



NEWSLETTER

12.12.14

News from the Classes

The Pantomime Trip on Tuesday to Jack and the Beanstalk at Middlesbrough was greatly enjoyed by all the children and adults. It also provided the inspiration for a recount text that KS2 have begun!

KS1 had a fabulous day at the Moors Centre with our friends from Glaisdale. The severe weather subsided and we enjoyed lots of fun, outdoor activities based upon woodland creatures and their survival. We went inside Percy the Park keeper's Special Yurt Hut and enjoyed hot chocolate and a story. It was magical. After a cosy indoor picnic we studied more local animals, learnt about their features and characteristics and played a fun version of pass the parcel. Many thanks to Robert and Sue who gave us a truly memorable day!

Loving foster home needed over the Christmas holiday for one well behaved stick insect that is no trouble, very quiet and school will provide food (privet hedge). All enquiries to KS1 class!!

KS2 have this week been busily preparing for Christmas - making Christmas cards, studying the Christmas Story, writing about what Christmas means to us and practising for the Christingle Service.

Years 5 & 6 Peat Rigg – if paying by instalments for the residential next year, the first one should now be paid.

Questionnaires

Please find attached the collated responses by children and parents. There are a few points to clarify: Firstly, the comments by parents and children were overwhelmingly positive. Thank you very much for your support and recognition of the success of the school and the impact it has on your children's happiness and learning.

Some points to answer:

- All children have fruit every day. Juice is charged at 25p per day. In January there will be milk available at the same price.
- Information about what children do in class is on the school website (see curriculum plans) and also can be seen in the expectations for the 2014 curriculum.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-primary-curriculum>
What we ask of children is also shown in homework activities. If you need more information please do come in and ask.
- Variety of school trips. We feel we do lots of school trips and there is a good variety but we are willing to listen to suggestions so please do come and let us know your ideas. We try to link them to something we are doing at the time.
- More after school clubs – especially for KS1: There are clubs 3 nights a week. If you would like to run a club please let us know.
- Sheltered outdoor area – money permitting, this is something we will look at. However, income for building projects has been hugely reduced over the last few years and everything takes a long time to save up for!
- Variety of school lunch choice. The menu is a three weekly cycle and changes every term. It is set by County Caterers.
- Less teachers, more permanent ones: Please come and explain this. We are not sure what this refers to. There are things we can't prevent, like members of staff going on maternity leave and opting not to return full time. Otherwise all our staff are permanent and we want to keep them all!
- Spellings to learn: This does happen but children may choose not to take them home to learn as it is not a compulsory homework.
- More PE: PE and PE related activities, is given more than the required amount of time over the year. There is no time to do more PE without reducing time for other subjects.

- Children being children! – Please come and explain this as we don't know what this refers to.
- Parents should be listened to – We are very happy to discuss anything with anyone who would like to come to school and have a chat with us. We really appreciate this kind of positive discussion which has the best interests of the children and school at heart.
- More people coming to PTFA events – we feel that people do give generously of time and donations.
- Longer appointments for parents' evening – we do encourage people to book alternative appointments if they need more than 10 minutes as it is not possible to make longer appointments on the actual evening.

Children's comments have been addressed in school assembly.

Christingle Service, Thursday, 18th December, 10am

The children are making Christingles in school but, unfortunately, there have been lots of Health and Safety issues recently regarding lit candles and we therefore feel that it will be safer not to light the candles in Church. The children will bring their Christingles home after the service if you wish to light them. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, if you are able to attend.

Breakfast Club

We are pleased to report that Breakfast Club does have enough pupils to continue so will be operating every morning until further notice.

Breaktime Drinks

Children are offered hot chocolate, as an alternative to juice, for a breaktime drink in winter. Unfortunately we can't make this free so reluctantly have to say "No" to some children if no contribution to costs has been received. Please could you send drinks money in advance (25p per day) so that we don't have disappointed children on cold winter mornings (if that doesn't pull at the heartstrings nothing will!)

Revised food standards are being introduced and from January it is a requirement to provide drinking milk each day. Therefore, milk will be available at morning breaktime also, at the same cost of 25p per day. Milk will be free for pupils in receipt of free school meals (not the universal infant free school meal).

Spring Term Dinner Menu

Please find enclosed the school dinner Menu for next Term.

Next Week

Monday	Carols round the Tree , at school 6pm. We would be grateful for raffle prizes to go in hampers please
Wednesday	Netball Club
Thursday	Carols with Glaisdale School & Village , 6pm in St Thomas Church, Glaisdale Christingle at Church, 10am Christmas Dinner (please let us know on Monday and pay £2.10 if any children who normally have packed lunch would like dinner)
Friday	Christmas Party in school during the afternoon. Children should come to school in uniform and bring "party" clothes with them. A food list is up in both classrooms (this will be combined with school dinner)

Break up for Christmas and return to school on **Tuesday, 6th January 2015**
Monday, 5th January is staff training