

March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

There are a lot of things happening in the next few weeks, including some local competitions.

Lego League Tournament

This is on Monday 4th March at Furness College. Thanks to Glyn Shephard, who is a STEM Ambassador and has been helping Mrs Edmondson and the children to prepare for the tournament.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day will be on Thursday 7th March. Children can dress up as their favourite book character or wear non uniform and bring their favourite book to school.

Science Week

Science week starts on 8th March until 15th March and the theme is Time.

On Monday 11th March, it will be non uniform and children can come to school dressed as something linked to Science. This could be a traditional lab coat (old white shirt) and goggles look. Or they might want to research some famous scientists and bring in a 'prop' that gives a clue as to who they are – perhaps an apple or a picture of a lightbulb, for example. A palaeontologist might wear something dinosaur related! Remember astronauts and doctors are also scientists! They can also come dressed up as something scientific – a black hole, the solar system, a rainbow, an x-ray. There's lots of scope for imagination and creativity.

Science Exhibition

On Friday 15th March, there will be a science exhibition in the hall, where children will show examples of activities that they have done during Science Week. It will start at 2.45pm until 3.15pm and families are welcome to come along.

Comic Relief

This takes place on Friday 15th March

Children can come in non uniform and wear something that makes them happy, like their favourite socks or t shirt etc. We will bake some red nose themed items to sell at the science exhibition after school.



'Teach children how they should live and they will remember it all their lives'





Key Steps Gymnastics Competition

This takes place on Friday 8th March; we have entered three teams who will represent the school in the various age categories.

Eco Fair

Newlands Class will go to the Eco Fair at the Coronation Hall on Thursday 7th March, in the morning.

It is open until 4.30pm and families are welcome to go along with children after school.

Attendance

You may be aware that the Government is leading a big drive on school attendance at the moment.

Our whole school attendance is currently 93.%, which is below the expected target of 96%

There is a lot of illness in some classes but also children missing school due to term time holidays or days off for other reasons.

The breakdown for each class is below.

From 3rd January to 29th February:

Birkrigg overall attendance is 94% Hoad overall attendance is 91% Newlands overall attendance is 96% Springfield overall attendance is 92%

Persistent absenteeism is classed as below 90% and there are a growing number of children who are in this category. Please try to ensure that children attend school regularly as repeated absences can really affect their learning and progress. Please see the attached letter from the Local Authority regarding attendance.

Lateness.

The vast majority of children are in school between 8.40am and 8.55am. However, this week has been particularly bad for children arriving late for school. Children must be in school by 8.55am. If they arrive after this, it is recorded as late in the register.

The whole school does phonics and SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) as the first session every morning and if children continually arrive late, they miss out on the important introduction to these sessions and consequently disrupt the teaching and learning that is taking place.

Please could families work with us to improve attendance and punctuality.

Easter Holiday Activities

There is information attached about activities taking place, during the Easter holidays.

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Dates for the rest of term and next term.

Monday 4th March Year 5 Taster Day at UVHS **Monday 4th March** Lego League Tournament **Tuesday 5th March** Meeting for Year 6 parents about Liverpool and SATS at 6pm in school. Wednesday 6th March Year 5 go to UVHS for dance session Wednesday 6th March Year 6 go to Nursery to read with the children **Thursday 7th March Eco Fair at The Coronation Hall Thursday 7th March World Book Day** Friday 8th March **Key Steps Gymnastics Competition** Friday 8th—15th March Science week **Monday 11th March** Non uniform day with science theme. Friday 15th March **Comic Relief** Friday 15th March Science exhibition in the hall 2.45pm **Monday 18th March** Walk to school week **Monday 25th March** Newlands trip to Vindolanda Thursday 28th March Last day of Spring term. School finishes at 3.15pm

Monday 15th April Staff INSET

Tuesday 16th April First day of Summer term

Wednesday 17th April Year 6 Junior Citizen event at Ulverston Blue

Light Hub

Monday 6th May

Monday 27th May

Friday 31st May

Half term

Friday 19th July Last day of summer term