**January 2023**

**Happy New Year**

We hope you had a lovely holiday. Thank you for your kind cards and gifts at Christmas.

**New Nursery Starters**

We look forward to welcoming 8 new children to Nursery next week. Mrs Bromley will be visiting them all at home beforehand as part of our Nursery induction programme.

**Parents’ Meetings**

Parents of pupils from Nursery to Y6 will be invited to meetings on either Wednesday 18th January (3.30pm to 5pm) or Thursday 19th January (6pm to 8pm.) Teachers will send a link to the online booking form in their Friday emails this week. We are looking forward to sitting down with you face to face again!

Curriculum Themes this half term

Nursery – Traditional Tales

Dentdale – Polar Regions

Y1 & 2 - Travel & Transport in History and Materials in Science

Y3 & 4 – Dynamic Earth in Geography (volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis) and Rocks in Science

Y5 & 6 – Dynamic Earth and Evolution & Inheritance in Science

As always, class teachers will be sending information home in Friday emails about class novels and maths focus areas.

**School Meal Prices**

After February half term we are having to increase the price of school dinners. We were informed of this increase just before Christmas by Facilities Management, our school meals provider. Due to this lack of notice from them, school will make up the difference in price for this half term, but we cannot sustain this additional cost for long. From Monday 20th February a meal will cost £3 per day. We apologise for this, but it is unavoidable. I do hope your children will be able to continue to have school meals.

**Sports/P.E.**

Wednesday lunchtimes KS2 inter-house badminton with Mrs Mercer.

Sam Arrowsmith will be doing the following PE sessions: Wharfedale basketball and Kingsdale football. Mrs Mercer will be doing indoor athletic skills with Dentdale and Kingsdale.

**Music Sessions**

Wensleydale will enjoy ukulele lessons on Thursdays with Annie Wilkins from North Yorkshire Music Service. On Monday afternoons, Matt Haynes from Stonyhurst College, will be teaching singing to KS2 pupils. After half term Matt will be working with KS1. This is part of a project involving local schools and we hope there will be a cluster music event at the end of the summer term.

**Adventures for 2023**

We have dates in the diary for KS2 outdoor and adventurous activities during the next two terms:

Y5 Ingleborough Walk on March 14th

Y6 Crucial Crew on March 17th

Y5 Bewerly Park Residential March 22nd to 24th

Y3 Norber Adventure April 19th

Y4 Caving and Climbing April 20th

Y6 Edinburgh Residential May 24th to 26th

Y6 Whernside Walk 19th June

Y4 Norber Adventure 26th June

These local adventures will be led by Olly Roberts Outdoors.

**Winter Cooking Club**

Cooking continues at 3.30pm this Thursday at the i-Centre for the second group of children Y4/5 children. It’s pizza week.

**Advisory Visit**

Our school advisor, Heather Russell, will be visiting on Tuesday 31st January. The focus of her visit will be children’s writing, our big push this year.

**Author Visit**

The writer Ross Montgomery will be spending the day with us on Friday 10th February. This exciting visit will be an inspiration for all our budding authors.

We are continuing to restock class libraries with 6 new titles every month, provided by Limestone Books and kindly funded by the PTA. We will be getting some more Ross Montgomery titles in anticipation.

**Assemblies**

This half term we will be exploring the theme of “Forgiveness” in our whole school assemblies.

**P.E. kits**

We request that children have both their indoor and warm outdoor P.E. kits available every day. Children feel much more confident, independent and comfortable when they are well organised for PE.

**National Child Measurement Programme**

On Tuesday 10th January, the NHS Family Health team will complete the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) for pupils in Y6 and Reception.

**School Preference Forms – Nursery families**

Forms for places in Reception class need to be completed online by the 15th January please. <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/apply-place-primary-or-secondary-school>

Snowy weather

If it snows children will require a change of outdoor footwear, warm clothing and spare socks. Mr Bickerstaff clears a pathway from the main gate to the front door and in the interests of your safety we request that you use this route into school. We endeavour to stay open and in severe weather it is important that you send children to school so long as you are sure that you can get them home safely again. We understand if parents need to collect children early due to travel difficulties. In the unlikely event of us being forced to close school we will send text and email notification, place notices on the website, on the gate, notify local radio stations and post a notice on the school Facebook page.

**Spring Term**

Our half term holiday is the week beginning Monday 13th February and the Easter holidays start on Monday 3rd April.

**This month’s Raising Yorkshire Puddings Support Group Session**

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