

Melling St Wilfrid CE Primary School



For the love of learning, friendship and faith

November 2023

Dear Parents,

What a busy but successful half term we have had. Especially this last week, which has been action packed. On Monday we all enjoyed our festival of light. We had Prags Birk from Cultural Educ-Asian teaching us about the Hindu religion. We got to do Bollywood dancing, rangoli patterns, eat samosas and have Mehndi on our hands. We learned about Catholicism from Sister Michaela from Our Lady of Hynning Monastery, made rosary beads and ate cake. We learned about the Anglican faith from Rev Jane and sang hymns and learned about letting light shine through making glowing stars. The infants also had a joint PE lesson with Mrs Speight- teamwork!

The KS2 class visited the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and could talk about all they had learned in science in the digestion area of the human body tour. They loved operation couch and the experiment gallery.

A group of Y1/2 children took part in an athletics rally at Carnforth high school and enjoyed running, jumping and showing their athletic skills whilst working as a joint team with children from Tatham.

We finished this week with a toast fest with bread provided by Jacksons of Yorkshire thanks to Harry and Kendall winning it for school. The toast was delicious but I think we all over ate as most children could not finish their pudding at lunchtime and Mrs Ablett and I could not eat any lunch!

We have lots to look forward to in the second half of the Autumn term with sporting events, bikeability, Sports leaders and of course Christmas activities so enjoy the half term break in preparation!

Yours truly,
Fiona Ip
Headteacher

Bikeability

Go Velo will be delivering Bikeability training on Tuesday 31st October & Wednesday 1st November to the children in Years 5 & 6 who have signed up. They will need their bikes & helmets in school for both days & can wear PE kit please.

Feedback from Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to all who replied to our parent questionnaire in the summer term. It was lovely to receive all your positive feedback and we have tried to act on any actions we could.

More visits and trips- we have lots of visits and events which have happened or are happening this year. They are all linked to the curriculum to enhance the children's learning and have 2 residential visits, one to the Isle of Man for Y5/6 and one to Borwick Hall for Y3/4. We will continue this pattern so one year will be IOM and Borwick and the next year will be Edinburgh. That means all children will have the opportunity for a 1 night residential stay on Y3/4: a week of outdoor and adventure activities during Y5/6 and a city visit during Y5/6.

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Improve the playground/ walkways- we have been trying to get the paths and tarmac fixed for some time and have been saving the funds to do it but haven't been able to find anyone to commit to the work. However, we finally have and all work will be completed by the spring.

Improve security at the front of school- we are looking into how we can manage a buzzer system during school times to the front gate. The porch and entry system have really improved security getting into the school and the new doors mean we can safely lock the classroom doors during the day with the thumb locks being quick release in cases of emergency

Homework more/less - some people wanted more homework and some wanted less. We have re-evaluated our homework and hope you think it is the right amount and worthwhile. Thank you to all those who have been listening to their children read. The reading scores have improved a great deal and reading is the most valuable homework a child can do.

Open Door Policy / Contacting School

It was lovely to see so many parents at our parents meeting afternoon last week. These meetings offer an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, ask questions & share your child's strengths and needs enabling us to work together to ensure the best outcomes for your children.

At Melling we operate an 'Open Door' policy. The purpose of this is to encourage open communication, feedback and discussion. We value the input parents make to our school. If you have any worries or concerns about your child's progress, wellbeing or the school please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted via the following email addresses:

d.martin@melling.lancs.sch.uk

diane.smith@melling.lancs.sch.uk

a.howker@melling.lancs.sch.uk

For other matters please contact Mrs Ip, Headteacher via

head@melling.lancs.sch.uk or Rebecca via bursar@melling.lancs.sch.uk

Please allow time for staff to respond to emails, which will routinely be in working hours only (8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Alternatively, contact the school by telephone on 015242 21538.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The closing date for applications for September 2024 are:

Tuesday 31 October 2023 for secondary applicants

Monday 15 January 2024 for primary applicants.

Apply online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

Rugby Tournament

We will be taking a team of children from Year 5 & 6 to take part in the Lune Valley Rugby tournament at Wray on Thursday 16th November. Children taking part will need to be collected from Wray at the end of the day please. Full details to follow.

Swimming Gala

We will be taking a team of children from Year 5 & 6 to take part in the Lune Valley swimming gala at Heysham on Wednesday 22nd November. Details to follow.

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National Child Measurement Programme 2024

The National Child Measurement Programme, height & weight checks for Reception & Year 6 will take place in school on **Tuesday 21st November 2023 (please note change of date)**. If you do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, please let the team know before the date of measure using the contact details listed below to ensure your child is opted out in time. Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

The Lancashire Healthy Young People and Families Service

T : 0300 247 0040

E : VCL.019.SinglePointofAccess2@nhs.net

Flu Vaccination Programme 2024

Flu vaccinations for Reception - Year 6 will take place in school on Thursday 30th November .

Consent is managed online, please complete the online form - even if you do not give consent for your child to have the vaccination. Thank you

Term Dates

The 2024/25 term dates have now been set. Please see attached.

PE Reminder

PE Kit - Children should wear PE kit (with school shoes) on the following days please:

Infants

Monday - PE lesson

Thursday - RugbyTots

Juniors

Monday - PE Lesson

School Spider App

Please ensure you have downloaded the 'School Spider' app so you can make bookings/payments, complete surveys & permissions and receive messages from school. We use School Spider most days so it is important that you are able to access your parent account. Please contact the school office if you need any help logging in.

School Uniform Reminder

We ask the children to keep a pair of wellington boots in school please. All children need a pair of trainers for PE and outside play.

Long hair must be tied back at all times. We allow the children to wear plain stud earrings, but ask that the children do not wear earrings on the days of PE or swimming lessons.

All items of clothing must be named please.

School Uniform is supplied by the Uniform & Leisurewear company at Lancaster.

Dinner Money

Please check your parent account on School Spider for invoices due for payment. Thank you

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Absence Reporting & Attendance

****Absences can now be reported via School Spider****

If your child is going to be absent from school please leave a phone message or email bursar@melling.lancs.sch.uk before 9am on the day of each absence. Absences can also be reported via School Spider. If a phone call/email is not received we will need to call you during the morning to find out where they are as part of our safeguarding responsibility. Please see our updated attendance policy on the school website.

DIARY DATES (please note these dates are provisional)

Tuesday 31st October/Wednesday 1st October - Bikeability

Tuesday 7th November - Year 5 & 6 to Quernmore book signing

Friday 10th November 2.30pm - Remembrance in school

Thursday 16th November Y 5 & 6 - rugby @ Wray

Friday 17th November - Children in Need (Wear something Spotty!)

Tuesday 21st November - Height/Weight checks (Reception & Year 6)

Wednesday 22nd November - KS2 Swimming Gala

Thursday 30th November - Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 14th December 4pm - Christingle in Church

Friday 17th November - Children in Need (Wear something Spotty!)

Tuesday 21st November 2023 - Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight check & Health Needs Survey

Thursday 30th November - Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Friday 8th December 2pm - Nativity in School

Tuesday 12th December - Christmas Dinner & Party afternoon

Wednesday 20th December 1.05pm - School Closes for Christmas

Monday 8th January 8.45am - School Reopens for the Spring Term