

Frizington Primary School



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

I cannot believe that it is nearly the end of term already and what a fantastic term it has been with so many amazing learning opportunities for our pupils.

On Thursday we are holding our Leavers' and end of term assembly at 2:30pm (no late entry) and then our Leavers' Disco at 4:30pm. (Y6 Party at 4pm). If any parents are able to help at the disco, please let Mrs Rose or Mrs Little know.

Could we please have the B&W copies of the reports signed and returned to School before Friday.

LEAVER'S DISCO

This Thursday

4:30-6:00 pm

**DON'T FORGET YOUR
DISCO TICKETS!**

£2 including Hot Dog and a drink.

Sweets and treats available

to buy too.

AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE

SPORTS' DAY

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Sports' Day this week. The children were all great sports and gave it their all. A huge congratulations to the Yellow Team who won the trophy this year - Well Done!



Uniform for September

I appreciate that towards the last couple of weeks of term, if children's shoes are too worn then parents do not want to pay for new shoes. However, please remember that in September children must wear black school shoes with black soles.

Also if you are planning on getting your child's ears pierced over the holiday please remember that School has a strict no jewellery policy so if you can, this weekend would be a great time to get them pierced.



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you to everybody who took the time to respond to our Parent questionnaires - we see parents as partners in everything we do and in moving the School forward. We had 65 responses received by the date, which we analysed and shared with the whole staff and governors at our School Improvement Review Meeting. The responses in the main were extremely positive and the informative and complimentary comments were very much appreciated by the staff and governors.

The main areas which parents felt are a strength of the School are as follows:

- Friendly and welcoming School /atmosphere. Approachable staff. Family / Community spirit;
- Variety of topics. Breadth of curriculum and learning opportunities. Children experience a broad range of activities;
- Range of trips offered;
- Range of After-School Clubs;
- Many opportunities to go out of School for learning / Outdoor learning;
- Inclusion of parents in the School community.

Suggested common areas of development / improvement were:

- Homework;
- Not knowing enough about progress – being informed.
- Praise Assembly;
- Lack of communication;
- Difficulties for working parents in accessing parents' meetings /open afternoons etc;

There were also isolated individual comments and we would encourage parents to discuss these with Mrs Rose.

Homework

This was certainly an issue that was evident throughout the School however, it was for very different reasons: some thought it too hard, some too easy, some too much, some not enough etc. The reason the homework is standardised throughout the School is due to the parents' response two years ago. The homework is for the children to practice their basic skills needed to achieve their end of year expectations. One thing that is evident is the impact on pupils' basic skills if they are completing their homework on a regular basis. Research also shows us that homework is most effective when it involves practice or rehearsal of subject matter already taught.

We have spoken with the children in KS2 and they are also very divided in their opinions. One thing that we feel is a strength is that it is regular and the vast majority of the School are completing it. To address the issue and to try to find a compromise, we are going to slightly change the homework from September with less to complete as an expectation but more to do if parents want to. More details to follow in September.



Reporting progress to parents

Our statutory duty is to share a progress update with parents annually. As you are all aware as a School, we far exceed this requirement and in the current system, you are receiving updates five times over the year. One of the issues around this is how the assessment system has changed and levels have gone. Instead, the children are assessed against a different set of objectives every year. The children only stay within their year group objectives and the majority of pupils are expected to access these with varying degrees of support/challenge.

This new system makes reporting on progress more difficult - however it does not mean pupils are not making progress (their books are testament to this). In September, we would like to have a working group of parents to look at this so we know exactly what parents want to know and how we can best achieve this. Details to follow in the new term.

Praise Assembly



Praise assembly - as always - was a key area commented on throughout the School again for positive and negative reasons. As a staff and governing body, we think that far too much emphasis is being placed on praise assembly and the School rewards our children in many different ways (assembly is only a small part of this). Many of you requested a monthly assembly due to work commitments - however, this is not possible due to the size of the School.

We record and monitor very closely the certificates to ensure that the pupils receive an even amount (with the exception of Learning Hero which is voted for by the pupils) and due to the size of our classes / timing of the assembly as it is, children should receive on average a certificate approximately every 4/5 weeks and monthly assemblies would not achieve this. This praise also needs to be instant for our younger children.

Therefore, from next term we are going to trial having **no** parents in praise assembly for the Autumn Term. Instead, you will be invited to an end of term open assembly and celebration of your child's class where all pupils will receive a certificate for a special achievement within that term. We will then review this with parents, staff, governors and pupils at the end of the term.

Communication with parents

This was somewhat a surprise for us due to the many ways parents can access information about the School. Class newsletters are sent out to parents in the first week of every term and are available to view on the School website throughout the term. In this newsletter it tells you about the topics for the term, dates etc. Whole School newsletters are available on our website and through the FB link. A text is also sent out as an alert. Any texts about open afternoons, Sports Day etc are sent as a reminder.

We totally appreciate that letters which are sent out in pupils' hands do not necessarily make it home and



because of this, letters which are sent home are also uploaded on to the website are in the noticeboard on the playground and in the information holders in the front entrance. Mrs Little also updates our Google Calendar, which is available on the website.

In the last School newsletter, we also shared the link to our new app, which we will begin to use as a main source of communication from September (so please make sure you sign up). This will send you alerts when new information is added so hopefully this will further enhance the many ways you can access the information.

SCHOOL JOTTER APP



Our School now has its own app which is linked to our website. In the future we are going to be using this as our main source of communication with parents.

You can download the app on Google Play or at the Apple Store. Just search for School Jotter and then add our School.

Arrangements for Working Parents

As a School, wherever possible, we have an open door policy. We are very proud of this and through your parent questionnaires, it is evident that you appreciate this as parents. We do understand that this can be difficult for working parents. This is why our parents' meetings are open until 6pm and are over more than one day (to try and support shift workers.) Our staff are extremely accommodating with their time and there has not been an occasion where a parents' meeting has not happened due to work commitments.

Our staff are extremely hard working and are often in School very early (paid from 8:35 am) and very late (paid until 3:40 pm); the reason they are here is to prepare and assess pupils' work but it is in their own time and I think this needs to be appreciated by parents. However, within reason, staff are more than willing to make arrangements at the convenience of both parties.

One of the suggestions was to have meetings / assemblies etc in the evenings. Unfortunately, our open afternoons / assemblies cannot be held after School due to our children having many commitments and staff too.

WHAT'S ON IN THE SUMMER

Cumbria County Council

Would you like to win £250 worth of new books for your school?

MISCHIEF MAKERS
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2018

Brand New for 2018!

Summer Reading Challenge Schools Competition

NEW BEANOTOWN LIBRARY

Sign up for Mischief Makers and read 6 books borrowed from a public library in Cumbria to help your school win this fantastic prize.

Prizes include:

- £250 worth of books from the Summer Reading Challenge 2018 book list!
- A framed Summer Reading Challenge Schools Competition certificate

DATES FOR THE TERM

Thu 19th July	Leavers' Assembly 2:30pm
	Leavers' Disco 4:30 - 6:00pm
Fri 20th July	School closes for Summer at 1:15pm
Sat 28th July	Family Fun Day Crossfield Community Centre 1:00-3:00pm
Monday 3rd Sep	Staff INSET
Tuesday 4th Sep	School re-opens for Y1-Y6 pupils
4th & 5th Sep	New Reception intake home visits
Mon 22nd - Fri 26th Oct	Half-Term
Mon 24th Dec - Mon 7th Jan	Christmas Holidays

Whitehaven RLFC
in partnership with Whitehaven RL Foundation

SUMMER CAMP

15th & 29th August 2018

10am - 2pm

Ages 6 - 16 yrs

£5 per child

Camps lead by Carl Forster

To book your place, please tel Whitehaven RLFC on 01946 328088

ORGANISED BY THE CROSSLACON TEAM OF CHURCHES

ANOTHER FAMILY FUN DAY

ON SATURDAY 28th JULY 2018

IN CROSSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE, CLEATOR MOOR

FROM 2:00pm ONWARDS

FREE BARBECUE

FREE REFRESHMENTS

VARIOUS CHILDREN'S GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

SEE YOU THERE