News from Cumnor School

Spring Term Number 4 *27th January 2023*

Dear Parents,

I hope that you received my letter informing you of my departure from Cumnor in the summer. The timing isn't great, especially following on from our successful OFSTED report coming out last week and the news of the NEU strike action next week, but the timing does ensure that governors have the right amount of time to recruit a new headteacher in time for September. As I said in my letter, I shall miss everyone here, but also know that it's a good opportunity for the school to move forward into its next stage of development under a new leader.

NEU Teachers' Strike - 1st February

As you are aware, the NEU has planned strike action for teachers on Wednesday 1st February. Of our 11 teachers almost all of them are members of the NEU and have let me know already that they intend to strike.

We have considered the issues of the safe supervision of children on the strike day, given the number of teachers striking, and so as a result of the significantly reduced staffing levels across our school, school will be **closed to all children on 1st February**, with the exception of a small number of invited students who will be contacted separately.

The strike action also precludes teachers from setting remote learning for children. However, the school website has a range of online learning sites that would be suitable for home learning on 1st February.

Please use the school's curriculum maps (in the curriculum section of the school website) and the topic overviews sent out at the beginning of this term to identify areas to focus on during the day. Alternatively, children can revisit areas they feel less confident with and also simply read for pleasure.

While the school has been formally notified by trade unions of their intention to strike, there is also the possibility that through ongoing negotiations the strike may not take place. As you may be aware the dispute is between the unions and the government. I will, of course, let you know if the situation changes. There will be separate communications in relation to the planned action on 2nd, 15th and 16th March.

There will be no after school activities or clubs running on Wednesday.

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

We are looking for a Teaching Assistant to work in the Key Stage 2 area of our school, supporting the teachers and children in their work. This is a permanent position, starting as soon as possible.

- Grade 4 £21,189 Pro Rata
- 30 Hours Mon to Fri, Term Time Only

If you are interested in joining our team, or know someone else who is, more details are on the school website along with an application form. The closing date is next Thursday (2nd Feb).

Start of the School Day

A gentle reminder that children all need to be in school and ready to learn by 8.50am. The school register is taken then and the school wooden gates locked, so any children arriving after this time will be marked as late and have to come in through the main entrance. Late arrivals also impact on the school lunch register which is sent to the office at 8.50. Thank you for your consideration.

E-Safety Meeting for parents

As part of our Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7th February, we have worked with our internet providers 123ICT to lead an online E-safety awareness meeting for parents. The session will be a one-hour workshop about Online Safety starting at 8pm via Zoom. It will be run by Nick Speller, a CEOP Ambassador and 360 Safe Assessor. The session will be packed with information and advice for parents on how to keep your children safe online. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

The session covers:
* The risks of using the internet - online friends, chat, social media, gaming, bullying etc
* Tips and suggestions on how to reduce these risks to keep your children safe online
* Signposting to further resources and information.
* Advice on how to get help if things go wrong.
* The chance to ask questions.

PLEASE NOTE
Children are not allowed to attend the session due to the content and tone!
Access to the Zoom will be available from 7:45pm and the meeting will be sealed from 8pm to avoid interruptions so please join ahead of time as Zoom constantly needs updates!
If you would like to join the meeting, please log on via this Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85696046006 Meeting ID: 856 9604 6006

From the PTA:

THANK YOU so much to everyone who contributed in any way towards our **Cumnor School Christmas Appeal** this year. From donating a tombola prize, buying raffle tickets, attending the Christmas Fayre or buying a Christmas jumper, book or bowl of chilli, to making cupcakes, running a stall, donating to our JustGiving page or popping a coin in the bucket when Father Christmas rode down your street. It all made a positive difference and we are grateful for your support!

With much hard work by our PTA Committee, the support of Cumnor School families and friends at the events and activities we presented throughout the Christmas season generated the majority of funds raised, with online donations via our **Cumnor School Christmas Appeal** JustGiving page hugely helping to exceed our target.

We are excited to announce a total of **£4091** raised to date! This means our long-awaited KS2 Outdoor Trim Trail and many other items on our school's wish-list will become a reality!

The Christmas Appeal will officially close on Tuesday January 31st. If you or someone you know would like to donate, please just click or share the following link before then.
https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CumnorPTAChristmas

Diary dates next week:

Tuesday 31st January	AM	Mr Broadley from Matthew Arnold School visiting Year 6
Wednesday 1st February	All Day	NEU strike action: School Closed
Thursday 2nd February	All Day	Year 1 visiting Crocodiles of the World
Thursday 2nd February	All Day	Year 5 visiting Ufton Court
Friday 3rd February	9.00am	Year 2 class sharing assembly - family and friends welcome

What has my child been doing this week?

School Value of the week:	Service
Reception	Acorn Class has been looking closely at the composition of the number 5, we have completed our treasure boxes of words we are trying to recognise by sight and we have been learning about the importance of order and sequencing by making a jam sandwich correctly!
Year 1	This week, we have been considering the creation story in the bible and what it teaches Christians about God and the world. We have also begun to practise our first joins in our handwriting books and have learned about hot and cold areas of the world.
Year 2	This week we have been writing our own stories following the plot of 'The Singing Mermaid'. We have been continuing to practise our tennis skills in PE and learning new notes on the recorder in Music with Mrs Pottle. In Maths we have started looking at money and selecting different coins to find an amount.
Year 3	We have enjoyed making our own robots this week, as well as developing our upper body strength in P.E and column addition in maths. We also had a great guitar session and will soon be getting our log ins to be able to practise at home too!
Year 4	This week, Beech class has been writing a story about accidentally falling into the Stone Age and the activities they took part in. We have also been revising links between fractions and decimals and understanding what part miracle stories play in the Christian faith.
Year 5	This week we have worked really hard on the written method for multiplication in maths and role played a scene from Percy Jackson in English. We have also designed and painted a Greek pot.
Year 6	This week we have been looking at statistics in Maths and focusing on pie charts and line graphs. In History we have been learning all about the river Nile and its importance to the ancient Egyptians so that we could write an explanation text in English to answer the question: 'Why was the river Nile so important to the ancient Egyptians?'

Lunches next week (week 2)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bubble Coated Salmon OR Margherita Pizza Or Jacket Potato and Beans	BBQ Chicken Breast Or Baked Bean and Cheese Wrap Or Jacket Potato and Tuna	School Closed: Strike Action	Minced Beef Bolognese Or Sweet Potato Quorn and Lentil Curry Or Jacket Potato and Cheese	Fish Finger Or Vegetarian Sausage Roll Or Jacket Potato and Beans

Yours sincerely,

Ed Read