

Croftlands Junior School



May 2018

Dear All

This half term has been shorter than usual but we have still managed to fill it with a wide range of activities and even more are planned for the second half of the term. The school diary is looking very full!

We are very proud of the way our Year 6 children approached their End of Key Stage 2 tests (SATs). They have been working very hard and I am confident that they tried their best, which is all we can ask. The papers have been sent away for marking and the school will receive the results on Tuesday 10th July. We hope to be able to distribute the results that day or the day after.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Brown had a little girl, Maggie May, in early May. They are both doing well and we wish them all the very best. Miss Little has taken over Mrs Brown's role of PE co-ordinator during her maternity leave. Croftlands Junior School has been represented at a range of sporting events including mini red tennis, cricket and tag rugby. We have two of the Barrow Raiders rugby players in school once a week to help develop reading skills and run a multi-skills club.

The school choir took part in Ulverston Voices at the Coronation Hall at the end of April. This was organised by the Cumbria Music Hub and six local primary schools were involved. It was an excellent evening and many thanks to Hannah Godden and Pat Callison who helped with supervision.

Education funding, or the lack of it, is still a huge cause for concern for our school. The governors have only been able to submit a balanced budget by making significant changes to the school structure. There may also be an impact on the activities we can offer. There is further information about this in this newsletter and parents will be receiving a letter from the governors soon after half term. Do take a look at the School Cuts website to see how our school is likely to be affected over the next couple of years (www.schoolcuts.org.uk).

Hopefully you are all aware that Little Acorns will no longer be providing Breakfast and After School Clubs after the end of term. Both schools are working to organise an alternative. The Infant School plan to provide both before and after school sessions for both Infant and Junior children in September. The Junior School will be organising the provision for Junior children once we have moved into the new school.

As part of the Considerate Constructors Scheme, the contractors, Elliott, have entered the school in a national hoarding design competition. The hoardings were put up last week and have been painted white to give us a blank canvas. The theme is 'Our Community', embracing the school community, the organisations that use the school, the Ulverston Community and the Lake District. We hope to involve every child in school in the painting and will be seeking volunteers to help us supervise the work. The work has to be completed very early next half term. Please contact the school office if you can help.

The school are involved in a community arts project which is based around the Coronation Hall and its history over the last 100 years. The project involves building small theatres and creating puppets and scenery. Mrs McMillan has selected artists from across the whole school.

The summer term is, as usual, chock full of activities and events so I would appreciate it if you would take particular note of the key dates on the back page. It just remains for me to wish you all a happy half term.

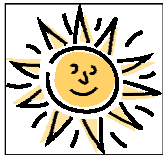
Miss Cathy Styles, Headteacher

Parking around school



Now that many of Year 5 have passed their Bikeability test, some of them are cycling to school. We would ask all parents to be extra careful about driving and parking near school both in the mornings and at the end of the school day. Children who have passed their Bikeability 2 and want to cycle to school independently must complete a Home-School Cycling Agreement before they do.

Slip, Slap, Slop!



We are optimistic that we will continue to have some sunny summer weather after half term and we would appreciate it if you would make sure your child is prepared. They should

Slip on a shirt! PE kit shirts must have some sort of sleeves to protect the shoulders

Slap on a hat! *Children should also bring a hat* to protect them whilst outside. They can be outside for a long time during lunch or PE lessons.

Slop on some sun screen! Children are allowed to apply their own sunscreen. Staff cannot provide or apply sunscreen in school and children are not encouraged to share unless with a family member.

Priority Building Schools Programme

The contractors are making excellent progress with the building. The steelwork for the school hall is now up and the rest of the building has been constructed off site at the factory just outside Bridlington. When we return after half term, they will start to bring the building over in sections. The entire building is expected to be constructed by the middle of June. The contractors will then start fitting the building out and completing the fascias and external finishes. We are still expecting to move in after half term in the autumn.



GDPR



Many of you will be aware of the changes to the law around Data Protection which come into force on 25th May. We are adapting our school privacy notices and the school's GDPR policy can be found on our website. To minimise disruption to parents, we will send the altered paperwork regarding permissions in September as usual when we do our annual data collection. Any parents who wish to renew their permissions and review their

data information before then can request it from the school office. The new rules do mean that it is even more important that the paperwork is returned promptly when we send it out in the autumn.

Summer Showcase Concert



Our annual Summer Showcase Concert will take place on Thursday 14th June. We have some very talented musicians in our school and this is their opportunity to demonstrate their skills. The Guitar Club and the choir will also perform.

After School Activities

We are very fortunate, here at the Juniors, that several staff run a variety of after school activities for the children. They do this because they enjoy the activities themselves and want to share their enthusiasm with the children. These are not a curriculum requirement and the staff are not paid for the additional hours they do, which is why we can offer these for free. The activities are planned on the assumption that those who have signed up will turn up and sometimes full attendance is crucial to the activity. It is therefore very frustrating when children do not appear. If your child has signed up for an activity, please would you encourage them to attend regularly and at least have the good manners to inform the class teacher in advance if they will be absent for any reason.

Upper School Production—Wind in the Willows

The Upper School production is looking like it is going to be another memorable event this year. We are performing Wind in the Willows, which we last did in 2013, and it is full heroes and villains and some great songs. Parents of children in the Upper School should take note of the dates on the back of the newsletter as this will be unforgettable!



School Funding

Over the last couple of years, this newsletter has made mention of the precarious state of funding for the school. School funding is based predominately on a per pupil funding level. Over the last seven years the amount of money the school has received for each pupil has not changed. However, the school has had to pay increased employer pension contributions, increased employer national insurance contributions, nationally agreed pay increases, increased utility and resources costs and, as a LA maintained school, the Apprenticeship levy. Local Authority funding for Special Needs has also not increased so the Local Authority now requires schools to fund a minimum of 11 hours classroom support for pupils with Special Educational Needs before any top up funding can be allocated.

The National Funding Formula, which has been devised to even out funding across the country, has made very little difference to the school budget. In fact the amount of money provided per pupil has gone down because Cumbria has always provided a generous per pupil funding allocation.

Combined with a predicted temporary drop in numbers at school over the next couple of years, this means that the situation has worsened significantly and the Governors have been forced to make some difficult decisions regarding the number of classes and class sizes next year. They will be writing to all parents after half term with more details.

Uniform

A lot of non-uniform items are coming in to school at the moment, **particularly footwear**. We would like to remind both parents and children that the school uniform is as follows:

- **Grey** school trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores
- White polo shirt
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan with the Croftlands logo
- Red gingham dress
- **Flat, black shoes or sandals** – fashion trainers such as Converse and sports trainers should **not** be worn all day (research shows that it is not good for growing feet)

Nail varnish and shaved designs in hair are discouraged as they are not appropriate for school. PE kit is a plain **white T shirt, black shorts and black plimsolls**. Children must have a **change of footwear for PE** (sports trainers may be worn for PE outside).

Details of our Uniform policy are on our website and copies can be obtained from the office on request. School uniform is available from Tesco Direct, Coniston Corporate and Identity. **Identity have asked us to let you know that their shop in Barrow is moving on 29th May. They are now just off Ironworks Road on the one way system. Turn right opposite the Vauxhall showroom and follow the road down towards the college. Identity are on the left before you reach Ironworks Road.**

Free School Meals



Remember ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money. Register now to make sure we don't miss out!

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. Details of how we used this money last year can be found on our website.

For every child registered, Croftlands Junior School received over £1300

last year.

Your child does not have to take the meal if they do not want it. We still get the funding as long as they are registered.

Please register online in the Schools/Learning area of the Cumbria County Council website at cumbria.gov.uk.

Asthma inhalers & medical conditions



Now the summer is here and we are using the school field more regularly, it is **really important** that we know which children in school use a blue (reliever) inhaler and that they have that inhaler in school, particularly at this time of year when we are outside a lot more. We would like to ask all parents who have a child with a blue inhaler to request a **second inhaler** that can be kept in school. Most GPs are happy to do this.

It is also very important that we are informed if something changes with your child's health over the year. At the moment, we have children who we have been advised as needing inhalers who tell us they do not need them any more and children who have started to use inhalers during the year but school has not been notified. **If you are not sure whether your child's information is up to date, please contact the school office to check our records.**

Term Dates Term Dates for 2018 & 2019

Please note, we usually follow the Local Authority's suggested term dates which are published two years in advance on the County Council website—www.cumbria.gov.uk. However, in 2018-19, to minimise disruption to the school when we move to the new building, we have adjusted some of the dates.

Please also note the Easter dates in 2019.

Summer Term 2018 <i>Half Term</i>	Monday 16th April—Friday 20th July <i>Monday 28th May—Friday 1st June</i>
Autumn Term 2018 <i>Half Term</i>	Tuesday 4th September— Friday 21st December <i>Close at lunchtime on Friday 19th October</i> <i>Re-open on Thursday 1st November</i>
Spring Term 2019 <i>Half Term</i>	<i>Monday 7th January</i> —Friday 29th March <i>Monday 18th February—Friday 22nd February</i>
Summer Term 2019 <i>Easter Weekend</i> <i>Early May Bank Holiday</i> <i>Half Term</i>	<i>Monday 15th April—Friday 19th July</i> <i>Friday 19th April—Monday 22nd April</i> <i>Monday 6th May</i> <i>Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May</i>

Under the revised Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations the Headteacher is **no longer able to authorise absence** from school for holidays in term time. Authorisation for absence in term time can only be given in exceptional circumstances. **If you need to take your child out of school for any reason other than medical appointments, you should arrange an appointment to discuss the matter with the Headteacher.**

An unauthorised absence from school is any absence that is deemed not to be an acceptable reason for missing school. Unauthorised absences from school carry the risk of prosecution under section 444 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996. In accordance with Cumbria County Council's School Absence Enforcement Policy, parents may be issued with a penalty notice if a leave of absence is taken without permission.

In 2019, Year 6 test week is the week beginning 13th May.

Current Dates For Your Diary

Friday 8th June	- 3/4BM Class assembly at 1:30pm
Wednesday 13th June	- Anthony Wright in to take Year 6 class and team/club photos
Thursday 14th June	- Summer Showcase concert
Friday 15th June	- Coronation Hall Art Project Day (selected children)
	- 5/6C Class assembly at 1:30pm
Saturday 16th June	- Weekend Walk
Sunday 17th June	- St Mary's Gala
Tuesday 19th June	- Y3/4 Cricket
Wednesday 20th June	- Coronation Hall Art Project Day (selected children)
Thursday 21st June	- Year 6 Junior Citizenship in Barrow
Friday 22nd June	- Coronation Hall Art Project Day (selected children)
Sunday 24th June	- Chetwynde Gala
Monday 2nd July	- UVHS & Dowdales Y6 transition day
Tuesday 3rd July	- UVHS & Dowdales Y6 transition day
Friday 6th July	- School reports go out
Tuesday 10th July	- Upper School production, Wind in the Willows at 6:30pm
Wednesday 11th July	- Upper School production, Wind in the Willows at 1:30pm (provisional time)
Friday 13th July	- Open Afternoon from 2:30pm
Monday 16th July	- Y6 Forest School day at Rook How (1/2 of Year 6)
Tuesday 17th July	- Y6 Forest School day at Rook How (1/2 of Year 6)
Thursday 19th July	- Y6 Leavers' Party at 6pm
Friday 20th July	- Last day of term—Y6 Leavers' Assembly at 2pm (tbc)