



'We lift our eyes to the hills'

September Newsletter 2022



The summer has been lovely but it's great to be back all together in school. We've had new faces to welcome to our Adventures class and the Explorers and Discoverers have already been on a school trip to the County Show last Thursday. The County show was a jammed packed day with animals galore, vehicles of all shapes & sizes and not forgetting the children's favourite the freebies! It was a pleasure to take the children and several trade stalls said they were the politest and most well mannered children they had met at the show. Which made me feel very proud!

This half term we will be focusing on our school value, **Thankfulness**.

Homework and Reading at home

This year we would like to improve our communication with parents. In the past we have used Seesaw for our younger children and Google Classroom for our older children. We have decided this year that everyone will use SeeSaw.

There is even a new messenger feature to contact your child's class teacher and a family App so you can see more than one sibling at a time. This is the way teachers will send out weekly homework. Teachers will be in contact with you shortly with your login details.

We are having a big push on reading. We ask that parents read with their child at least 3 times a week and please log it in your child's reading record with a signature. If you have time you could strive for 5 times a week.

'Children who are good at reading do more of it: they learn more, about all sorts of things, and their expanded vocabulary, gained from their reading, increases their ease of access to more reading. Conversely, those for whom reading is difficult fall behind, not just in their reading but in all subjects and a vicious circle develops.

Here's how many words kids would have heard by the time they were 5 years old:

- Never read to, 4,662 words
- 1-2 times per week, 63,570 words
- 3-5 times per week, 169,520 words
- daily, 296,660 words; and five books a day, 1,483,300 words

DFE updated figures (July 2021)

Attendance

Any absence from school should be avoided unless for medical reasons, as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress. Changes to legislation have removed the discretionary 10 day period of absence which covered family holidays. Schools can only grant requests for a leave of absence in term time in very exceptional circumstances. Our registers will now be audited every half

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term by the council and the Local Authority will look at unauthorised holidays and as a result they will likely get a fine imposed.

The death of her Majesty the Queen

All the staff were saddened to hear about the death of our Queen. In our reflection area, the children have been sharing messages about what the Queen meant to them. In this national period of mourning, school will remain open as normal except on **Monday the 19th of September** which we are now closed for her funeral to take place.



PE and outdoor learning kit

This year PE will be on a Wednesday with Mrs Jones. PE bags for the Explorers and Discoverers need to be brought into school on a Monday morning and these will be sent home on a Friday. This will allow us to fit in some mile a day sessions. The Adventurers can leave their PE bags in school and they will be sent home at the end of the half term. PE kits should include; a white plain t-shirt, black plain shorts or jogging bottoms, school hoodie white socks and a pair of trainers.

Over the summer, the school has ordered a new PE hoodie for each child. These need to be in their PE kits every week because you never know what the weather will be like in Selside! We didn't want to introduce something new and force costs onto parents so we have paid for them on this occasion. In the future, the hoodies will also be available from the One Identity uniform shop.

Please make sure their waterproofs, wellingtons and other suitable clothing are in school for outdoor learning sessions. The children do have labelled outdoor learning bags in school. These will be sent home at the end of a half term.

Water bottle and Snacks

Children need to bring in a water bottle to be put on the side, so the children can have a drink throughout the day. These can be taken home daily or left for the week. They all will be sent home on a Friday.

The Explorers and Discoverers are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack for the morning, (no sweets or chocolates please). The Adventurers receive free fruit and milk.

Please remember to order school dinners on the Orion website. If you have any problems with logging in contact Laura Mackenzie – admin@selside.cumbria.sch.uk

Tepee Tots and Open Day

We are pleased that from Friday the 16th of September, our playgroup Tepee Tots will be re-opening every Friday from 9.30am until 11.30pm. If you know any friends or family members who would maybe like to join our sessions, please let them know and ask them to contact the school office.

Adventurers

This half term the Adventurers Topic is 'Into the woods'. We will be exploring stories and tales set in woodland settings. Through Science we will explore living things and their habitats and investigate Climate zones around the world in Geography. In Woodland and Art lessons we will be exploring autumn changes and looking at local 'Land Artists' such as Andy Goldsworthy and Dianne Standen. We are very excited to be taking part in a textiles 'Land art' workshop with Dianne Standen who created the woodland art trail at Rydal hall. Pedal and scoot will be returning with Kathy Bashford.

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We have really enjoyed welcoming our newest Nursery children into class and seeing our friends again after the holidays.

Thanks, Mrs Corbett

Explorers

The Explorers have had a busy start to the term! We have been to the County Show, started our new maths and English units and have started putting together our fabulous display for our new topic- Tremendous Tropics. We will be learning about rainforests in geography, the water cycle in science, sewing in DT and greetings in French. We are all looking forward to learning lots of different things this term.

Thanks, Miss Clarke

Discoverers

The Discoverers will be learning about all things Polar this term. We have started off with a brilliant Art project inspired by Arctic animals. We will be researching the great explorers in History. In Geography we will ask 'What do the lines on a world map mean?'- getting to grip with times zones and lines of longitude and latitude. In Science we are thinking about the life cycles of a variety of animals and plants as well as imagining what we might need for our own Polar expedition. Our DT project will require our textile skills as we will be making cushions. There is so much to look forward to!

Thanks, Miss Plant.

Parent Governor

We are looking for a new Parent Governor and will be shortly be holding a parent election. Being a governor offers you the opportunity to support and drive improvement in the school. More information will follow shortly.

Communication

We love to hear from you but please note that the office is not always staffed. Please leave a message on the answer machine or send an email. On a Thursday Mrs Mackenzie is not in the office, on this day messages and emails will be checked at lunchtime and also at 3.00pm. Please make sure that any changes for the end of the school day are communicated, preferably before 12.00pm but at the latest at 3.00pm.

Best wishes

June Lowther & the staff of Selside School

Dates for the diary

19th Sept – School Closed – Queens Funeral

26th Sept – Discoverers – Leadership Day @ Lindale School

26th Sept – Adventurers – Pedal & Scoot – PM Only

28th Sept - Adventurers – Pedal & Scoot – PM Only

29th Sept - Adventurers – Pedal & Scoot – PM Only

30th Sept - Adventurers – Pedal & Scoot – PM Only

3rd Oct – Discoverers Years 5 & 6 – NSPCC Visit to school

6th October – Adventurers – Rydall Hall Trip

10th Oct – Rec to Year 6 – Nasal Flu Vaccines

11th Oct – Parents evenings

14th Oct – Whole School – Real Adventure Day

21st Oct – Break up for half term 3.20pm

24th Oct – 28th Oct – Half Term holidays (back in school Monday 31st October)

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