

Dear Parent/Carer,

13th July 2018

JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Short message from the Head

At the end of June we were all lucky enough to enjoy the Summer Fair in the amazing weather we are having. It was great to see the children, parents and extended family members mixing so well and having fun together. I was very much struck by the community feel of the event which we embrace as a whole school – it is a real strength of Ghyllside.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Y6 pupils the very best for their future and thank them for their contributions to life at Ghyllside School. I would also like to thank all the staff for the hard work they have put in this year to make the children's education exciting and meaningful – I feel very privileged to have such a dedicated team to work with.

Sport, Health and Fitness – Summer 2018

Wellbeing, Fitness and Sport have continued to play a large role in the Ghyllside calendar this term:

April Y4 children enjoyed a series of six Tag Rugby and Maths sessions led by a coach from Newcastle Falcons. This culminated in a Tag Rugby Festival held at Kendal Rugby Club. Also in April, the Y5 and 6 football team played friendly games against Vicarage Park and St Thomas'.

May Y5 had a series of cycling sessions with a coach from British Cycling, culminating in a half day event this week at Kirkbie Kendal School. All the children had a fantastic time. Our Y6 Lacrosse team attended a competition at Kendal Rugby Club and our football team played a friendly against St Oswalds. Many Y6 children attended a Tag Rugby Festival at Kendal Rugby Club and all children from Y4, 5 and 6 got the chance to play Wheelchair Basketball when our friends from Cumbria Wheelchair Sports Club came to Ghyllside for the day.

June was also a busy month. It started with many Y6 children attending (and passing) their Cyclewise training. Expedition club also went ahead in amazing weather and the children had a fabulous time on the fells. Many children from Y5 and 6 participated in a Triathlon event at Keswick and all children from Key Stage 1 and 2 took part in the annual school Fun Run. All children from Y4 took part in the 'Olympic Day' held at Kirkbie Kendal School and we held the annual Sports Days for Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. June also saw the start of the 8am Tag Rugby Club for children in Y3 and 4 and the 8am Lacrosse Club for children in Y5 and 6.

July started with some children from Y4,5 and 6 successfully competing in the Dick Viney Athletics Competition at Queen Katherine School (organised by Kendal Athletics Club). There was a festival of Kwik Cricket for the children in Y2 at the Lakes School recently and our friends from the Wheelchair Sports Club came back to work with the children from Y1, 2 and 3. In the Final week of term we look forward to a cycling event on our school field, organised by Kendal Cycling Club and aimed at any children who can ride a bike and are interested in racing from Y5 and 6. We also look forward to an inter-house handball competition between all children in Key Stage 2.

Mindfulness sessions have now been taught to children in Y5/6 and Heartstart sessions to all children in Key Stage 2. We would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers that make all of these extra-curricular activities possible, without volunteering their time, our children would not get the opportunities they do. Exercise sessions, focusing on cardio-vascular fitness, are still being taught an average of 3 times each week alongside a one hour PE lesson with Mr Hoare. Please support school with these by ensuring your child has a pair of trainers to change into in school each day.

Music

Many thanks to all of our musicians who played at the summer music concert last Thursday. It was, as always, a beautiful concert and a privilege to attend. The talent and dedication of our children shone throughout the whole evening and it was at times easy to forget that one was listening to children performing. Thanks in particular to our Y6 musicians for their musical contribution to Ghyllside over the last few years: Christmas concerts, carol singing, assembly music... the list is extensive. We wish you good luck on the next exciting step in your lives and hope that you continue to enjoy your music with such energy and passion.

If your child would like to take instrumental lessons in school, we offer a wide range of instruments with lessons taught by the very best music teachers. Just call in to the office initially to collect the letter which outlines our instrumental lesson provision. Miss Crowley.

PTA Summer Fair

Many thanks to all the children and parents who attended the Summer Fair. It was a scorching hot day, but you all seemed to persevere with the games and indulge in the various treats we had on offer! We hope you all had a lovely time. The PTA are very pleased to announce that after expenses the fair raised around £1200! This is a fantastic total and all the money will be used towards a multitude of things for the school that all our children will benefit from. The chairs of the PTA, Amy and Jemma, would also like to say a massive thank you to all the wonderful PTA volunteers and the teachers who were so amazing! We really couldn't have done it without you. If you are interested in becoming part of our PTA team please drop me a message:

ptachairperson@ghyllside.cumbria.sch.co.uk

Two of our pupils Alfie and Gracie Allsey would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who went to their stall. They were raising funds in memory of their Great Uncle Russell. He worked as part of the Blood Bike team and the family wanted to raise funds for the Blood Bikes in memory of Russel, who recently passed away. They raised a fantastic £252.79 from selling cakes and it was great fun having a couple of the bikes there too. Well done to all involved.

School Council

On behalf of the school council we would like to thank everyone who took part in the sponsored fun run and returned their sponsor money. We have raised a massive £3292.65 to go towards the outdoor reading classroom. If you still have any outstanding money you still have time to hand it in. Many thanks.

School Meals

From September the cost of a school meal will rise from £2.10 to £2.20, £11.00 per week. Please pay promptly each Monday or for the half term in advance. If your child currently has packed lunches and you would like them to have school meals in the autumn term or if they wish to stop having school meals, please let the School Office know as soon as possible. **All outstanding dinner money due for this half term must be paid by Monday 16th July. Thank you.**

'Free School Meals and Clothing Grants' are available for children if parents receive certain benefits. As well as receiving free meals and milk, there is help with the cost of trips. You can apply online by logging on to the Cumbria County Council website at www.cumbria.gov.uk.

Food in school

Leading on from the health improvements we have made through PE this year, next year we are going to be working closely with the children to ensure that the food they eat in school is part of a carefully considered and balanced diet. There will be more details on this at the beginning of next term but **please be aware that children will only be able to eat fruit for their morning snack from the start of September.**

A2B Travel Card

Children aged 5 and upwards can apply for the **A2B NOW CARD** which lets them travel around South Lakeland and beyond at a reduced rate. You can collect an application form from Kendal Library or online at cumbria.gov.uk/A2BNoW. We have information leaflets on the display outside the School Office.

Holiday Club

The Ghyllside Holiday Club will run for the first 4 weeks of the summer holidays, then again on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September. If you would like to book a place please collect a booking form from the School Office or Mrs Williamson in Nursery.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 17 July: Class Swaps 11.00 – 11.45am
Tues 17 July: Y3 First Access Concert – 2.15 – 3.15pm, School Hall
Fri 20 July: Y6 Leaver's Assembly 9.00 – 10.15am
Summer Term ends on Friday 20th July at 2.00pm

Autumn Term starts on Wednesday 5th September

Fri 7 Sept: Y3 Grasmere Residential information Evening 3.30 – 4.00pm
Fri 21 Sept: Y5 Swimming begins
Mon 22 Oct – Fri 26 Oct Half Term Holiday

