuesdays 14/1, 21/1 and 4/2

Y5/6 children will be having three climbing sessions at Eden Rock this half term as part of the PE curriculum. Here they will practise their bouldering techniques under the guidance of Eden Rock's instructors. The children will travel to and from Eden Rock by minibus with Y5 going in the first half of the morning and Y6 going in the second half of the morning. Mr Jones and Miss Breare will accompany the children. Children should wear their normal PE Kits on Tuesdays, but as the centre is quite cold, it may be necessary to bring extra layers/hats. Whilst climbing shoes are given out when we arrive, if anyone has their own, they may bring them. There is no charge for these visits.

All those taking part will need a parent/guardian to fill in a registration form online. If you have attended in the last year or visit regularly, you may not need to do this. Here is the link: https://wallmarket.herokuapp.com/eden-rock/forms/1/form_completions/new

If you have any queries, do speak to myself or any of the Y5/6 staff.

DRIVEWAY TO THE CAR PARK

The school has liaised with the Parish Council and managed to secure some funding from Cumberland Community Development Fund to resurface the driveway to the car park with tarmac. This work will take place on **Thursday 23rd January**. This means that the car park will be closed on this day and in all likelihood on **Friday 24th January**. I realise this will be quite an inconvenience to many, but it is work that needs doing and has been long overdue. On Thursday 23rd, I'd be grateful if parents could find alternative parking arrangements.

Access to the back of school can still be made, but only around the school on The Spinners Arms side. To help with drop off we will have a member of staff on the pavement at the front of school if parents just want to 'drop off' on the yellow lines and children can come through the front doors at school. We will also accept children arriving anytime between 8.45 and 9.15am to ease congestion in the village.

The end of the day may be harder, but with many children in after school care, numbers will be less. We will release children in the normal way, but you can come and collect from 3.00pm if more convenient.

If you are parking in Cummersdale, do park considerately and take care when driving ensuring that our pupils are safe.

CHESS

We are taking part in the Delancey Chess Competition in school this half term. It will involve each player who enters playing 7 matches (roughly 1 per week). The one who scores the most points will be school champion. An assortment of prizes are available for players who win their games. Matches can be played any playtime/lunchtime in the Y3/4 classroom. Anyone can enter, but children who enter the competition should know how to play chess. Any disputes will be settled by Mr Travers/Mr Jones. Children can sign up in the corridor by the end of Monday 13th January to enter.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Reception and Y3/4 will be showcasing their work in class assemblies this term. Y3/4 will hold their assembly on Friday 31st January at 9.00am with Reception doing theirs on Friday 14th February, again at 9am. Parents, families and friends may all attend.

NUTS

Despite several reminders, there seems to be an increase in nut products coming in to school. We have a small number of pupils who have nut allergies being particularly aware of tree nuts. (Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans, pistachios and macademia nuts). Nutella sandwiches, Kinder Buenos and certain cereal bars have all been coming in to school in packed lunches. As well as being a considerable risk to our pupils, we will remove any nut products and your child may not get a full lunch.

SCHOLARPACK, CLASSLISTS AND FACEBOOK

We have three methods of communication in school. The school sends out most correspondence by e-mail. This may initially go into your junk folder. Text messages are also used for a variety of things including last minute reminders and school closures. If you change your mobile number, do let school know.

Teachers regularly use an app called 'Classlists' to communicate with parents. This is very useful and gives parents a chance to check on arrangements with the teacher. Please do not use this to report absences or request holidays. Please also be aware that teachers are unlikely

to respond to messages at unsociable times, but will generally reply in school hours. Please think carefully before sending these messages as several teachers are attached to each class and will all receive the message. We also find that often the information asked for has been sent out on newsletters/other communications previously.

Facebook is used by the school to promote what has gone on in school and allow family members and friends, perhaps some of whom live away, to see what the children have been doing.

HOUSE HANDWRITING COMPETITION

During the week beginning 20th January, all children in school will be taking part in a handwriting competition. Children will demonstrate their best handwriting by writing words and sentences (youngest pupils) or poems (older pupils). Even the staff take part!

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Just a reminder to make sure that you pre-book this service. Whilst we can always accommodate emergencies and last minute changes in childcare needs, it is very helpful to us to know in advance. It also saves a lot of time and avoids families accruing debts. At the moment, if your child doesn't attend, they are not charged.

LIVERPOOL RESIDENTIAL (3rd -5th March 2025)

May I remind parents of the children in Y5/6 that the balance for this trip can now be paid and should be done by 17th February.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to Reception and Year 5 who both started 2025 with 100% attendance this week. Reception are the best attenders this year with 98.2%.

HOUSE POINTS

The children in Cat Bells will be rewarded for their efforts last term with a House Treat. Those children in Cat Bells in reception, Y1 and Y2 will be going to Aztec Soft Play centre on Tuesday afternoon next week. They will travel by minibus and will be accompanied by Mrs Barratt, Miss Maclagan and myself. Those children in Cat Bells in Y3,4,5 and 6 will be going bowling at Hollywood Bowl the following week on 21st January.

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

This week's **Pupil of the Week** is **Charlie Kerr (Y5)** for trying really hard with his Maths and devising a clever filtration system in science.

The **Mrs Vickers Kindness Cup** goes to **Isaac Pantin (Y5)** for his friendly nature and excellent behaviour in school.

The **Enjoy-a-ball Trophy** goes to **Ben Wake (Rec)** for impressing Mr Travers in PE.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14/1/25	Y5/6 Bouldering Session – Eden Rock
14/1/25	Cat Bells House Treat: Aztec (Infants)
16/1/25	After School Clubs begin
20/1/25	A.I.M. High Science Day: Y5/6 Science
20/1/25	House Handwriting Competition
21/1/25	Y5/6 Bouldering Session – Eden Rock
21/1/25	Cat Bells House Treat: Bowling (Juniors)
22/1/25	Reception Visit to Paragon Vets
23/1/25	School Car Park closed
27 - 31/1/25	Cumbria Primary Schools Ski Trip
27/1/25	Nurse (Mrs Wake) to visit Reception
29/1/25	Y5/6 Netball Tournament
31/1/25	Y3/4 Class Assembly
3/2/25	Cricket Engagement Day (All)
4/2/25	Y5/6 Bouldering Session – Eden Rock
6/2/25	Reception Fire Station Visit
6/2/25	Y3/4 Sports Hall Athletics
10/2/25	Y3/4 Swimming (daily for 1 week)
12/2/25	Y3/4 English Day – Thursby School
12/2/25	House Curling Competition
14/2/25	Reception Class Assembly
14/2/25	Talent Show
14/2/25	Finish for Half Term
24/2/25	New Half Term begins
24/2/25	Y1/2 Swimming (daily for 2 weeks)
25/2/25	Y3/4 Tennis sessions begin: Chatsworth Tennis Club
28/2/25	Key Step Gymnastics Competition
3 - 5/3/25	Y5/6 Residential to Liverpool
6/3/25	Eden Rock Bouldering Competition (Y5/6)
7/3/25	House Reading Competition and World Book Day
10/3/25	Book Bus to visit
11/3/25	Governors Meeting
22/3/25	School Visit to Carlisle United v Bromley
1/4/25	CSSA Swimming Gala - The Sands
4/4/25	End of Term