



Newsletter



29/02/19

St Mary's Church of England School, Kirkby Lonsdale

Dear Parents and Families of our School Community

I was recently listening to a talk by Miles Hilton Barber, a blind adventurer who is now an inspirational speaker, touring the world sharing his experiences and connecting with many people. He reminds his various audiences that, 80% of all the time spent with our children is before they reach the age of 12. He goes on to explore the biggest investment in our children is the investment of time. I was really struck by the importance of this statistic as a parent and as an educator in a primary school.

As teachers we are trying to make an investment in your children also, both in quality time and in the physical improvements in or school building. In improving the fabric of the school we hope to raise the quality of provision for your children which really improves their educational experience. We also try our best to develop them as independent, creative thinkers.

I am also aware that the average child sleeps between 10-12 hours per day. They are typically in school for 6-7 hours per day for 39 weeks per year. The rest of the day of course is family time. A typical day could be as seen in the diagram below. We want to ensure we maximise our time with children and we are trying very hard to do this.

Sleep 10-12 hours	School 6-9 hours	Family Life/Activities 4-6 hours
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We are acutely aware of the core skills needed in life and we make every effort to ensure the children leave our school, literate and numerate. Tin particular the power that reading can have on our children's lives is immeasurable. Dolly Parton who established the Imagination Library, recognises this. She has established a foundation providing free books around the world. In February, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sent over 1,380,140 books to families. The total number of free books mailed as of February 2019, is 116,524,568!

She notes that, 'Before he passed away, my Daddy told me the Imagination Library was probably the most important thing I had ever done. I can't tell you how much that meant to me because I created the Imagination Library as a tribute to my Daddy. He was the smartest man I have ever known but I know in my heart his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams.'

So much of our time as teachers is spent sharing the fundamentals of reading and inspiring, where possible, a love of reading. We do this because we value the power of reading. We



aim to continually invest on our library of books – in 2019 already for example, we spent over £500 on new books for the children.

We are also asking to work in partnership with you to inspire that love of reading for the children. Each day we see our children grow and gradually improve in their reading and many other skills. We do this with whole class reading each day and opportunities to be heard by an adult within the week and targeted support particularly in KS1 and Reception Classes.

This reading ability begins not only by reading for small amounts, for a minimum of five times a week, but also to discuss fully and explore the books together. As many families discussed in parent consultations, they really want to find a space in the day to read with their child, knowing the investment they are making. I know various parents have already discussed with teachers how we can work together to improve the children's reading skills, which impacts on all aspects of learning. I hope you find reading with your child a rewarding and special time together and not chore. We are putting together a booklet of questions (as requested by parents) to ask when reading books with the children both from school and family books.

We love our time with all of our children and continue to commit to investing in our resources and our time to ensuring a fun and exciting learning journey and enjoyment of reading.

Kindest Regards - Mr Jones

4 BIG MUFTI DAYS – coming up

Mon 1 11th MARCH Science Mufti - Theme:

Please come as a scientist or engineer you would like to be when you grow up.

FRI 15th MARCH Wear RED



You can buy red noses from the office throughout the week – first come first served

THUR 21st MARCH ODD SOCKS DAY- Awareness Day only



FRI 29th MARCH Wear colours of the Kenyan Flag



Donate if you can to support the primary school we support in Kenya.

The word originates from the Arabic: **Mufti** (مفتي) meaning an Islamic scholar. It has been used by the British **Army** since 1816 and is thought to derive from the vaguely Eastern style dressing gowns and tasselled caps worn by off-duty officers in the early 19th century.

Science Week

Annually we celebrate Science Week and this year is no different. This year on the first day for Year 1-6 we are dressing up as Engineers and Scientists we would like to be when we grow up. I am not sure what the teachers are going to dress up as!

The rest of the week is jam packed with exciting opportunities to explore science with the theme of 'Journeys'. This will be interpreted in many different ways by each class. We are really looking forward to this week and we hope the children will have a challenging and exciting time.

Dates for the Diary

Fri	1st March	PTA Film Night
Mon	4 TH March	Year 1 Museum Visit - Kendal
Tues	5 th March	Traidcraft Coffee - After school, join us after school open until 4:30
Wed	6 th March	Reception Class – Vision Screening
Thur	7 th March	Pupil Parliament – Year 6 Head/Deputy Boys and Girls Reception Dental Checks Hockey Clinic – Sedbergh Prep
Mon	11th March	Science Week Begins – Journeys MUFTI DAY Reception – Farm Visit
Thurs	14 th March	Cricket Training invited Year 5/6 pupils
Fri	15th March	RED NOSE DAY Chair of Governors Visit Day – All Day
Tues	19 th March	EYFS Growing Morning
Thur	21st March	Down Syndrome Awareness Day = ODD SOCKS
Tues	26th March	Y2 SATS Meeting – After School
Fri	29th March	KENYA DAY
Fri	5th April	Lent Term Ends – Easter Break Begins
Tues	23rd April	Summer Term begins



Children have until 8th March to produce their wonderful, imaginative 500 word stories. Please encourage your children to delve into their imaginations and create a wonderful 500 word story to upload onto the 500 word competition website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/59TwKqgLP3LTpRVfPlsKtx9/submit-a-story>

If your child is passionate about writing or a reluctant writer, this is the perfect opportunity for all children to have a go and create a wonderful and fascinating story. We would love to hear if you are sending a story from home to the competition. Have fun writing everyone!

Here are some of last year's winners from around the country – this year it could be you!



Why not listen to some of the stories that have been recorded and published on the website? I think they will make super bed time listening over half term or over the next few weeks!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/KNWskPrg7stQ54tTbcf6P7/500-words-the-stories>

Congratulations – Readers



Well done to Benji and Annie who have been working really hard to boost their reading averages. They have really been reading a lot at home and in school.

They have been to see Mr Jones as they really have tried to read as much as possible. They were very proud of the achievement, and rightly so!

Strive for Five

Honesty Trust Responsibility Perseverance Respect



Investing in Cricket



On Monday we had a really positive INSET day to support the learning taking place over the next few months and years. One aspect of this was cricket training. Following this we have cricket sessions taking place this week for various classes including Reception, Year 1 and 2 as well as Year 5 and 6.

Sports Clubs

We have sent letters for two clubs this week. Please can we have any last requests to join by Monday morning on the 4th March.

Tuesday

Year 5

**Fit for Sport Club
3:15-4:15pm**

Mr Watson



Wednesday

Year 5 and 6

**Cricket Club
3:15-4:15pm**

Jonathan Osborne



Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Jones