



## Friday News

2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020

Dear Parents,

**Harvest Festival:** - the theme is 'Our Local Area'

Our plans to celebrate harvest festival next week in our schools, will look very different to the services we have held in previous years. We will not be celebrating in our local churches, due to current restrictions and the additional risk assessments we would need to put in place. Instead, we will be holding our services in the outdoor environment of each school. Revd. Macha will be involved in the services, as he intends to send a reading and message for each of our schools.

**Burnsall's Harvest Festival service will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

We would encourage families to contribute to Skipton foodbank (See below), as there is a growing demand for their services in our local communities owing to many families suffering hardships.

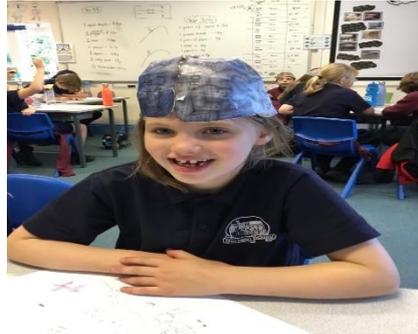
Donations of non-perishables foods will be gratefully received at our Harvest Services.

<https://www.skiptonfoodbank.org/donation-list>

Next week in our newsletter we will include some photographs, so that you will be able to share our celebrations.

### **Learnology:**

The children are busy learning about the human brain this half term. The older children have been looking at the different functions of the brain, whilst the younger children have been thinking about the different things that affect their brain such as emotions, sleep, food and exercise!



### **Collaborative learning:**

We have made the decision to review our collaborative learning and children moving around the federation until half term.

### **Collective Worship Committee:**

Children have been taking part in collective worship within their classroom bubbles so far this term. This is a very important part of our day, allowing the children to think and reflect about our school values. The theme for the half term is 'love: shining together' - sharing our gifts, celebrating our differences and living well together. Each school has now a Collective Worship committee who will plan, deliver and evaluate some of the future services. This enables the children to have a voice and an input into the content of the services. The children who are part of the committee are Isla, Katie, Edward, Jess and Hector.



### 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 of 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 on the first day of a child's absence. 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.

Head teachers and governors monitor attendance very closely, e.g. persistent absence, recurring patterns of absence, frequent lateness, on-going attendance which falls below 90%. **However, during the current Covid situation we find ourselves, attendance due to self-isolation, attending and waiting test results will be taken into account.**

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.

We are very much aware of the current situation around Covid 19 and how this is impacting on attendance. Please communicate with school and follow the guidance which we have already sent to you, if you believe your child or anyone in your family has Covid related symptoms or is awaiting test results. Children will not be marked as absent if they are ill due to the above; there is a code that the administrators use to record the absence, this is In line with the Secretary of State's expectation that no parent will be penalised for following official public health advice for their child not to attend a given session.

#### **Kanga after School Club:**

Kanga after school club runs every evening at Grassington School. The club provides a variety of activities in which the children can participate, something for all tastes. There is also the opportunity for them to read quietly or complete any home learning tasks, which has been set for them by their class teachers. Children are provided with a healthy snack and drink. We have worked really hard with Andrew Bode and Kanga sports to establish this club, in part to support families who need the after school provision due to their work commitments. We do understand that due to changes in personal circumstances and many people working from home that there has been a slight decline in interest. However, we do urge families to use the club otherwise we may have to consider its future. Children can attend for one session or more and do not have to attend every week. Bookings can be made using the Kanga website and must be made 24 hours in advance. Free transport is available from each school to Grassington.

#### **Head teacher Timetable:**

Week beginning 05.10.20	Mrs Besharati		Mrs Besharati & Mrs Boxall	Mrs Boxall	
	Monday	Tuesday		Thursday	Friday
AM	Grassington	Burnsall	Grassington	Grassington	Cracoe
PM	Grassington	Burnsall	Grassington	Grassington	Cracoe

# Diary Dates

Below are some important dates for this term. Please be aware that we do not know exactly how these events will run at present (either face to face or virtually) but we thought you would like to make note on your calendars:

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Festival  
Mental Health Week

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October: Open morning at Kettlewell

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Open morning at Burnsall

Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> October: Science week

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October: Open morning at Grassington

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Open morning at Cracoe

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> & Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Parents evening

Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> November: Friendship Week

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Learnology workshop for parents

Christmas festivities dates TBC

## Pre-School News:

The Pre-School children this week have been focussing on using a knife to butter their own crackers, we discussed how to use it safely and the children waited patiently for their turn.

Autumn has arrived in class. We went on an autumn walk around the school grounds. The children were quick to spot the signs of autumn and we have used the leaves we collected to make 'leaf men'.



## News from School

### Home time:

Now that we have more children, we are aware that it is becoming a little cramped outside of the gate at home time. To help with social distancing and health and safety, please come in to the playground and wait and the top for your child to come to you and then leave immediately. Thank you.

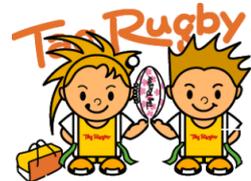
### Harvest Festival:



We are holding our Harvest Festival service for the children on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to send a donation for Skipton Food Bank it will be greatly received. Thank you

### PE Kits:

Class 2 will need their PE kits on a Monday as from next week instead of Tuesday. Tag Rugby will be starting on Monday, so please make sure your child comes in their PE kits, hoodie, and maybe gloves and coats as this will be outside in the playground. Thank you.



### Flu Immunisation:

Please can you all make sure that you have completed the online form for the flu vaccinations - these will take place next Friday 9.10.20. Thank you.

### Shine Awards:



This week Asher and Amelia have been given a Shine Award for Love of Learning. Asher has showed a great attitude to all aspects of his learning and Amelia has impressed Mrs McGee with her fabulous reading this week.

Kind regards

*Ella Besharati & Chris Boxall*  
*Executive Headteachers*