

SCHOOL - HOME COMMUNICATION UPDATE

We're happy to have SMS credits once again! As previously mentioned, we plan to use these with restraint to avoid the issue arising again and punitive 'per message' costs being applied! To assist with this, we're joining the app generation...

MESSAGING APP

We use Scholarpack for data management in school and have added their communication app to our subscription. This allows two-way 'direct to parent' app messaging, as well as offering you the ability to easily advise us of changes to personal data (GP, address, etc) and report absences via the app.

Urgent whole-school or group messages (e.g school closures) will be sent via this system to parental contacts.

The system will identify whether a contact number is assigned to the app and any contacts who do not install it will receive messages via SMS to their phone as usual.

We need to complete some back-office work to be able to activate app users, and when this is done we will send parents details of how to set it up on their phone. You can preinstall it in readiness by downloading the Scholarpack Parents app from your device's app store.



ScholarPack Parents
ScholarPack

FOR [APPLE DEVICES](#) FOR [ANDROID DEVICES](#)

NEWS AND CALENDAR APP

We will continue to use the existing website app, School Jotter, for routine newsletters, calendar events and general notices – this allows us to publish to the website and app simultaneously. Please remember to turn alerts on to get the 'pings'.



School Jotter

FOR [ANDROID DEVICES](#) FOR [APPLE DEVICES](#)

If you are unable to access the apps on at least one device at home, please advise the office so that we can arrange suitable alternatives (i.e email, phone calls or paper copies) instead.



COMMUNITY LEARNING

Cumbria County Council's adult learning programmes get back underway this term, and we have invited them to run a series of courses at school on Monday afternoons this year.

Courses will usually be 5 weeks long and run from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Each will have a different theme, intended to help parents better understand specific aspects of the curriculum or to support their children in other ways.

COURSE 1: KS1 – SPaG 101

For: Year 1,2 & 3 parents

Starts: Monday 27th September

TIME: 1:30-3:30; 5 weeks

Some of the most common comments about lockdown learning were parents expressing surprise at, 'how difficult that SpaG stuff is' and confiding that they, 'never learned *any* of that at school!'.

SPaG (spelling, punctuation & grammar) is relatively new to the primary curriculum – it's only been with us since 2014 – so most parents will have experienced very little/no direct teaching of the content during their school days.

As this is an area that we expect pupils lower down the school to find challenging over the coming year(s) our first community learning programme is all about SPaG at KS1.

To register for a place on the course you can contact us by phone, email or form!

<https://bit.ly/FIRKS1SPAG>

NHS HOME COVID TESTS remain available through the school. Simply order via this form and we'll send them home with your nominated child.

<https://bit.ly/FIR-LFD-ORDER>

Now that **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB** is running under 'normal' routines, the familiar staff team of Mrs Smith and Mrs Mercer has been bolstered by Mrs Mills (Tuesday), Miss McCluskey (Wednesday) Mrs Stephenson (Thursday) and Mr Sanderson (Friday). There will be Netball with Miss McCluskey on Weds and Adam's multisports on Friday.

ILLNESS INFORMATION

This week we have children absent with a range of illnesses including Chickenpox, a vomiting bug (norovirus?) and 'sore throat and snot' (colds).

Schools have also been advised to be alert for a resurgence in headlice, slapped cheek, Flu and assorted high temperature fevers.

Naturally, the prevalence of routine infections alongside Covid creates some parental dilemmas when children feel poorly. Some illnesses also have periods of exclusion attached to them (e.g chicken pox is at least 5 days, vomiting at least 48 hours).

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL

1: SUSPECTED COVID SYMPTOMS (NEW PERSISTENT COUGH; FEVER ABOVE 37.8°; CHANGES TO SENSES)

Anybody with these symptoms should stay away from school and go to the airport for a PCR test. They should remain isolated until results are received.

2: GENERAL ILLNESS

In most cases, and particularly in the first day(s) of an illness, children should be considered **unfit** for school and kept at home. Not only does this mean poorly children don't have to struggle through a long day, it also helps to avoid **spreading** illness to others.

Parents should **contact school** by 9:30am and **explain the symptoms or diagnosis**. We will consult the Public Health directions to advise if there is a **specific exclusion** period for that illness. If there is no specific period advised, children should return when they feel better.

3: 'POSSIBLE' COVID SYMPTOMS/CLOSE CONTACT TESTING

The range of symptoms associated with childhood covid is now quite long. They don't always get the 'big three'.

Parents may choose to have **precautionary PCR tests** if they suspect that their child may have been **around people they don't usually mix** with, has had **close contact** with a positive case or has **symptoms** that are unusual.

If a PCR covid test is taken on a **precautionary** or **close contact** basis, but they are otherwise well, children do **not** have to isolate and are expected to continue to attend school until the results are received.

SPONSORED MILES

To start to cover the cost (up to £10k) of repairs to our dilapidated and currently unusable play trail surface, we have made an application to a local charity. To support this we also need to raise funds ourselves.

Next week we will be running a week-long sponsored miles event.

Children will walk or jog laps of our new playground mile track to build up to their own target and seek sponsorship for the feat. Sixteen laps of the loop means one mile covered.



Children brought sponsor forms home last week and copies can be found in the newsletter section of the Jotter app.

Anything children can raise will help – if every child raises just £5 we'll have almost 5% of the target!



In readiness for next year's growing season, we have installed new planters (built by **Brampton Wood Fuels**).



Next, we need 2000L of compost to fill them as well as tools, seeds and other gardening paraphernalia. To get some of this we've signed up for the Morrisons' Good to Grow shopper reward scheme.

This is also app based and you can find out more at www.itsgoodtogrow.co.uk