



# NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Whitehead

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Dear Parents,

We have arrived at the end of the first half-term of the year and what a busy 7 weeks we have had! Highlights have been Year 6 enjoying their residential at Robinwood; a very successful Book Fair; having a doctor, dentist and the police visit our EYFS; a new School Council has been chosen; a cake sale week which everyone loved; Family Friendly Friday; Harry Potter day; and we finish with a flourish today with our Harvest assembly and Fun Film Night. Of course, the children have had lots of sporting opportunities and special mention must go to Ethan (the SHARK) who has qualified for the second year to represent the north of England at the ISA Schools National Swimming Finals in London. Forest School lessons have been muddy and wet but so much fun and enjoyment outdoors, which is vital for the children's wellbeing. Swimming lessons for all the juniors are now going smoothly and the children are already making progress. And on top of all that, we have taught some lessons too!!!

I think that staff, children and parents alike are now all ready for the half-term break.

School re-opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November and children should return in their WINTER uniform please. Can I extend a special plea that all uniform is labelled – we waste too much teaching time searching for lost uniform and trying to match uniform to owners.

Letters are being sent home today about attendance and punctuality. The Lancashire schools target for attendance is 96% and lateness should be zero except in an emergency. I did appeal to all parents at Transition evening in June not to book holidays in term time as we have very generous holidays already. However, I have received numerous requests for extra time off this half term even though the children have 2 weeks and one day holiday. I am afraid that I will not authorise time off for holidays from now on except in the case of emergency. If you take your children out of school in term time then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. We do not provide work to complete while children are on holiday in term time so please do not ask your child's teacher for this. They will be provided with the holiday homework which all the class receives.

May I remind you that the school doors open at 8.25am and lessons begin at 8.30am. Any child who arrives after 8.35am will receive a late mark in the register. As a school, we really do need to improve attendance and punctuality, and it is something which we will focus on this year.

Thank you for your support with everything we do, and I hope you and your families enjoy a happy and peaceful break. I look forward to welcoming you all back in November.

Best wishes

Mrs Whitehead

## STAFF NEWS

We welcome several new members of staff to school – Mrs Wilkinson started last week in our EYFS; Mr Davies starts after half term supporting Mr Bailey in Year 1; and Mrs Wills and Mrs McGough are joining our cleaning team. We also sadly say goodbye to a member of staff. Miss Lomas is leaving us at Christmas to move on to pastures new. We are very sorry to see her go and would like to thank her for her care, hard work and dedication to the children at our school. We wish her much luck in her new job. Mrs Amy Jenkinson will join us in January as our Year 4 teacher. Mrs Jenkinson brings 13 years' experience of teaching and leadership with her, and I am sure you will all welcome her to our team.

## CAKE SALE

Thank you to all families who sent in cakes last week. What a treat we had at playtimes! Thank you to the year 6 Faith Ambassadors who manned the stall and did a wonderful job. We raised £284 for the charity Children with Cancer UK. Thank you so much for your support.



### FAMILY FRIENDLY FRIDAY

Thank you to all parents and grandparents who attended FFF last week. Everyone seemed to have a great time, even those down on the field in the mud! The children certainly loved having family in school.

We held a raffle for PTA funds on the day, which along with donations for cake and coffee, raised £218.20 for PTA funds.



### BEST OF LANCASHIRE AWARDS

We are all very proud of a former pupil of ours, Yusuf, who left school in July, who was shortlisted for the Inspirational Young Person Award in the Best of Lancashire Awards earlier this month. The whole family attended a glittering awards evening at Crowwood – it looked like the BAFTAs! Well done, Yusuf, you are an inspiration!



### HARRY POTTER DAY

Park Hill became a school of witchcraft and wizardry on Monday when we enjoyed our Harry Potter day. The children and staff looked magical in their costumes and enjoyed Harry Potter themed activities throughout the day. Well done to our fancy dress prize winners – it was very difficult to judge as the standard was so high. Thank you everyone. Let's hope it inspired our young readers.



### THE ADDAMS FAMILY

13 staff and 20 pupils enjoyed a theatrical treat last Saturday at the Pendle Hippodrome theatre in Colne. Basics Theatre School put on the musical The Addams Family and it was marvellous from start to finish. It was such a professional production that you would not believe that all the actors were children. We had a fabulous afternoon with ice cream and sweets in the interval!

We would like to say a massive congratulations and well done to Andy Cooke, our Vice-Chair of Governors and Principal of Basics, and to his staff, the musicians and the children. What a show!



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November – school reopens at 8.25 am
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Pyjamarama Day £2 donation (dress in pyjamas for the day and proceeds go to the charity Children with Cancer UK)
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance assembly
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Pupil progress evening from 2.30pm (Electronic booking form will be sent on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov)
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November to 17<sup>th</sup> – Antbullying Week
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Coram Life Education are in school to do PSHE sessions
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Extra-curricular clubs finish today
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 6pm – Infant Nativity
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2pm – Infant Nativity
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm – Junior Carol Service
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Disco, talent show and stalls 1-3.30pm; School closes at 3.30pm after school club closes at 5.30pm

### FOREST SCHOOL LESSONS

After the holiday, children need to bring hats, gloves and thick socks for inside their wellies as well as waterproof trousers and school coat.

Just a reminder of Forest School Days:

Monday – Year 1

Tuesday – Year 2

Wednesday – Year 3 & 6

Thursday – Year 4

Friday – Year 5

