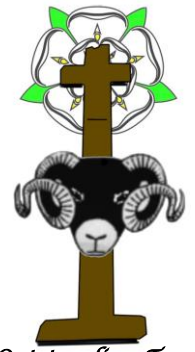




NEWSLETTER

12.05.17



"Outstanding Together"

News from the Classes

This week, **KS1** has been learning all about Hinduism. They have enjoyed exploring Hindu beliefs, customs and festivals and look forward to their visit to the Temple (Mandir) today to experience first-hand Hindu culture and worship. As part of their Esk Valley topic they have been looking at our locality and focused on map symbols and facilities in our local area. Reception made some super models.

A reminder that next week, year 2 children will be sitting their SATs.

KS2: Well done to all year 6 who have now completed their SATs. Mrs Grace has been very proud of the way every one of them has tackled the tests with concentration and determination. They have worked extremely hard leading up to the SATS so it is great they will have such a fun time at Peat Rigg next week. Thank you also to the rest of the class who were so considerate and supportive.

We have been looking more closely at the cultural traditions of the Hindu faith to help us with the understanding of other cultures. It is particularly important that we respect the traditions within the Mandir or Hindu Temple so we can be respectful and not cause offence. As well as learning the facts we have been looking at Non-Fiction text and structure, so we can organise our writing in the same way.

In maths we have moved onto nasty place value (please ask), grrrrr I was beaten, there will be a re-match. The game helps children to plan strategically and also to think about rounding up and down. As you may have noticed, I don't like to lose.

As mentioned last week, please could you buy some milk in the smallest (pint) cartons. Years 3 and 4 need one each by Thursday for the Hindu Artwork. Many thanks

Attendance

At our recent governing body meeting we addressed attendance. At present our school attendance is **94.7%**. This is lower than the expected target of **97%**.

Please could you help us to meet our target by:

- Reading the attached leaflet carefully
- Contacting us if you wish to discuss attendance, or have any concerns

Our procedure for dealing with attendance issues is as follows:

1. A private word with you to alert you to attendance causing concern
2. A formal letter accompanied by your child's attendance register
3. A referral to the educational welfare officer or prevention service.

Holidays in Term Time (reminder – see also school prospectus)

Acting under new Government guidance, the Governors of schools in the Whitby Area Schools Partnership will not grant leave of absence during term time from 1 September 2013, unless there are **extreme extenuating circumstances**.

We appreciate the difficulty some parents/carers may have in taking holidays in the summer break due to the seasonal nature of work in the area and the impact this may have on families. However, holidays are not considered to be an **extreme extenuating circumstance**. Therefore, holidays during term time will not be authorised and will appear on a student's attendance record as an 'unauthorised absence.' Any period of unauthorised absence of 5 days (10 sessions) or more may lead to you being issued with a Penalty Notice from the Local Authority **if your child's attendance is less than 90% including the holiday in school time**.

It is still essential that parents complete a Leave of Absence Form so that school is fully aware of your child's whereabouts during term time. A Form should be obtained from the school office and completed by the parent/carer and returned to the school as far in advance as possible and at least **6 weeks** before the first date of the period of leave being requested.

Parents/carers must obtain the schools permission **before making any arrangements for leave in exceptional circumstances; otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.**

No parent/carer can demand leave of absence as of right. The Education regulations state that applications for leave must be made in advance by a parent with whom the child lives and can only be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances. Each application is considered individually by the school. The following are examples of the criteria for leave of absence, which may be considered as 'exceptional':

- Service personnel returning from active deployment
- Where leave is recommended as part of a parents' or child's rehabilitation from medical or emotional problems. Evidence must be provided.
- When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis

Please note: Headteachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional. All schools in the Whitby area have agreed with the exceptional circumstances criteria above.

This is not an exhaustive list and Headteachers must consider the individual circumstances of each case when making a decision on this matter. Where a Headteacher feels that there may be exceptional circumstances which do not fit the criteria, they may refer to the local authority for advice. The decision of the Headteacher is final and, again, parents who take a child on leave in term time without the permission of the school risk being issued with a penalty notice fine for unauthorised absences, as detailed above.

Taking a pupil on leave during term time interrupts teaching and learning and can disrupt educational progress.

Uniform

Please see attached page from the School Prospectus regarding uniform which the Governors have updated in relation to tights, socks and having a change of clothes for PE.

Joint Sports Day, Friday, 30th June

This year, it is the turn of Glaisdale to host the joint sports day. As some of you will know (and for information for those of you who don't) we sent out a parental questionnaire about sports day after the two schools federated to ask if parents wanted joint or separate ones. The results were 50:50 so we decided to do separate and joint sports days on alternate years. In 2015 the joint one was at Castleton. As Glaisdale cricket field is smaller, the format may be slightly different but there is still room for everyone and it will still be great fun. The field is located after you pass Glaisdale Station and go under the railway bridge down a track to the left. There is space for parking if you continue further on near Beggars Bridge.

Danby Tennis Club - Junior Club and Coaching

Please see the attached flier regarding Junior Tennis (from age 7) and coaching by Mark Franklin in the holidays. Danby Tennis Club has been fortunate enough to receive funding from the LTA which means the training only costs £2 per session. If your child/children are interested, please see Mrs Blacklock for a Junior Membership Form which will need completing.

Next Week

Year 2 SATs

Monday	Years 5 & 6 to Peat Rigg at around 9.30am Sumdog Club
Wednesday	Netball Club
Friday	Years 5 & 6 return from Peat Rigg at approximately 2.30pm Football Club

There are no Forest School sessions as Mrs Barber is at Peat Rigg

News from Glaisdale

This week, **Class 1** has been having a look at the origins and symbols that are important to Hinduism, in preparation for today's trip. They really enjoyed their Science work which was mini-beast hunting in the garden and area around the school.

This week has been dominated by the year 6 tests in **Class 2**, which they approached with a commendable attitude. The class have also been exploring the Hindu faith further, with a particular focus on Puja, which is the act of worship. They have taken advantage of the sunny days to have a little look around the school to see the differences in the plants from before Easter.