

Croftlands Junior School



July 2017

Dear All

In this letter at this time last year, I mentioned that it had been a difficult year in school, one of the most difficult I had ever known since working in education. Little did I know that 2016-17 was going to be harder still! This year has proved to be my toughest since becoming a headteacher, and the toughest for many of our staff, for many, many diverse reasons. The school is still facing serious budget issues in the long term and the current assessment procedures remain a huge cause for concern. We have managed to balance our budget this year but, if nothing changes with regard to funding, we will be facing some difficult decisions in 2018-19. It is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of all of our staff that we have still managed to fit so many varied and interesting activities into school life and continue to do our best to focus on the needs of our children. This was recognised by the Ofsted inspector in our last inspection and Ofsted encouraged us to continue our inclusive and varied curriculum.

Many thanks to all of you who supported our Tenner Project fundraising afternoon. The children raised a magnificent £720. £360 went to school funds and, following consultation with the children, the remainder was split between the Joshua West Foundation and St Mary's Hospice.

We were all thoroughly entertained by the Upper School production of 'Cinderella and Rockerfella'. Years 5 & 6 rose to the occasion marvellously and the production was an outstanding success. Several parents, who are veteran audience members of our productions, have commented that they thought it was the best yet. We are really fortunate to have so many talented singers, actors, dancers and children with the technical skills to manage the backstage. Congratulations to all involved.

Our Year 6 spent a fabulous day at Rookhow, Rusland, as part of our Forest school programme. The weather was excellent and they built shelters, toasted marshmallows and basically played in the woods all day. Many thanks to Mrs Fellowes and Mrs Goodson who organised it, to John Shakeshaft, who drove the minibus, and the staff who also went along to help.

We do wish our Year 6 children all the very best as they move on to the next stage of their education. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege to get to know them, and to teach them over the last four years, and I look forward to watching their progress as they embark upon this new phase in their lives. Thank you for entrusting them to us. We are very proud of our children's achievements and we will miss them all.

We also welcome a member of staff next term. Mrs Raven has been teaching with us since January during Miss Anderton's absence and has worked above and beyond what is usually expected of a supply teacher, attending parent evenings and writing school reports. She will be joining our staff in September to work in the Upper School. Many thanks to her for all of her hard work over the last two terms and we look forward to seeing her again in September.

Last but not least, we bid farewell to Mrs Callison. Mrs Callison joined the school as a SAWA in September 1992, so long ago that that job title no longer exists! Many, many children have passed through her care over the last 24 years. She is a dedicated teaching assistant who cares deeply for the children she works with and I know she has made a difference to very many young lives. She will be sorely missed, although I have been assured we may still see her from time to time, and we wish her well in her retirement. Thank you!

It simply remains for me to thank you again for your support this year and wish you a safe and happy holiday.

Cathy Styles
Headteacher

Thankyou!



We would like to thank all of you who have helped in school over the last year, whether it be escorting classes to the baths, hearing readers, helping in class, providing transport for some events or supporting us on school trips. We really could not do as much as we do without you! Many, many thanks. once again.

School Dinner price

Unfortunately, the price of school dinners is going up again in September. We have always subsidised our school meals but, due to the implementation of the National Living Wage, the cost of meals provided has risen significantly. Consequently, in September, the price of meals will rise to **£2.50**. Even at this price, meals are still being subsidised by the school budget.



Road Safety and Parking



Many thanks to those of you who have supported us by parking away from the school or using the lollipop man. You are setting a good example to the children and helping us to keep all of the children more safe on their journeys to and from school.

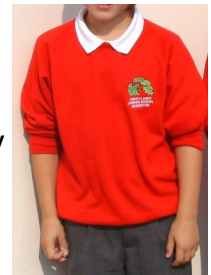
We would like to remind parents that they should not use the school car park from 8:30am–9:00am and 3:15pm -3:45pm.

We would also like to remind parents to park considerately when we return in September. Local residents get used to the peace and quiet during August!

Uniform

We do adopt a flexible approach towards uniform as the end of the summer term approaches but I would like to remind both parents and children that the school uniform is as follows:

- **Grey** school trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- White polo shirt
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan **with the Croftlands logo**
- Red gingham dress
- **Flat, black shoes or sandals**—sports trainers should **not** be worn all day (research shows that they are not good for growing feet)



PE kit is

- plain white T shirt
- black shorts
- black plimsolls— **children must have a change of footwear for PE** (sports trainers may be worn for PE outside).

Nail varnish and shaved designs in hair are discouraged as they are not appropriate for school.

The school sweatshirt or cardigan are the only uniform items required with the school logo, the rest of the uniform can be bought from local shops and supermarkets or from our suppliers .

Details of our Uniform policy are on our website and copies can be obtained from the office on request. The current policy has been in place for some time now and, from September, we will contact you if your child is not in the correct uniform.

We now have **three** uniform suppliers—**Identity** in Barrow, **Coniston Corporate** and **Tesco Direct**. Identity has supplied our school with uniform items for many years and provide a range of optional additional items that feature the school logo. Coniston Corporate is an online shop and uniform items ordered online are delivered to school. If you do not have internet access, you can order via the school office. Please note that Coniston Corporate make items to order, so uniform bought from them is **non-returnable**. A link to the online shop has been posted on our website but you can also put the following link in your browser— http://www.conistonshop.com/shop_select.php?ShopID=MTEz. If you have any difficulties, please contact the office for details.

Tesco Direct can provide sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with our logo and the school receives a small donation from every sale.

A small amount of second hand uniform is available from the school office in exchange for a donation.

Please register your child for Free School Meals



The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

Croftlands Junior School received over £1300 this year for every child who was registered at some point in the last 6 years.

With this money we provided more classroom support for children to help them achieve, paid for booster classes in Year 6, subsidised trips for all pupils, paid for sports coaches to work with classes and provided enriching curricular activities. If you are registered for Free School Meals, school can also contribute towards the cost of school trips, including residential trips, music lessons, swimming lessons and after school activities organised by school, you just need to ask at the office.

If you are registered for Free School Meals in Cumbria, you are also entitled to a school clothing grant.

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 area of Education and Learning at www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices.

School Attendance

We would like to thank all of you who have made such efforts to improve our school attendance. This year **25 Gold certificates** were handed out to children who have attended school, and been at registration, every day since September. Three children achieved full attendance throughout their four years in KS2. A remarkable achievement!



Last year, the government reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%. This means that the school has to take action if attendance falls below 90%. This usually means an initial letter advising parents of our concerns but, if attendance does not improve or continues to deteriorate, it may result in a request to attend an attendance panel.

	Rules (10%)
Half term 1	7 or more sessions (3.5 days)
Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	14 or more sessions (7 days)
Half term 1-3	20 or more sessions (10 days)
Half term 1-4 (autumn term & spring term combined)	25 or more sessions (12.5 days)
Half term 1-5	31 or more sessions (15.5 days)
Half term 1-6 (full academic year)	38 or more sessions (19 days)

Governing Body

One of our Parent Governors reaches the end of their term of office in September.

Parent governors are elected by other parents and are vital to our Governing Body. They have the same responsibility as other governors for carrying out the Governing Body's wide range of responsibilities. Governors have a strategic or policy-making role in the school; they don't run the school on a day-to-day basis. You do not have to be an expert on education to be a school governor and we value the experience that all governors bring to the role.

If you join our Governing Body, you will serve for a four year term and you can continue to the end of the four years even if your child/children leave the school.

If anyone is interested in becoming a governor at the school, please contact the school office for details.

Priority Schools Building Programme 2

It was lovely to see so many of you at the public consultation the other week and we hope you were impressed with the proposed plans. The plans are now with the planning board and I will be continuing to have meetings with the architects and contractors during the holidays. Obviously, the builders cannot start until planning permission is granted and this is likely to take about 3 months. Once planning permission is obtained, contracts will be signed and the building can start. Steps are being taken to minimise disruption to the school during the process but there will inevitably be some so we do ask for your patience and understanding over the next 12 months. It will all be worth it when we have a building that is sound, fit for purpose and more attractive.



Term Dates for 2017 & 2018

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 2017-18, to support parents, we have moved some of the term dates to fit in with changes to the dates at UVHS.** You have already been notified of this.

Autumn Term 2017 <i>Half Term</i>	Wednesday 6th September—Tuesday 19th December <i>Monday 23rd October—Friday 27th October</i>
Spring Term 2018 <i>Half Term</i>	Thursday 4th January—Thursday 29th March <i>Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February</i>
Summer Term 2018 <i>May Bank Holiday</i> <i>Half Term</i>	Monday 16th April—Friday 20th July <i>Monday 7th May</i> <i>Monday 28th May—Friday 1st June</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 2018, Year 6 test week is the week beginning 14th May.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Little Acorns runs both a Breakfast Club and an After School Club for 2-11 year olds, Mondays to Fridays during term time. Having taken on additional business to ensure childcare provision in Ulverston is maintained, Little Acorns are having significant issues with accommodation. In September, Little Acorns will be using a room at the Junior School for children in Years 4, 5 & 6. Children in Year 3 will continue to go to over to the Portacabin or the Infant school. Little Acorns have all the details for parents. This is a temporary arrangement and the County Council are planning to provide additional accommodation for Little Acorns during 2018.

Tel: 01229 480018

Breakfast Club runs from 7:30am until 9:00am.

After School Club runs from 3:15pm until 6:00pm.

During the summer holidays you can contact them at info@yourlittleacorns.com

Recycle your old uniform

We do like to keep some spare uniform in school for emergency use. If you have any old PE kit, skirts, trousers or polo shirts that are in good condition, the office would be happy to take them off you. We also appreciate any spare swimming trunks, costumes or towels. We have already have plenty of spare sweatshirts.

Swimming

Swimming starts for children in the Lower School on **Tuesday 19th September**. You will receive a letter with the details, and asking for help, at the start of term.



Lost Property

We still have a large amount of lost property in school, particularly sweatshirts, and we will be sorting through the items during the holidays.

If you are missing any items please come in to school at the start of next term to take a look. Unclaimed property will be sent to charity or disposed of after Friday 8th September.

Office Hours

During term time the school office is open for enquiries etc. from 8.30am to 4.00pm each day. Outside our office hours, messages may be left on our answering machine and the messages are checked regularly. During the holidays the school office is closed but we can still be contacted by email at office@croftlands-jun.cumbria.sch.uk if there is a matter that cannot wait until the start of term.