



## Spring into Summer

Unbelievably, there is just one week to go until 'school spring' ends and we start the summer. This short term has been incredibly busy, and we're looking forward to some slightly lazier dog days in the final academic term! In this edition of 'Things' are some of the things we've done this term and dates for things that will be happening after the Easter break. *(Colour copy published digitally)*

## YORK RESIDENTIAL

Our Year 5&6 pupils travelled to York for a very busy overnight break at the start of March, visiting Jorvik, Dig!, the Minster, the York Chocolate Story and the National Railway Museum. We stayed in the relatively luxurious York YHA. Many thanks are due to Mrs McKenna and Mrs Powley for giving up their own beds to accompany the trip and making it a positive experience for all the children.



## WORLD BOOK DAY AND SPONSORED READING WEEK



There were some excellent dioramas again this year, with ingenious use of cardboard, glue guns, vegetables and modelling clay on display. Although it was a Herculean task, ten were chosen by staff for special merits, earning £5 book tokens.

In addition, with your much appreciated support, we were successful in reaching our fundraising goal for the Sponsored Read. Staff are in the process of ordering just over £1000 of new books for the school's bookshelves.

## DATES

- 26 March – Clocks forward!
- w/c 27 Mar – Easter Egg decorating contest
- 29 March – Easter Disco
- 31 March – End of term
- 17 April – Back to school
- 26&28 April – Wheelchair Basketball
- 1 May – Bank Holiday
- 8 May – Bank Holiday
- 9-12 May KS2 SATS
- 25 May – Y5&6 Wittham Park
- 26 May – End of term
- 29 May -2 June – ½ term
- 5 June – Back to school & Oliver Twist
- 9 June – KS2 sports day @ Sheepmount
- Wed 9 July – end of year



Check the school jotter app for outdoor ed sessions, etc



## SUMMER TERM ADULT LEARNING

With relatively few Mondays next term there will be three individual sessions focusing in turn on English, maths and online safety. The final half term will focus on keeping EY and KS1 children learning during the long summer break.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE UPDATES

Target for the year: 95%

School average year to date (122/190 days): 94.86% ↑

Average for the Spring term so far: 95.93% ↓

Attendance	Learning days lost so far	Alert level	Means...
>96%	Up to 4.5	GREEN	ON TARGET
91-95%	4.5-11	AMBER	AT RISK
<91%	11+	RED	MUST IMPROVE

## PTFFE FUNDRAISERS

As you may be aware, our PTFFE have sprung into action with a smorgasbord of fundraisers to help to close the gap between funding available and the cost of refurbishing our KS2 toilets.

This term, they have kindly contributed prizes for next week's Easter Egg decorating competition, and been able to give each class a small budget for 'optional extras' to support them.

## OFFICE UPDATE

Having secured a role in a larger school in the North-East, Miss Sloane will be leaving us at the end of this term. Recruiting a suitable replacement will take some time, and the role will be advertised shortly.

In the interim, Mrs Logan will be in the office Mon, Weds and Fri mornings, and Mr Spencer will be the main point of contact for queries. Existing email addresses will remain in use, with forwarding set up as appropriate.

We all wish Miss Sloane the best for her new job.

## Climbing, running, football and swimming

This half term we have taken part in the climbing finals; boys 2<sup>nd</sup>, girls 5<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout for the Lanercost Cross country, where we had a third place finisher and took second overall in the year 3&4 race and 3<sup>rd</sup> in KS1.

Year 5&6 pupils have had intensive daily swimming sessions, drawing to a close our post-pandemic swimming recovery programme.

Next week, we have two teams of Year 3&4 footballers in action at the Harraby 3G. Hopefully, they'll come back with a winner's high...

## NEU STRIKE ACTION

Whilst this has not directly impacted our school thus far, all of the issues that have led to it do. Schools remain underfunded and staff pay at all levels has been eroded over a long period of time. Our response over the past eight years has been to reduce our spending in many areas. With few areas of expenditure not already hollowed out it is inevitable that, without better funding, schools like ours may have to make difficult spending decisions in future. Strike action is currently 'paused' and it is hoped that talks will bring resolution.



## ON THE...MUSIC CURRICULUM

Last year, the government published an ambitious music plan for England. This encourages schools to find ways to meet its aims during primary school – although there is no discrete funding to do so, naturally.

Our response to this has led us to be proactive in reviewing our classroom curriculum, which is based on the Charanga music resource. Next year we will adopt the Charanga 'model' curriculum, based on the DfE's own suggested model curriculum format. We have also begun to develop a KS2 choir and embryonic 'recorder orchestra'.

This term, Mr Draper has taken on recorder tuition and begun weekly choir sessions and has already had year 3-6 children singing songs from Matilda and Encanto!

We are hopeful that after a bit more practice we will be able to get the choirs to perform these, either live or as recordings.

## Communication Apps

We are aware that some parents occasionally report difficulty knowing where to find messages from school. Our main routes of communication are hosted within our school data management system (MIS), Scholarpack, and our website, School Jotter, as follows:

### 1. Scholarpack\*:

- Direct SMS message to mobiles - delivery is network reliant
- Scholarpack Parent app messages - instant via data/wifi connections, but relies on notifications being activated/noticed

**2. School Jotter:** Used for digital document publishing via website and app delivery, as well as a calendar

**3. Paper copies\*\*:** usually sent as a backup/where signatures are needed

\*SMS has a per message cost, whereas app messages are free. \*\*Paper copies for whole school communications also come at a cost and are often time consuming to distribute.

SMS will always be used for critical messages, and we can verify delivery of these and app messages. Jotter is used to publish things like the calendar and this newsletter, but cannot be tracked.

We understand that having messages split across two digital routes can be a challenge at times, but are somewhat limited by the tools available in each system and their associated costs. We *are* exploring a potential MIS change, which may include a more feature-rich parents app that will make this easier by bringing more of our communications into one system. Watch this space...