

Dear Parent/Carer,

4th September 2019

WELCOME BACK LETTER

Short message from the Head

I hope you have all had a great summer and if you were away managed to find some sun! The children have all come back in high spirits, settling into their new classes excellently, we have welcomed a number of new children who have started with us today and are all doing well.

Building Work

Over the Summer we have had our outdoor classroom/reading shelter added to the playground. Thank you very much to the PTA, School Council and the staff in school who work with the School Council for their hard work fundraising to make this possible.

In other building news, this term we will be having the windows throughout school replaced on a rolling programme. Unfortunately, because of the timing of the bid process and manufacturing time for the windows themselves, this could not happen during the Summer holiday. We will endeavour to carry out this work with as little disruption to the running of the school as possible and let parents know as and when we may need to temporarily change access arrangements to school.

Nut Allergy

There are children in school who have an allergy to nuts which could lead to an extremely serious allergic reaction. Please do not send any foods in for your child that contain nuts either as a snack or in their packed lunch. Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance

As you are aware we have had renewed guidance from the local authority in relation to how we code children's absences from school, specifically around holiday requests. A list of our holiday dates can be found on the Ghyllside School website, please try to ensure that wherever possible you take your holidays within these dates. If any parents have specific requests or queries in relation to taking holidays in term time please feel free to arrange a meeting with Mr Davies, but please realise that our hands are largely tied in relation to what we can and cannot authorise. The more pupils are in school the more they will achieve. We focus on attendance and punctuality and try to discourage holidays during term time.

It is important that you contact the School Office before 9.30am if your child is ill and not able to attend school.

Earrings

As you are aware we do a lot of PE as part of our school week (now including swimming for Y3 & Y4) and through the year have a lot of sports clubs taking place. We do allow children to wear ear studs to school, (not a 'dangly' earring) but so we can reduce the chance of an injury to a child we are not supposed to let any child take part in a sports or PE session wearing anything in their ears. I am aware that a number of parents have done the responsible thing in relation to this and had their child's ears pierced on the first day of the Summer holidays, but they are still healing up when the studs are taken out, even for a short time. If this is the case we will still allow the use of plasters for the short term until it is possible for children to take out and replace their own earrings. If this is the case for your child please ensure they have suitable plasters with them in school. If your child wears a stud/studs to school they have had since well before the Summer holiday they must be able to take them out and put them back in themselves. If they are unable to do this then please do not allow them to wear studs to school. Many thanks for your help with this.

Contact Details

It is important that all contact numbers and other information for your child are up to date. Please inform the School Office of any changes that occur, especially a change of mobile number.

Tour of Britain

The Tour of Britain cycle race will be finishing on Beastbanks at about 3.30pm on Tuesday 10th of September – next Tuesday. This is obviously going to have a large knock on effect for any pupils who are collected by car from school as the cycle race route roads will be closed and there will be increased traffic on other routes. As a result, if you wish to collect your child from school from 1.30pm on Tuesday 10th you are more than welcome to do so.

Reading Books in School

Our stocktake over the Summer holiday has again highlighted that about several thousand pounds worth of books were not returned to school last term. **PLEASE CAN YOU CHECK AT HOME AND SEND IN ANY BOOKS THAT YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE** as we obviously can't possibly sustain this loss. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Dinner Money

The cost per meal is now £2.30 (£11.50 per week). Payment is due each Monday for the week or half termly in advance, thank you.

Coats

Please ensure your child has a coat with them in school every day, especially as we are now in the Autumn Term.

KCC Family Bike Ride

On Sunday 15th September, the Kendal Cycle Club are having their second annual Wheels 4 All Family Ride. They would like to invite families from Ghyllside to attend – it's a great way to keep in the cycling mood after the Tour of Britain and to put all those skills obtained during last summer's bike club and Bikeability sessions into practise. The 12 mile route leaves from Mapdec Cycle Works on Gilthwaiterigg Lane, Kendal, LA9 6NS and follows the quiet undulating country lanes to Wheelbase in Staveley Mill Yard for a feed stop and then returns, with an optional hill climb up Potters Fell Road. Sign on is from 12.15pm with riders leaving Mapdec at 1pm. Please note that the Kendal Cycle Club Go Ride annual family bike ride is NOT a lead ride. The route is on quiet country roads, but there will be some traffic on the route. There will be signs and friendly marshals along the route, but you are responsible for the safety of your own family and navigating along the route.

For more information please go to: kendalgoride@gmail.com.

As always if there are any questions about the contents of this letter please do not hesitate to contact us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 11 Sept:	Y2 Transport Trip
Tues 8 Oct:	Nursery/Reception Individual Photographs, am
Wed 9 Oct:	Nursery Individual Photographs, pm
Fri 11 Oct:	Harvest Festival at Kendal Parish Church, am
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Oct:	Half Term
Wed 30 Oct:	Rec-Y6 Reports
Wed 6 Nov:	Rec-Y6 Parents Evening, 3.30-7.00pm
Thurs 7 Nov:	Rec-Y6 Parents Evening, 3.30-7.00pm
Wed 13 Nov:	Reception-Y6 Nasal Flu Immunisation
Mon 25 Nov:	Y4 Theatre by the Lake Trip
Thurs 28 Nov:	Y3 and Y5 Theatre by the Lake Trip
Fri 20 Dec:	Term Ends 2.00pm
Tues 7 Jan:	Spring Term Begins