



St Mary's Church of England School, Kirkby Lonsdale

Dear Parents and Carers

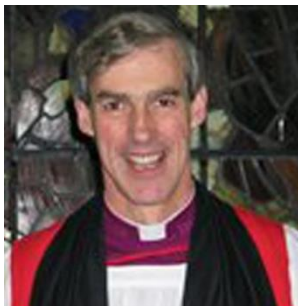
Next week is Parliament Week in School which is a national initiative for primary and secondary schools to engage meaningfully in having a voice and that voice being valued. As a result, we have planned an exciting week of debates and visitors to inspire the children. What a time in our political history for this to take place as well.

We have Bishop James arriving on Monday to talk about being in the House of Lords, Tim Farron will be joining us on Thursday and we have a visitor from the Houses of Parliament joining us on Friday. This week children were encouraged to consider being a School Councillor or a Sports Councillor, representing their class. The children are being asked to come up with a speech and manifesto highlighting why their class should vote for them.

Please can you support the children in thinking about this. We are also hoping the children will discuss the election of the Speaker of the House of Commons on Monday. We are also hoping the children will be able to recognise the leaders of the main political parties and discuss the parties. Families have many and varied views about politics however, it would be lovely to engage the children in thinking about these important issues so they can get the best from next week's exciting learning.

Who is visiting during Parliament Week?

Bishop James Newcombe



Monday

Tim Farron M.P.



Thursday

Rachael Dodgson



Friday

Inter House Dodgeball Tournament

Year 3 and 4 took part in an Inter house Dodgeball Competition this week which was a great success. Congratulations to **Middleton** who won the Year 3 competition and **Farleton** who won the Year 4 competition.



Parking - Lunesdale Sports Hall Parking availability to drop off children

Parking – Good news!

QES and the Lunesdale Sports Centre have kindly agreed to let parents park in front of the Sports Hall at drop off times. This is to encourage people to avoid parking on Kendal Road from the bus stop out towards the A65 as there have already been several near misses between children and moving vehicles.

The parking along the side of the Astro Turf is a QES staff car park, please don't block these spaces or park in front of the astro turf gates - access is required all of the time. If you do park in front of the sports hall, you are allowed to walk across the astro turf as long as there are no lessons or games taking place.

As the year progresses, more Sixth Formers will be passing their driving tests and driving to school. This means there will be fewer parking spaces available in the summer months.

It is important that we respect this very generous offer and do not cause any unnecessary problems for the staff or visitors to the secondary school.

PTA generously supporting the children of St Mary's School....

At our meeting this week we confirmed over £3000 of funding towards school resources (including funding towards new phonics resources, a new playhouse for nursery, and materials to support a new Lego-club) and will also commit more funding towards playground improvements over the next few months. Last year we contributed towards lots of things you see in and around school, including a new maths mat, new outdoor storage, outdoor orienteering, dance sessions, infant playground resources, the pods, as well as a £200 allocation which is given every year to each class.

We were really pleased to welcome some new members for this year. We are always looking for members and help so please let any of us know if you might be interested in joining and/or helping in any way. PTA's can often get a bad rep, but we really are a friendly, non-cliquey, random bunch of parents!

We are currently busy planning the Christmas fair (6th December) and gathering some fabulous raffle prizes from very generous and supportive local businesses. Thanks to everyone for their on-going support – the funding we raise really does make a big difference to the school!

Dawn Winnard	Holly Welsh	Sam Millar
Keeley Slack	Jacqui Waller	Joanne Richardson
Amanda Castle	Harvinda Gill	Kate Mason
Emma Birkbeck	Cat Barker	Harry Stephenson
Laura Keeler	Rachel Webster	Fiona Greenhalgh
Susannah Stone	Lauren Dodds	

Children in Need - MUFTI DAY



We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 15th November 2019. This is a lovely opportunity to dress up in spots and Pudsey clothes.

Children attending the mountain festival can attend in their own clothes but not dressed up.