



NEWSLETTER – Friday 16th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a longer edition of the school newsletter because it is near the start of the school year, but I would be grateful if you could take a little time to read through the information. Thank you.



Welcome Back!

Welcome to the new school year! It was a pleasure to see the children arriving at school last week looking smart and ready for their new classes and new learning opportunities. The children have made a fabulous start to the school year, behaving well, settling to their work and working well with each other and their teachers. Thank you for encouraging the children to be independent as they start in a new class.

A particularly warm welcome to families and children who are new to Reception; Grace, Alfie, Esme, Arthur, Martha, Luca, Merlin and Isabelle.

Staff

There have been a few changes to communicate to you.

At Staveley, Mrs Moss and Mrs Roberts are both working full time for this year in Classes 2 and 3. Mrs Fox, Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Hobbins will be working with individual children, groups and sometimes classes dependent on the needs of the children.



At Kirk Hammerton, we are very pleased to welcome Miss Fraser in EYFS and Mrs Appleton in Key Stage 2.



SATs Results

The school achieved pleasing results in terms of pupils’ outcomes at key points throughout the school (EYFS, Phonics in Year 1 and KS1). Please see below:

2016 results summary	EYFS % at GLD	Phonics % ARE	Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2				
			Reading % ARE	Writing % ARE	Maths % ARE	Reading % ARE	Writing % ARE	Maths % ARE	GPS % ARE	RWM % ARE
Kirk Hammerton	73%	92%	86%	57%	71%	100%	33%	67%	67%	33%
National	69%	81%	74%	66%	73%	66%	74%	70%	72%	53%
						Scaled score				
Kirk Hammerton						109		100	103	
National						103		103	104	

ARE – age related expectations

Each pupil in KS 2 is worth 33.3% as there were just 3 pupils in the year group. The scaled score gives a much more accurate picture of attainment than the %. However, as writing is teacher assessed a scaled score is not available. Putting the lower writing outcome into perspective, the Local Authority moderator reported that had there been more writing available in books there would have been more evidence to show the true outcomes of pupils. Therefore, this year there is an emphasis on developing writing in school and we will be seeking to maximise opportunities for children to write.



Meet the Teacher – 21st September 2016

This is intended as an informal and short meeting in which teachers chat to groups of parent and carers of children in their classes about routines, expectations, the school day, homework, PE lessons etc. Each teacher will hold two 15/20 minute sessions from 3.40 – 4.00 p.m. and 4.00 – 4.20 p.m. Parents and carers are invited to attend one of either session. Holding two sessions allows parents and carers the opportunity to visit two teachers in

one afternoon. We hope it will be of use to all parents and carers to hear information directly from the teacher and have the opportunity to ask questions. There is no need to sign up; just come along. As previously explained, the session is not designed as an opportunity to hold a 1:1 meeting with the teacher about your child.

What we are learning

Themes for the classes for this term are as follows:

Kirk Hammerton Class 1 (EYFS) – All about me

Kirk Hammerton Class 2 (Years 1 and 2) – Trailblazers

Kirk Hammerton Class 3 (Years 3-6) - Romans

Staveley Class 1 (Nursery and EYFS) – All about me

Staveley Class 2 (Years 1 and 2) – Movers and Shakers

Staveley Class 3 (Years 3 and 4) – World War 2

Staveley Class 4 (Years 5 and 6) – Twelfth Night

In our assemblies for this half term we will be considering attitudes towards 'Generosity' as a theme.



School Uniform

The children look very smart returning to school in their school uniform. As a reminder, please could you ensure that:

- All uniform is labelled with your child's name;
- We ask that long hair is tied up and that no jewellery is worn for school (with the exception of watches which are removed for PE) so that children are safe during PE lessons;
- Pupils have a PE kit in school. Shorts and a t-shirt for indoor PE, trainers for outdoor PE and layers for when the weather gets colder.

Attendance and Punctuality

School starts at 8.50 a.m. It helps supports children's learning if they have a calm and positive start to the day so we ask all parents and carers to ensure that children arrive at school on time. We also ask that parents and carers organise family holidays within school holidays in order to maximise the learning potential and time for the children.

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please could you telephone the school office before 9.15 a.m. If there is no-one available to answer the call, then please do leave a message on the answerphone.

If there is any urgent message you need to communicate to school, please also do telephone the office rather than emailing.



Writing Information Evening – 2nd November at 5pm (held at Staveley for all parents)

We will be holding a Writing Information Evening on Wednesday 2nd November. The evening will provide parents and carers with information about the school's plans for developing and sustaining positive outcomes and progress for children with their writing skills. As you may already be aware the national expectations in writing have increased with 2016 being the first year where children in Year 6 were tested on the 2014 curriculum. Lisa Appleton, Assistant Headteacher and Literacy Leader will be leading the evening in order to provide you with information about national expectations and the response of both Kirk Hammerton and Staveley Primary Schools. The evening will be for parents and carers of both schools and will be held at Staveley Primary School, starting at 5.00 p.m.

School Council

We will be setting up a School Council at both Kirk Hammerton and Staveley schools. Children in Years 5 and 6 will be given the task of researching information about school councils, presenting some information to the other children and organising elections in order to elect members. Initially, children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be given the opportunity to put themselves forward to make the first School Council.



Reading Helpers

Thank you to any parents and carers who supported reading in school last year. We are in need of reading helpers to support listening to children read on a one-to-one basis and would appreciate hearing from any parent or carer who has any free time they would be willing to commit to school. We would love to hear from you! If you would like to start coming into school to support reading then please contact either Mrs Whittemore (Kirk Hammerton) or Mrs Collins (Staveley) in the school office.

Start of the Year Forms to complete

Mrs Whittemore (Kirk Hammerton) and Mrs Collins (Staveley) will be sending home some emergency contact forms, along with photo permission and educational visit consent forms. It is essential that these are completed by parents and carers annually so that our information is as accurate as possible. Please do return these forms to the school office by Friday 23rd September.

School lunches

The cost of school lunches for this half term is £71.40 for children in Key Stage 2. Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 receive Universal Free School Meals. We would appreciate receiving payment by Friday 23rd September. Thank you.

Dates for the Year

A list of dates for the school year has been sent out already. It will be posted on the school website. The only other additional date to note is the flu vaccination session on 11th November (consent forms will be sent out next week).

Federation Update

The period of consultation for Federation of Kirk Hammerton and Staveley Primary Schools has now finished (Sunday 11th September). Responses have been received and will now be considered by the two separate governing bodies, who will then make a final decision about whether the formal Federation process will go ahead. Updates will be sent out as they become available.

Term Dates and Training Days

Just a reminder that school finishes for half term for pupils on **Friday 21st October**. School opens for pupils on **Tuesday 1st November** as the schools are holding a joint training day on **Monday 31st October**.

School Photographs

A reminder that individual photographs will be taken in school on Monday 19th and Friday 23rd September.

Harvest

We are pleased that our Harvest Celebration will be at the Church in Kirk Hammerton on Friday 23rd September, starting at 2.30 p.m. Parents, carers and members of the community are invited to join us. Children are asked to bring a contribution of packaged food, tins or food items that can be stored. These items will be donated to the Harrogate Homeless Project.



Children will be taking part in the service at the church, which will be led by Rev Paul Spurgeon.

We have had a very enjoyable first couple of weeks of school and are looking forward to a positive year of new learning opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

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