

Croftlands Junior School



October 2018

Dear All

I thought I would be sending this on our last day in our old building but, as you know, the handover for the building has been delayed and will now happen around the Christmas holidays. I do apologise for the inconvenience these changes have caused some of you but the entire situation is out of our control. It will be worth it eventually, I assure you! There are a lot of different teams involved in the procedure and moving over Christmas has the added complication of trying to manage the process around the bank holiday breaks. The proposed new dates are on the back of this newsletter but I will be contacting all parents with confirmation of these very soon after half term.

In many ways, the delay has been a blessing as the last few weeks have been very hectic in school and I am not sure how we would have managed to pack up the school as well. Moving house is difficult enough but moving an entire school is a huge task, especially whilst still trying to provide an education to over 150 children!

Our apologies but the delay also means a delay in starting our after school activities. Space and time in school is going to become quite limited as we fill packing crates throughout November. We hope to start all of our activities very early in the New Year.

Hopefully you are all aware that we are running our own Breakfast and After School Club provision after half term. This is a significant undertaking for the school and, whilst there are bound to be some initial teething problems, I am confident it will be a huge benefit to parents and children. We would appreciate any donations of complete jigsaws, board games, or construction kits (including LEGO) to help get us started.

Almost all parents of children in Year 6 have applied for their child's secondary school place. The deadline is **31st October** so, if you have not done it yet, it is now urgent. We have already been advised by UVHS that they are likely to be oversubscribed this year so there is no guarantee of a place. Late applications are allocated a school place at a secondary school but usually not at a school of choice.

We will be holding our Parent evenings early next half term. These were originally delayed to allow you all to look around the new building but obviously that is not happening now. The letters will be going out at half term so you can book your appointment. There will be some changes to the Upper School appointments due to the large class sizes.

The second half of term is **very busy** so we would appreciate it if you would take particular note of the dates on the back page. The school office is having a lot of problems at the moment with parents not reading letters or messages from school, not ordering school lunches, not contacting us when a child is off school, not returning reply slips etc.

Our school productions are legendary and every child has an opportunity to take part in a production every year. Staff do their best to make sure that those who want a speaking, dancing or acting role, get one but, if it is not possible, priority is given to the older children and there is always another opportunity next year.

This year's Christmas production will be 'Are we nearly there yet?', presented by the Lower School (Years 3 & 4).

Auditions have been held and parts will be allocated over half term. There will be two performances, one during the afternoon and one in the evening. Tickets will be available to parents of children in the Lower School during the week before the performances and are initially restricted to two per family until everyone has had an opportunity to buy them. All Lower School children will be involved in the production in some way or another so it is important that they are available for both performances. Please make a note of the dates on the back of this newsletter.

Many thanks for all of your support and I do hope you all have a good half term holiday. I look forward to seeing the children return refreshed and ready for an even busier than usual few weeks.

Miss Cathy Styles, Headteacher

Punctuality

We have a significantly large number of children who are regularly arriving late for school. The **school register is taken at 8:55am and lessons have started by 9am**. Arriving late can be very unsettling for children and is disruptive to lessons. **Please make sure your child is in school by 8:55am.**



We would like to thank those parents who support us by ensuring that their children get to school on time and every day and also those of you that telephone or leave a message for us if your child is not going to be in school.

Do you know what your child accesses online? Does your child use online gaming?

At Croftlands Junior School, we actively promote safe use of the Internet and we monitor the sites and resources the children access, with the help of our filtering system. Cyberbullying is becoming an ever-increasing problem due to the variety of mobile phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles children now have at their fingertips. The legal age for an account on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Google or YouTube is 13 because younger children do not have the emotional maturity to understand the consequences of what they may upload or post.



Please help us to reduce the risk of cyberbullying by **monitoring what your child accesses online at home**. You can find further advice at <http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre> or you can always ask at school.

New building



Our new building is almost complete. Bizarrely, because of the way the building has been constructed, the school is almost completely finished inside, the delay is just with the external finish and now the weather has complicated matters. I was able to have a look round last week and the school is fabulous inside. I was so excited to see our plans so near completion. It will be so lovely for our children to work in a building that is fit for purpose. You will all get an opportunity to look around the new building once we have moved in.



Road Safety and Parking



I would like to remind parents that they should not be parking in the school car park at the beginning or end of the school day. The car park should only be used by staff, registered taxis or blue badge holders. Many thanks to those of you who have supported us by parking away from the school. 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.

Using the school car park or parking on the yellow lines or yellow zigzags remains dangerous for the children and we would ask you to make safety your priority rather than convenience. There have been a couple of 'near misses' because of bad parking or dangerous manoeuvres since the start of term and we do not want there to be an accident before drivers change their habits.

Please show consideration for our neighbours and park legally and responsibly.

Gossip & Speculation



There have been a few occasions this term when school matters have been discussed at length on social media. Speculation and gossip from people who do not have all the facts is not only very damaging to the school but can also be damaging to children and families. There is almost always more to a story than is apparent at first sight. We would like to remind parents that, if they have any concerns about school, they should contact us directly. If you are concerned about your child, your first point of contact should be your child's classteacher, who is best placed to address your concerns and our complaints procedure is available on our website or from the school office.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Each class is going to put together some shoeboxes for Boxes of Hope who send shoeboxes directly from Cumbria to Romania.

We would appreciate any contributions of facecloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hairbrushes/combs, colouring books, pens, pencils, crayons, small toys, hats, scarves, gloves, non-chocolate sweets. Please do not send in aerosols, liquids (bubbles, shampoo, shower gel), sharp items, novels, war related toys (guns, tanks, soldiers) or medicine.

Any families who want to contribute a shoebox of their own can collect a leaflet with the information from the school office.

The boxes will be collected in November so we really need all contributions by **Friday 9th November** at the very latest. The charity have websites if you want further information about their work.



Just a quick reminder to parents of children in Year 6 that we need the deposits for Robinwood after half term. Although it is a residential trip, this is a significant part of our school curriculum and part of the National Curriculum so we expect every child to take part. If you were unable to attend the meeting, Mr Cross does have a DVD he can lend parents.

Some financial support is available for those who need it; you just need to contact Miss Styles.

Did you know ... 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

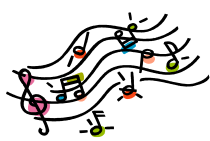
The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'.

For every child registered, Croftlands Junior School received over £1300 last year. With this money we provided more classroom support for children to help them achieve and in some cases 'catch up', 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 you could also get support towards the cost of school trips, including residential trips, music lessons and swimming lessons.

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 and the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your child was registered for one day.

Please register online in the Schools area of Education and Learning at www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices.

Instrument Lessons



We have a piano teacher, Ms Ord, and a brass teacher, Mrs McCullough, who visit school every week to give lessons.

They both have spaces available and we can lend brass instruments free of charge. There is a charge for these lessons. Please contact the school office for further details.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



As usual, we will be supporting the Poppy Appeal during the two weeks after half term, before Remembrance Sunday on 11th November.

School Councillors will be bringing the boxes around to classes once a day for the children to make their donations. Last year the British Legion provided us with a School's Box which had a variety of other items including friendship bracelets, rulers and wrist bands with suggested donations of at least 50p to £1 depending on the item. Please make sure your child is able to donate enough money if any of these are available. We are also running a 'Guess the name of the Teddy' competition at 20p a go.



Children in Need

We will be supporting Children in Need again this year on Friday 16th November. Further details will be sent out after half term.

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.

Autumn Term 2018	Tuesday 4th September— 12pm on Tuesday 18th December
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Monday 22nd October—Friday 25th October.</i>
Spring Term 2019	Tuesday 8th January —Friday 29th March
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Monday 18th February—Friday 22nd February</i>
Summer Term 2019	Monday 15th April—Friday 19th July
Easter Weekend	Friday 19th April—Monday 22nd April
<i>Early May Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 6th May</i>
<i>Half Term</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

Tuesday 30th October	Lower School swimming re-starts
Friday 2nd November	Y5/6 Football competition at ULC
Monday 5th November	Y5/6 Quick Sticks hockey—Furness College
Saturday 10th November	ULVERSTEM at the Coronation Hall, 10-3pm
Monday 12th November -	Parent evenings all week
Friday 16th November	
Friday 16th November	Children in Need
Saturday 17th November	Weekend Walking Club—Y5/6 only
Wednesday 5th December	Nasal 'flu vaccinations for Y3,4 & 5
Tuesday 11th December	Lower School Production in the evening (6:30pm)— 'Are we nearly there yet?'
Wednesday 12th December	Lower School Production in the afternoon (2pm)— 'Are we nearly there yet?'
Thursday 13th December-	School Christmas parties
Monday 17th December	
Tuesday 18th December	School closes at 12pm

Move to new school building, Christmas holidays

Tuesday 8th January	Term starts
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Office Hours

During term time the school office is open for enquiries etc from 8:30am to 4:00pm each day. Outside these office hours, the phone is unlikely to be answered but messages may be left on our answering machine. Please do leave a message.