

Croftlands Junior School



May 2017

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!

Hopefully you have all seen the letter from Ofsted by now. We were inspected under the inspection framework that was introduced in 2015, which meant that it was a Section 8 inspection that only lasted one day. If the inspector wanted more evidence, or to change our grade from good, the inspection would have been converted to a Section 5 which would have lasted two days. The letter explains the findings and we are very pleased with the result. It is so pleasing to have the hard work of our children and teachers recognised by others.

We are very proud of the calm and mature way our Year 6 children approached their End of Key Stage 2 tests (SATs). This is only the second year of the revised tests and raised expectations so the tests are still a bit of an unknown quantity but our children 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 should be able to distribute the results on Wednesday 5th July, when the children return from their UVHS induction days.

Croftlands Junior School has been represented at a range of sporting events including mini red tennis,, tag rugby and football. Miss Little also organised an interschool netball match. 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 and Laura Marshall from Cumbria County Cricket has been coaching our Upper School classes. Many thanks to Mrs Brown who has worked so hard to make all the arrangements.

There was more media coverage of the judgement regarding school attendance recently. The law has not changed and the LA can still issue penalty notices. At Cumbria Local Authority there are clear criteria for this which include absences of more than 10 days and more than one extended absence within the same academic year. As clearly stated in our attendance policy, and regularly in this newsletter, parents should **always** talk to me **before** booking holidays, or taking their child out of school, to ensure they do not risk incurring a fine.

Education funding, or the lack of it, is still a huge cause for concern for our school. The governors have been able to submit a balanced budget for this year to the Local Authority but it looks like we will have to make some significant changes in 2018 if matters do not improve. 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)

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.

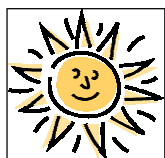
Miss Cathy Styles, Headteacher

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.

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

It is confirmed that we are having a new school building. We are now having regular meetings with the contractors and the Education Funding Agency and the plans are being drawn up. As part of the planning application, there will be an opportunity for parents and members of the public to view the plans towards the end of this term. We will let you know when the date has been decided. There is an awful lot of paperwork to be done before any building can start so we do not yet have any idea when it may be completed.



Price of School meals

We have always subsidised our school meals but, due to the increase in the National Living Wage, the cost of meals provided has risen significantly. Consequently, in September, the price of meals will rise again to **£2.50**. At this price, the meals are still being subsidised from the school budget.

Spare Swimming Kit and Towels



We keep some spare swimming kit in school for children to borrow from school when they have forgotten their own. We would appreciate any old towels, trunks or costumes you have. Please drop them off at the school office.

Heart of Ulverston Awards

These awards were started three years ago. Mr Cross has received an award in 2015 and Mrs McMillan was nominated last year. There are many dedicated staff at our school. If you think there is a member of staff at school who deserves some recognition, please feel free to nominate them using the form on the Evening Mail website.



Upper School Production—Cinderella and Rockerfella

The Upper School production is looking like it is going to be another memorable event this year. We are performing Cinderella and Rockerfella, which we last did in 2011, and it is full of some great songs and bad jokes. Parents of children in the Upper School should take note of the dates on the back of the newsletter as this will be truly memorable!



Croftlands Junior School Sports Day



We moved Sports Day earlier this year to try to catch the better weather and the strategy definitely worked! The weather was glorious and the children all did their best. Many thanks to those of you that supported the event.

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** – 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).

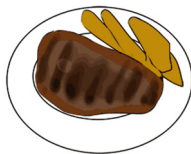
Details of our Uniform policy are on our website and copies can be obtained from the office on request.

Summer Showcase Concert



Our annual Summer Showcase Concert will take place on Thursday 29th June. This is a little later than usual to allow Mr Cross to prepare the Guitar Club. We have some very talented musicians in our school and this is their opportunity to demonstrate their skills. The choir will also perform.

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



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 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 2016-17 and 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.

Summer Term 2017	Monday 24th April—Friday 21st July
Half Term	Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June
Autumn Term 2017	Wednesday 6th September—Tuesday 19th December
Half Term	Monday 23rd October—Friday 27th October
Spring Term 2018	Thursday 4th January—Thursday 29th March
Half Term	Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February
Summer Term 2018	Monday 16th April—Friday 20th July
Half Term	Monday 28th May—Friday 1st June

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.

Current Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 6th June	- M&M productions— Oliver Twist
Thursday 8th June	- United Utilities workshops for the Lower School
Wednesday 14th June	- Anthony Wright in to take Year 6 and team/club photos
Friday 16th June	- Fundraising afternoon including Tenner project
Saturday 17th June	- Weekend Walk
Wednesday 21st June	- Year 6 Junior Citizenship in Barrow
Thursday 22nd June	- Ulverston Voices at the Coronation Hall rehearsal 3pm, concert for parents at 6:30pm
Monday 26th June	- Y5 taster day at John Ruskin
Tuesday 27th June	- John Ruskin Y6 transition day
Thursday 29th June	- Summer Showcase concert
Friday 30th June	- School reports go out
Monday 3rd July	- UVHS & Dowdales Y6 transition day
Tuesday 4th July	- UVHS & Dowdales Y6 transition day
Wednesday 5th July	- John Ruskin Y6 transition day
Tuesday 11th July	- Upper School production, Cinderella & Rockerfella at 6:30pm
Wednesday 12th July	- Upper School production, Cinderella & Rockerfella at 1:30pm (provisional time)
Friday 14th July	- Open Afternoon
Monday 17th July	- Y6 Forest School day at Rook How (1/2 of Year 6)
Tuesday 18th July	- Y6 Forest School day at Rook How (1/2 of Year 6)
Thursday 20th July	- Y6 Leavers' Party at 6pm
Friday 21st July	- Last day of term—Y6 Leavers' Assembly at 2:15ish (tbc)