**Word of the Week:****katzenjammer****uneasiness; anguish; distress****"Mr Jones' new tie caused great katzenjammer."****Ben Greenep Annual Cross Country**

I often find that cross country runs surface a lot of emotion in adults as well as children. Memories of secondary school runs surface in many adults. If you run for pleasure they become a great source of fun and excitement. We introduced this race in January last year to provide an opportunity to shake the January cobwebs off and provide a team focus in school. Named after Ben who was the quickest pupil last year, the race took place yesterday in relatively mild conditions. Although a little boggy, the race was not as muddy as anticipated and provided a superb afternoon of sport.

Well done to **Ingleborough** who won overall and very well done to those children who find cross country challenging but gave it a good go! Congratulations to the winners below:



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 St Mary's CE Primary School, Kendal Road, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, LA6 2DN  
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### **Nuts in school**

I wrote last year about the importance of our school needing to be a nut free environment. This is typical of many schools across the country but is especially important as we have children with peanut and hazelnut allergies. In order to manage their well-being and to minimise the risk I would like to reiterate that it is crucial not to send in products eg snack bars, peanut butter, etc. which contain nuts. We really appreciate your support with regard to this policy. We have also placed signs around school to encourage the children to take ownership of this as well as their parents.

### **Harry Potter Book Evening**



We will be celebrating Harry Potter Book Night on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, slightly later than the national Harry Potter Book Night. As part of this we are providing our children with a competition entry to design a new wizard for Hogwarts School. Do hand these into the school office and they will be given to Mr Jones to send off. (all details are on the Harry Potter sheets given out). On the night children will be able to dress up in Harry Potter outfits and take part in Harry Potter readings and games. Permission slips will be distributed very soon.

### **Dog Walking**

As a nation we are very good at clearing up after our dogs. I also appreciate that parents respect the fact we do not have dogs on the school premises. We live in a wonderfully rural setting to enable us to walk our dogs in a wonderful environment. Recently a member of the public has been walking their dog inexplicably on our school field in the mornings. Bewilderingly they think this is acceptable in an area where children play and learn. We are making every effort to address this but if you are aware of anyone walking their dogs in the

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school grounds, please let us know so that we can challenge them appropriately. We appreciate your support in not bringing dogs onto the school grounds.

### Dropping off in cars

I am sure my predecessors have been part of many a meetings with the community about the flow of traffic and parking in and around the school grounds. I am minded to point out that many parents park and drop off respectfully and thoughtfully. I however, have witnessed myself, parents from our school and QES even last week, parking in the bus drop off area and leaving their cars. This nearly caused a serious incident on the road as the buses then blocked the road and the ripple effect was unhelpful and whilst never unsafe, extremely unnecessary. I, like my predecessors, will be required to mention this at different intervals throughout the year, it would seem. This is one of those moments I would ask for your support in making this situation as pleasant and safe as possible.

### Book Authors

Well done to the children who wrote stories last year in year 5 who have now had their stories published in a book. The children joined many schools in contributing stories linked to historical events which have recently been published.



### Year 5 – Book Challenge

This term our children in year 5 have joined other children in Cumbria schools and they have joined the Spellbinding challenge. This book reading challenges requires the children to immerse themselves in 10 books and write reviews. These are very exciting and gripping books. Please do support and encourage the children reading these texts and talking about the books.

### Parent Consultations

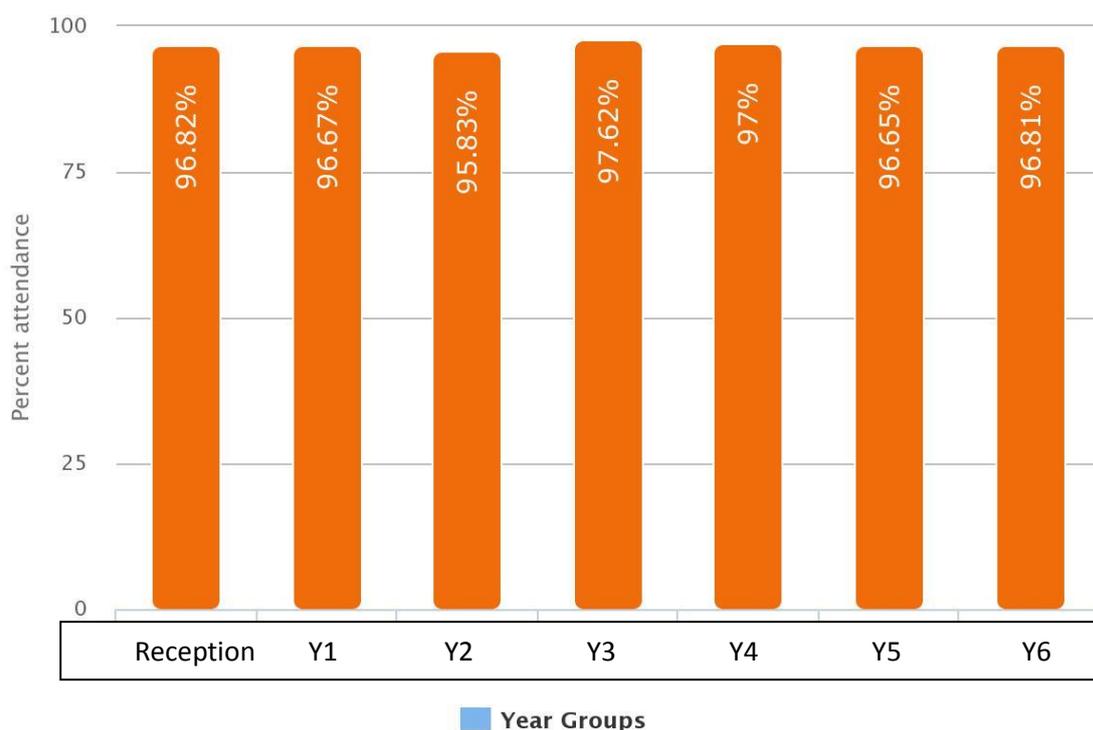
Letters will be out next week for parent consultations. Please do return these as soon as possible so that we ensure all parents have the opportunity to meet staff.

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### **Attendance:**

We are making every effort to maintain a high attendance, ensuring our children have every opportunity to access learning and achieve to their potential.

We will be sending out letters, as part of our attendance policy informing parents if their child's attendance is below expected. This may be due to illness or a combination of illness, medical appointments and holidays. Importantly we would ask parents to discuss with their teachers where this is the case, if this is impacting on learning and how we can work with you to ensure they are on track. Well done to Year 3 and 4 who have the highest attendance!



**We have 29 children who are currently at 100% attendance which is a great achievement!**

### **Food Bank:**

Thank you for supporting the food bank. Please continue with this very essential support for those in our community requiring support. We have seen various items of food donated this week, thank you for your generosity:

Dried tinned items	Toiletries	Packet Food	Bottle/Cartons
Pasta, beans, oats, tinned vegetables/fruit/fish/meat	Toilet rolls, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Soap, Baby wipes	Soup, cereal, snack bars	Juice, Squash, Long Life Milk

Advanced Notice:

- 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Harry Potter Book Night (3:15-5:00pm)
- Parents Evenings Mon 13<sup>th</sup> and Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb

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