



# Newsletter

## Autumn Term

### DIARY DATES



Dear all,

What an absolutely fabulous start to the school year this has been! The children have settled so well into their new classes and it is a delight to see the new Reception children really enjoying school and learning. This half term has also been cram-packed full of great learning, events and opportunities. A major highlight has been the music ringing through the whole school: Voice of the Year, musical workshops, violin tuition, Y6 brass lessons and also the newly introduced guitar lessons for pupils in KS2. I am particularly proud of those children who sang on stage in front of audiences in school as well as at Lancaster Music Festival. Wow!

School Closes for half term - Friday 18th October

School Re-Opens - Monday 28th October

Halloween Disco - Wednesday 30th October

Secondary School Application deadline - Thursday 31st October

Parents Evening - Monday 4th November

Year 1 Cinema trip - Wednesday 13th November

Year 6 trip to Museum of Lancashire - Thursday 7th / Tuesday 12th November

### ATTENDANCE



What an amazing start to the new school year on attendance. Well done to Cedar, Chestnut, Larch & Pine with over 95% but a special mention to Elm and Sycamore with 96%. Keep up the good work.

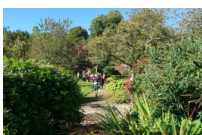
### TRIPS

**Year 6** had an excellent day sightseeing. We saw radio city, the Cavern, Matthew Street where the Beatles played, Royal Liver Building and more!

In the afternoon, we had a workshop at the World Museum where we handled artefacts that were 2000 years old. There were swords, statues of Gods, bowls and items from daily life. It was a memorable day and lots of fun was had by all.



**Year 3** had a fantastic trip to Leighton Hall. They spent time in the orchard learning about apples, before baking them on an open fire and making their own juice. They also learnt about the importance of bees by playing games and making



### What we have been learning

**Year 1** - In autumn term 1 our topic has been 'Lost in the Toy Museum'. This was a history based topic focusing on toys from the past. Children have been exploring how toys have changed through the decades, what they were made from and how they were used.

During this topic, we looked at the book 'Lost in the Toy Museum' and followed Bunting the cat on his epic journey through the toy museum to find his friends. We have been writing short stories about the book and we have also been testing materials to make a waterproof jacket for Bunting!

**Year 3** - The Stone Age to Iron Age

We started our first term in Year 3 by taking on the role of archaeologists, digging for artefacts to find out about life in pre-history. We have excavated coprolites (Stone Age poo!) to find out what they ate. We made cave drawings and cooked Iron Age food on an open fire. We discovered how life evolved over thousands of years.

**Year 5** - got stuck into their science topic:

properties and changes of materials. They have tested different materials and conducted experiments to learn about reversible and irreversible changes.

In English, we studied the book 'Coraline' - a spooky tale which inspired us to write our own spooky stories!

## EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

We have had a lot of extra curricular clubs running after school for the children this half term including Dance Club, Musical Theatre, Eco Club, Chess Club and The Sustainables.

The Sustainables Club have been planting spring bulbs in the meadow.

The Dance Club are getting ready for the dance show "Dance through the Decades" to celebrate 60 years of Our Ladys, the children have picked to do a mash up of songs from the years they were born.

Musical Theatre are busy preparing for the upcoming events. They have been asked to perform at John Kay Court and for the North West Air Ambulance in December.

### BIKEABILITY

Over the last two weeks Year 5 have spent two days each, learning about road safety and looking after their bikes. They have all thoroughly enjoyed this and have all passed with flying colours. It can not be overstated how important this training has been for them.



Well done all of you!



### VOICE OF THE YEAR

On Friday 4th October, we held our annual Voice of the Year competition.

It was an amazing musical afternoon in school. All the finalists performed brilliantly and it was so difficult to choose a winner! They did a second performance to parents/carers on Tuesday 8th October.



A big well done to all the finalists!

Well done to Louise and Maya who also performed to the public at the Music Festival on the school stage on Saturday 12th October.



### NURSERY

The children in nursery have been learning about the season of autumn. We have been practising our cutting skills to cut different coloured paper into small pieces to then stick onto the leaves for our tree. We have been learning the colour names - brown, red, orange and yellow. The children then practised developing their fine motor skills by using glue spreaders to spread glue onto the leaves and then stick the small collage pieces onto the leaves.



We made a beautiful autumn tree with the different colour leaves. When the leaves keep falling off the tree, as the blu tak doesn't hold them up very well, the children keep saying it looks like a real autumn tree now!

### MUSIC

We had a fantastic week with the Music Festival. We had some very talented musicians deliver different workshops throughout school.

Riognach Connolly – Singing

Filomena Ianni – Drums

David Baker – Organ

All the children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and playing new musical instruments.



## SPORTING EVENTS

This half term has been a busy one for the school football teams. The boys went to Our Lady's on Tuesday for their first tournament of the year. They showed excellent skills and maturity and came in 5th place. The girls participated in the Lancaster and Heysham Schools tournament on Thursday at Lancaster and Morecambe College. They finished 2nd in their very tricky group and were great ambassadors for the school. Well done to everyone who took part!



6 of our pupils also took part in a KS2 Multiskills Panathlon challenge at the University of Cumbria. They took part in team events including Basketball & Bocce. The children had a great morning and were presented with medals and certificates.

