

Autumn Term 1
Friday
12th September
2019

Grassington CE (VC) Primary School



GRASSINGTON CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tractor Times

UPPER WHARFEDALE PRIMARY
FEDERATION



Message from the Executive Headteachers

Dear Parents/Carers

Many of our older children have been out and about this week exploring the River Wharfe, children have been looking for mystery creatures, examining habitats as well as finding the source of our local river. Over the next couple of weeks, we have a Rivers2U Bus coming to each of our schools to teach children about rivers and conservation.

It was wonderful to see the younger children at Cracoe on Monday afternoon. Our reception had a tour of the Class 1 classroom and outdoor area which was ably led by Tom, Archie, Bobbie and Samuel – (they have been in school for a whole 3 days, so are well versed in providing tours of the school!) Year 1 and Year 2 spent time outdoors with Mr Baines developing their PE skills and Year 2 enjoyed singing and musical instruments with Mrs Blair.

Learnology

Metacognition is an integral part of our new curriculum. Every week children across the federation will have a 'learnology' session led by their teacher. This first half-term the children will be learning about the brain, how to look after it and how to expand it! At home, it would be helpful to talk to your children about what they have learned at school, this helps them to think back, reinforce and reflect.

By focusing on metacognition it is hoped that children will gain a clearer insight into how they learn and come to understand that intelligence can be developed rather than being something that is fixed. An understanding of how one learns increases self-esteem, motivation to learn and outcomes.

Why it is important?

At the heart of Learnology is a fundamental belief that education is about preparing children for life beyond the walls of the classroom. It is about helping them to build up the mental, emotional, social and strategic resources so that they can enjoy challenges and cope well with uncertainty and complexity.

This is particularly relevant in a society that is full of change, risk, opportunity and complexity. Learnology is not a quick fix or a bolt on but should be seen as a way of refreshing our thinking about the culture in our schools and the habits of us, as teachers. We need to go beyond the wish lists of 'wider skills' and 'key attitudes' – what is needed is a gradual, sometimes challenging, hugely worthwhile process of change.



Attendance

At the beginning of every term, we like to remind parents/carers that in the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation, we believe that attendance at school is very important for all our children. This enables them to make good progress and reach their full potential. Absence can lead to poor progress and poor attainment thereby preventing children from achieving their full potential. Parents should inform the school office before 9.20am of the first day of a child's absence. A letter from parents confirming the reason for absence is required on the child's return. If the parents do not make contact with the school by 9.20 am regarding a child's absence, the school will make contact by telephone to establish the child's safety. It is very important that children are punctual and arrive in school on time.

We also request that whenever possible, every effort should be made to arrange medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. If it is necessary for a child to be out of school for this reason, the child should return to school directly after the appointment. Medical appointments will be recorded as “authorised absence” in the register.

Parental Requests for Holidays during Term Time

Families taking holidays during term time is a cause of absence, which has been highlighted nationally as a disruptive factor in a child’s education. Schools are required to implement government regulations regarding the taking of Leave of Absence in term-time. The law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Parents who feel there are exceptional circumstances for their child being absent from school, must obtain the school’s permission before making any arrangements for leave, otherwise the absence will be recorded as “unauthorised”. Details of which can be found on the website. A form (available from the school office or via the school website) requesting leave of absence should be completed by the parent/carer and returned to the school as far in advance as possible and preferably at least 6 weeks before the first date of the period of leave being requested.

Headteachers and governors, monitor very closely attendance, e.g. persistent absence, recurring patterns of absence, frequent lateness, on-going attendance which falls below 90%. If attendance falls below 90% a letter will be sent to parents/carers and an appointment may be made to discuss this further.

All of our schools actively promote and support children’s attendance by:

- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum that provides children with the best possible learning opportunities and experiences;
- Providing a welcoming, safe and caring environment in which each child is valued and supported;
- Building and maintaining effective partnerships between the school and its parents, external support agencies and the wider community;
- Acknowledging good attendance.

We hope that you will be supportive of our school policy.

Timetable

Week beginning 16 th September	Mrs Besharati		Mrs Besharati & Mrs Boxall	Mrs Boxall	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Cracoe	Grassington	Grassington	Kettlewell	Burnsall
PM	Cracoe	Grassington	Grassington	Kettlewell	Grassington

Mrs E N Besharati and Mrs C Boxall

Attendance

Our school attendance this week is **96.95%**

Our school target is **97%**

Federation Diary Dates

- Monday 16th September: Upper Wharfedale Cross Country Event (KS2) After School
- Tuesday 24th September: Open Classroom Evening at Burnsall, Cracoe & Kettlewell, **4:00pm – 5:00pm.**
- Wednesday 25th September: Open Classroom Evening at Grassington, **5pm – 6pm**
- Wednesday 25th September: Year 6 Residential Information Session at Grassington, 6pm. All Year 6 parents across the cluster of schools invited.
- Thursday 26th September: UCI Championships, coming through Burnsall & Kettlewell.
- Friday 27th September: Macmillan coffee afternoon at Kettlewell, **2:15pm.** All parents across the federation invited.
- Sunday 29th September: UCI Championships, coming through Kettlewell, Grassington & Cracoe.

Tuesday 1 st October:	Open Morning at Cracoe for prospective parents, 9:30 – 11:30
Wednesday 2 nd October:	Open Morning at Grassington for prospective parents, 9:30 – 11:30
Tuesday 8 th October:	Open Morning at Kettlewell for prospective parents, 9:30 – 11:30
Wednesday 9 th October:	Open Morning at Burnsall for prospective parents, 9:30 – 11:30
Thursday 10 th October:	Year 5/6 Cluster Football Tournament, details to follow
Wednesday 16 th October:	Parents Evening at all schools
Thursday 17 th October:	Parents Evening at Grassington & Cracoe
Wednesday 16 th October:	World Food Day, details to follow
21 st October:	Science Week
Thursday 24 th October:	Big Sing Event at Grassington Town Hall, Performance at 2pm and 6pm.
October Half Term:	Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November
Monday 11 th November:	Friendship Week
Wednesday 13 th November:	Learnology Workshop for parents 9:30 at Burnsall and 5pm at Cracoe.
9 th & 10 th December:	RE Days around the theme of 'Light'
Week commencing 16 th Dec:	Class 1 Nativities & Christmas Festivities, see school dates below for individual schools.
School Closes:	Friday 20 th December

School Diary Dates

Tuesday 24 th September	Rivers 2U Bus – all day
Thursday 3 rd October	Harvest Festival (Theme: World of Water) 2pm
Thursday 21 st November	NSPCC Assemblies for KS1 at 9:30 & KS2 at 10 . Then workshop for Y5/6 at 10:45
Monday 25 th November	Change4Life Festival (PM) Boyle and Petyt, details to follow
Thursday 5 th December	Panto – Snow White at Harrogate Theatre 2pm
Thursday 19 th December	KS1 Nativity Play (2pm and 6pm)
Friday 20 th December	School Christmas Party

School Clubs

Breakfast Club –If you would like to utilise the Breakfast Club, please contact Mrs Wall in the School Office to register. For those who have already registered please remember that payment is due in advance, preferably by Monday.

Do you have any spare time? The Breakfast Club Needs You!! Volunteers required to support the Breakfast Club between 07:45am and 08:45am Monday through to Thursday. Please contact Mrs Wall in the School Admin Office or Lisa Roddis for further details.

Awesome Owls After School Club –The cost will be £8 per child per day. An exciting and wide range of activities will be on offer including Crafts, Circus Skills, Kanga Sports, Tae Kwon Do, Movie Nights and much more! Should you require any further information, please contact Liz Tayler on 07946 560280 or email: twittwooeducation@gmail.com

Gardening Club – Coming soon!!

Praise Assembly

Next Praise Assembly will be on Friday 20th September at **3pm**.

Library

Our library has recently undergone a transformation and we require some volunteers to assist with moving furniture and books. If you can spare some time, please contact Mrs Wall in the school office. Thank you.

Individual and Sibling Photos

Tempest Photography has been in school today and taken some lovely photos of the children. They were all very well behaved! Proofs will be sent home with the children today. **Please return your order and payment by next Friday 20th September.**

PTA NEWS

1940's Weekend Parades

Children have been invited to join in either of two parades, dressed as evacuees, for the 1940's weekend that is taking place this coming weekend in Grassington. KS2 children dressed as evacuees for a Federation event before, so this is an opportunity to get those costumes out again!

Saturday - meet 11:45am at Town Hall, parade commences 12 noon.

Sunday - meet 12:45pm at Town Hall, parade commences 1pm.

The parades will go down the Main Street to the Square. There will also be the opportunity for children to ride in a vintage bus out to the park and ride car park and back again following each parade. Please speak to Siobhan Tywang if you would like a ride on the bus so that we can give the organisers an idea of numbers. The weather is looking sunny for the weekend, hope to see some of you there!

The PTA AGM will be on the **24th September 2019 at 3pm** at Grassington Primary School. All parents welcome. Please join us and get involved with the planning for next year!