

NEWSLETTER 6th SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome back to a new school year. If it is your first newsletter, 'Thank You' for entrusting your child's education to us. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and your children are well rested and keen and enthusiastic to return to school. Please take the time to read this newsletter carefully. It is sent out every Friday and helps to communicate useful information to keep you up to speed on school activities. At Bookwell, we have a strong tradition of fostering close collaboration between our school and families. This partnership is key to our success, helping to create a positive and lasting impact on the future of each child.

JEWELLERY

I have noticed a few children wearing earrings this week. The only item of jewellery we allow in school is a watch. Can you ensure children have removed any bracelets, chains or earrings before coming to school. Please also be aware that children are not allowed to do PE if they are wearing earrings.

FIRST DAY CALLING

If your child is absent, you must inform the school on the first day of absence, preferably before 9:00am. If no contact is made by 9:30am, you will be contacted by the school to provide a reason for the absence. If we are unable to make contact and all emergency contacts have been attempted, we will need to contact the police regarding the absence using the 101 telephone number to report the child as missing.

DATES FOR THE YEAR

Next week, a list of important dates for the year will be sent home. Class Assemblies and class lunches will be starting again this year and will be on this list of dates.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be set on Fridays on Seesaw, and will need to be returned for the following Friday. Your child's teacher will keep you informed about expectations and the nature of the homework. Please support your child if you can to complete these tasks. The most important homework of all though is READING – this is the key to everything. It is so important for your child to read (or be read to) for at least 20 minutes a day. We would urge every parent to ensure this happens.

OFSTED LETTER

I was thrilled to receive a letter today from Sir Martyn Oliver, His Majesty's Chief Inspector, congratulating us on our recent inspection. His words of praise are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team and community. I've attached a copy of his letter to this newsletter for everyone to read. This recognition is not only an honour but also a reflection of our collective effort and commitment to excellence. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this success.



SAFEGUARDING

Bookwell School are committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all children. If you have any concerns regarding this, please contact one of our designated safeguarding leads (listed below). For significant and immediate concerns, please contact the police on 999. For concerns that are not immediate, please contact the Cumberland Safeguarding Hub: 0333 240 1727

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr R Hardy (01946 820408 or head@bookwell.cumbria.sch.uk)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Wolfenden (01946 820408 or s.wolfenden@bookwell.cumbria.sch.uk)

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

Any staff led after school clubs will be starting the week beginning 16th September. Information will be sent home next week for particular classes to sign up for any clubs we have on this half term. Judo will restart on Monday 9th September.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care (Breakfast and After School Club) bookings can now be made via Arbor. Breakfast club runs from 7:30 until 8:30 and costs £4 per child/session.

After school club runs from 3:00 until 5:00. The cost per child/session is £4 for 3:00–4:00 or £7 for 3:00–5:00. If you are using wraparound care for the first time, please enter through the bottom gate and drop and collect your children at the door on the ramp.

PE KITS

Your child can come to school on their PE days in their PE Kits. Our PE kit is a blue T-shirt with the school logo and plain navy blue shorts or longer navy blue cycling shorts and a pair of trainers, (NOT football tops or branded sportswear.) Leggings or joggers can also be worn during colder months and a school hoodie is available to purchase. If children do not have a school hoodie they can wear either a school uniform jumper or cardigan or a dark plain sweatshirt or hoodie. Nike pro style and other similar style shorts, which are very short, are not suitable.

Attendance and the Law

The government's policy on attendance changed on August 19th and is much stricter than previous. Action against families who have children with poor attendance will be taken by the County and not the school and they now have access to school data. Action is particularly harsh against term time holidays – please be aware of this. We are awaiting further details from Cumberland and will share these in a newsletter as soon as I get them. We would like to ensure all families are aware of the changes to the law. The Headteacher is not allowed to authorise absence and indeed any holiday absences in term time will be counted as 'unauthorised' and may be subject to a fixed penalty notice/fine.

Parents need to fill in a leave of absence form if their child is going to be missing from school and this is on the school website. It is imperative that school knows where your child is for safeguarding reasons.

MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

Only prescribed medicines can be administered by school. Please follow the procedure below: Once you know your child requires medicine in school time and it has been prescribed, please complete the permissions to administer medicines form on the school website. Once the form is completed the medicine should be handed over to the office. Please do not put any medicines in your children's bags. We are also a nut free zone.

School Budgets

As you may have heard in the media, school budgets will be exceptionally tight this academic year. Bookwell School is no exception. The low birth rate has affected our student intake this September, leading to a heavily reduced budget. Despite this, we are still expected to provide a comprehensive range of services and resources without adequate funding. The pressure on our budget is increasing, and our governors and leadership team are working diligently to maintain high academic standards, support children's well-being, and offer a broad curriculum with numerous opportunities.

At Bookwell, we are committed to supporting our children and their families as much as possible. Unfortunately, we are projecting a budget deficit for the next year. This has already resulted in reduced teaching assistant support. During our budget planning, we have already cut expenses and are exploring ways to increase self-generated income. Parents will also see an increase in costs for trips and after-school clubs as we are no longer able to offer the same level of subsidy offered in previous years.

One of the most effective ways to increase government funding is by attracting additional students. We have several openings in Reception, as well as a few spots in other classes. We would greatly appreciate your help in recommending our school to friends and acquaintances who are looking for a place for their child.

Additionally, if you are aware of any funding opportunities from companies that could assist us in purchasing new IT equipment or creating an outdoor classroom, please let us know.

Any support you can provide will help us continue to offer the high-quality education and services we pride ourselves on.

If you can assist, please contact Mr Hardy, at head@bookwell.cumbria.sch.uk.

BOOKWELL SCHOOL MENU

WEEK 1

Monday

Burger in a bun (GF & EF)
Rice Pudding



Tuesday

Spaghetti Bolognese (EF)
Fruit Crumble & Custard

Wednesday

Gammon Steak & Cheesy Mash (EF)
Fruity Flapjack & Custard



Thursday

Roast Beef (GF) & EF)
Ginger Biscuit & Milkshake

Friday

Fish Fingers & Chips (GF)
Ice Cream



Available Daily

Meal choice: Jacket Potato (GF, V), Sandwich/Wrap, Fresh Veg/Salad

Dessert: Hot Pudding/Fresh Fruit/Yoghurt

CURRICULUM IN ACTION



Clive House
70 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EX

T 0300 123 1231
Textphone 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ofsted



25 July 2024

Mr Russell Hardy
Headteacher
Bookwell Primary School
Bookwell
Egremont
Cumbria
CA22 2LT

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty's Chief Inspector

Our ref: 505574

Dear Mr Hardy

I am writing to say how pleased I am that Bookwell Primary School has retained its outstanding judgement following its most recent Ofsted inspection.

The inspection framework sets a high bar for being judged outstanding, which makes it a challenging and exacting standard to achieve. I would therefore like to commend you and your team on your exceptional work. I hope that you and your whole school community are very proud.

I wish you every success in the months and years ahead.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martyn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty's Chief Inspector



HM Government



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Cumberland School Attendance Pledge

1. Making sure children/young people regularly at end school is the responsibility of everyone.
2. We are committed to working together to improve school attendance for children/young people across Cumberland.
3. We understand that attending school is crucial for everyone, and when students are absent, it could signal important safety concerns we need to address, particularly if they are a child missing education.
4. Barriers to school attendance can be complicated and come from a number of reasons within families, communities, and environments. We are committed to breaking down these barriers.
5. We will collaborate with each other to remove barriers to attendance. Parents and caregivers play a crucial role in this partnership.
6. We strongly support and promote excellent attendance and role-model this.
7. If we notice that children/young people are not in school during school hours, we will be professionally curious and query the reasons behind their absence.

Each partner has an important and distinct role in supporting the child or family, no one partner can do it on their own.

