

Wigton Infant School

February Newsletter

Website

www.wigtoninf.cumbria.sch.uk

New staff

We would like to welcome Miss MacDougall and Miss Speakman who are now our new Teaching Assistants.

Outdoor Play Equipment

We are happy for your children to use our outdoor play equipment before and after school but please make sure that they are closely supervised. Remember that the pirate ship is out of bounds and is scheduled for removal. Do not allow your children to play on the railings next to the access ramps as this is dangerous.

Our doors are open for the children from 8.45am to 9.00am. Where possible please do not arrive at school too early to avoid waiting/queuing.

Attendance

If your child is going to be absent from school then you must telephone the school office on the morning of your child's absence before **9.30am**. It is very time consuming for the office to chase up unknown absences and your cooperation with this is much appreciated.

Ordering School Dinners

There are still lots of parents who are not ordering/cancelling meals for their child. This is very time consuming and disruptive for the office.

If your child is isolating at home and you have told the school office that they will not be in school for a number of days, can you please make sure you cancel their school lunches on the ParentMail app.

Parking

It would appear that many parents are still not using the Park & Stride scheme. This is causing the congestion to build up on Longthwaite Road and the surrounding areas and we are receiving numerous reports of dangerous parking.

We have also received complaints from Fair View Court regarding parents using their car park which is causing issues. Please do not park there. These issues have been reported to the police

Car Safety

We have lots of traffic in our car park at the beginning and end of the school day. Please take extra care and use the footpaths where possible as it is too dangerous to walk through the main car park at these times. **Under no circumstances bring your vehicles into the car park or park them on the school drive.**

Nut Free School

Just to remind you all that we are a nut free school.

Your child may **not** bring any nuts or foods containing nuts into school e.g. Nutella spread as part of their packed lunch or as snack. Due to the number of allergies we have in school we are unable to allow children to bring in birthday treats (cakes/sweets etc.) Thank you.

After School Clubs

We will be running after school clubs for Year 1 and Year 2 children next half term. Confirmation letters have been sent out via ParentMail this week.

Eligibility for Pupil Premium - Free School

Meals

If your financial circumstances have changed due to Covid-19 or for any other reason, you should visit the Cumbria County Council website to see if your child now qualifies for **BENEFIT BASED FREE SCHOOL MEALS**. Please go to:

<https://cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>

Please apply online if you think you qualify. Being eligible for Benefit Based Free School Meals also brings in significant additional funding to school to support your child's learning.

Criteria for Free School Meals & Clothing

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available for your child(ren) if you receive one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJA)
- An income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.
 - The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

Contact details

Please make sure your contact details are always kept up to date with the school office. This will ensure we hold the correct contact information for you to receive notifications. Can we also please ask you have more than 1 emergency contact for your child.

Forest School Days

You will be notified via Tapestry/ClassDojo of any updates/changes to your child's Forest School days. Please check these regularly for messages from the class teacher.

Spare clothes

We are in urgent need of spare clothes, in particular boys' trousers and underpants age 7 years, girls' tights age 7 and both girls' and boys' socks.

If you are able to donate any to school they would be much appreciated.

We are aware that lots of our spare clothes have not been returned to school. If your child has been changed at school and you have any of our spare clothes at home, can you please return them to your child's class teacher immediately.

Mental Health and Internet Safety

This week is Children's Mental Health Awareness week and Safer Internet Day was on Tuesday 8th. Safer internet use and children's mental health and emotional wellbeing are often closely linked. It is a good time to remind ourselves to make sure we know what our children are accessing online and that it is age appropriate. Follow this link for information and activities:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Covid-19 updates and track and trace over the half term holiday.

If your child has Covid symptoms over the first few days when school finishes (Friday 11th February to Sunday 13th February) and then tests positive for Covid, it is really important that you let school know for the purposes of informing your child's contacts. Please use my e-mail for this head@wigtoninf.cumbria.sch.uk and let me know as soon as you get a positive result.

We will then inform parents in the usual way (this will also be the case if one of our staff has symptoms and then tests positive over this weekend).

For any Covid queries over the holidays please refer to our most recent guidance and flowcharts. We will update our guidance at the end of the half-term holiday.

Half Term

Term ends on Friday 11th February at 3.00pm and we return to school on Monday 21st February at 9.00am.

FOWIS

Thank you for your continuing support of FOWIS - don't forget to take part in the Valentine's Day name the teddy bear competition on the FOWIS Facebook page now. This will be drawn on the 18th February.

The 5 pence piece competition will also be returning after the half-term holiday – why not start collecting now!

World Book day Thursday 3rd March

After us all spending last year's World Book Day at home on Zoom, this year we're going to celebrate being together so our theme is TEAMS (No...not THAT "Teams"!). This could just mean a football shirt, it could be one of the Avengers team, it could be someone from a different team of people (such as in a hospital). Or children can, as ever, come as their favourite book character. More details about the day will be announced soon, but we wanted to give you as much warning as possible regarding costumes!

Governor Vacancy

We still have a Parent Governor vacancy on our Governing Body. Please refer to the recent communication which was sent out to all parents via ParentMail.

The closing date is **Friday 18th March 2022**. If you are interested and would like further information you can speak to either Mr Norman, Head Teacher or Mrs Elaine Lynch, Chair of Governors. Please contact Mrs Woodburn who will arrange this for you.

Wigton Food Pantry

Wigton Food Pantry is a registered charity and an outlet for the FareShare scheme.

Fare Share is a nationwide scheme which takes good quality surplus food from right across the food industry and gets it to more than 10,500 frontline charities and community groups. They receive a fabulous selection of larder goods, fresh fruit and vegetables and eggs weekly.

Wigton Food Pantry operates from the Old Catholic School Hall, Strand Terrace, Wigton. Wednesdays 9am-1pm.

You can donate what you think the goods are worth or what you can afford.