

Feb 09th 2023

## St. Mary's

Church of England Primary School  
Kirkby Lonsdale



Y2 Religious Education - Feb 08<sup>th</sup>

# Newsletter

*Nurturing creative thinkers*

Honesty



Trust



Responsibility



Perseverance



Respect



Dear Parents,

What another exciting week with so many activities going on in various years groups. All of our children discussed Internet Safety Day with a special visit from PSCO Jenna who was a great support this week in educating our children. We have updated our recent Internet Safety Newsletter for parents and this will be sent out along with this newsletter. We hope you find the information helpful to you and your family.

Internet Safety Week is an important event because it raises awareness about the potential dangers and risks associated with using the internet especially for children and young people. During this week, educators, parents and community leaders come together to educate themselves and young people about the risks and challenges associated with the internet. We hope that you will join many parents in reflecting on the safeguards you have in your home for internet use, the time and the websites your children have access to as well as the necessary conversations about internet safety we should all be having to protect our children.

## My Bike Buddies – Reception

Riding a bike is not just a fun activity for children, it is a means to develop important skills that will serve them for a lifetime. It builds balance, coordination, strength, independence and encourages a sense of adventure and discovery.

Today has seen another opportunity for Karl Wakeman to join us from My Bike Buddies who has been spending time with Reception Class this week. He will be working with Year 3 and 4 in the near future too, which is very exciting. It has been a delight to see our children grow in confidence in such a short period of time.



It is our hope that as the nights get lighter or at the weekend, that everyone builds on this experience and enables the children to saddle up again and get on their bikes more often. As we have seen today and last week with Year 1 and 2, all children can access biking. Please explore our Instagram account for pictures of these sessions.

## Imran Kotwal – Visit

Discovering about different faiths and their beliefs and practices is important in promoting understanding and tolerance. It enhances our cultural awareness and the role religion plays in people's lives. It encourages dialogue and cooperation and enhances our personal and spiritual growth. With this in mind, we really value our annual visit from Imran who contributes to the discovery of Islam in RE. He has been invaluable in talking about the Muslim faith and providing cultural and religious awareness in our school community.



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## Spelling Bee

This week started with a bang, with our Spelling Bee. This event provides motivation, focus and exposure to words the children are encouraged to learn throughout their development. Even if children find spellings challenging, we believe this encourages a routine of learning spellings at home, building on the teaching in school. It also provides inspiration and develops confidence and positive relationships.

We were very impressed with the energy in the school hall throughout the afternoon. We held year group spelling challenges as well as audience spot spelling challenges. This was a super inter-house event as well as individuals being celebrated. Well done to everyone who learned their spellings and took part in the Spelling Bee also.



## Ofsted Report

You will be aware that an Ofsted Inspection took place two weeks ago. I thought I would manage expectations about the publication date. It seems with the timing of this report, it is likely that publication will be after Half Term as we have even not seen the first draft of the report ourselves. Fingers crossed this will be out as soon as possible.



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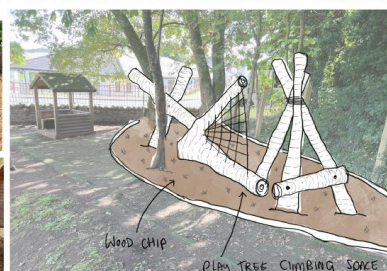
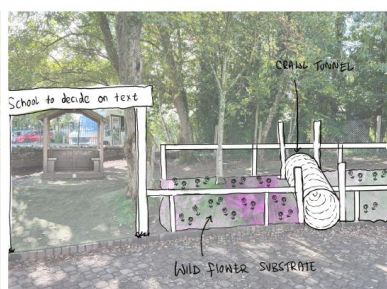
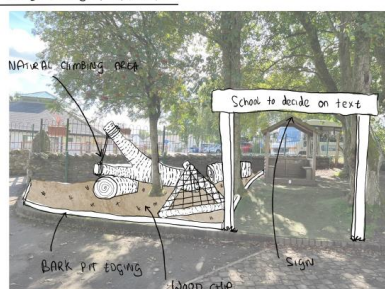
# Building developments in school.

We are very pleased to share pictures of our new developments which have been completed over the past couple of weeks. To fund these projects, we have combined two key grants and funding from the Christopher Robin Trust and our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The pictures below show the two areas developed for our children recently. The final image shows a rough, initial drawing of Phase 2 of our plans to develop the early years and infant play spaces.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our PTA in some way whether financially or with their time. It is lovely that our children benefit from the PTA's generosity and the additional grant funding. The PTA really do make a huge difference. Many thanks to the trustees of Christopher Robin who have donated significant funds to our school also.



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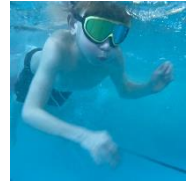


## Swimming - Year 4 and 5

Along with learning to ride a bike, swimming is an essential skill that all children need in life. Swimming aids with physical fitness, can be a stress relief, is a life saving essential and is also great fun. Holidays and children's social lives are transformed by being able to swim.

During this half term we have been **teaching our Year 4 children to swim**, building on their existing experience of swimming. They have really progressed in their confidence and their skills have really improved. We are encouraging all families to continue or start swimming lessons to build on the enthusiasm the children have for swimming at the moment.

Next week, we will be sending out details of **swimming for Year 5** which will be taking place after half term. As a result, we are encouraging families to prepare for swimming lessons in Year 5 by ensuring the children have goggles and a swimming costume. If the children haven't been swimming recently, you may find a swimming experience over half term could prove to be a good start in building confidence again.



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# Annual Winter Run - Thursday

As we approach the end of this half term next week, we have our sights on the annual winter run next Thursday. This will be a cross country run for all of our children which is another opportunity for all of our children to represent their house in a sporting event.

The weather conditions vary each day but we do advise that all children come in PE kit and running kit they wish to wear. We are suggesting a spare bag and clothes/footwear in case the conditions are wet and muddy. If your child has taken part before you will recall this can be quite muddy or gloriously fresh and firm conditions, but we advise everyone brings some spare footwear/socks in case.

Jan 2022



## Parent Invitations

We have two dates we would like you to be aware of in the forth coming few weeks.

- (1) **Parent consultations** will be taking place online (for most classes) on the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March. On **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** parents are invited to join us in class to view your children's work between **3:30pm and 4:30pm**. We will end this session at 4:30pm to allow teachers to attend meetings and prepare for the next day. Apologies if you wish to stay or arrive later than 4:30pm but this won't be possible.
- (2) On **31<sup>st</sup> March**, parents are invited to bring a picnic and come for an **Easter picnic lunch** with our children from **12:00-13:00pm**. This is the last day of Lent term and we hope to have a lovely picnic lunch with parents and their children on this day. Parents will then be able to take the children home to begin the Easter Break. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us. More details to come.

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