

Crow Orchard

September newsletter

Welcome back and I hope you all had a great Summer holiday. I had a lovely time doing very little and read lots of books which is my ultimate chill factor!

We are already in week 4 of the Autumn term and I keep hearing the word ChristmasNOOOOOOOOOO not yet!

I am thrilled with how all the children have settled in and how quickly we've got into the swing of things.

So on with the new school year news.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (I've included some Christmas dates so working parents can put them in their diary- I do realise it seems a long way off!)



Tuesday 6 th October	Cross Country competition
Wednesday 7 th October	Year 5 trip to Martin Mere 3.15 Year 5 meet the teacher meeting Year 4 music afternoon
Wednesday 14 th October	Drama workshops all classes
Friday 16 th October	Non uniform day for Bingo prizes
Thursday 22 nd October	Bingo night- 5.30-8.00pm
Friday 23 rd October	SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR HALF TERM
Monday 2 nd November	SCHOOL OPENS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2
Thursday 5 th November	Family and Individual photos
Tuesday 10 th November	Year 2 to Eureka
Monday 30 th November	HANGING DECORATIONS IN TODAY
Wednesday 2 nd December	2.00pm KS1 Christmas performance
Thursday 3 rd December	9.30am KS1 Christmas performance 2.00pm KS1 Christmas performance
Friday 4 th December	Non uniform day for Xmas Fayre items
Monday 7 th December	SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY
Tuesday 8 th December	6.00pm KS2 Christmas performance
Wednesday 9 th December	1.30 KS2 Christmas performance
Thursday 10 th December	Christmas dinner Whole school Theatre treat 6.00pm KS2 Christmas performance
Monday 14 th December	KS1 Party Day
Tuesday 15 th December	KS2 Party Day
Wednesday 16 th December	3.30pm Xmas Fayre
Thursday 17 th December	10.00am Whole school To St Pauls- parents/ carers welcome to join us
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day 10.00 Fun Concert Toy Day
	SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 5 th January	SCHOOL OPENS FOR SPRING TERM 1

Welcome to Mrs Jacobsen who joined our team in September and will be working with us supporting in the school office

CONGRATULATIONS MRS SMITH



I am very pleased to congratulate Miss Birch, who is now Mrs Smith as she got married in the holidays. She had an absolutely perfect day and certainly did look wonderful. I am sure you will join me in wishing her and her husband a long and happy life together.

The only problem now is for us all to remember to call her Mrs Smith!

CROW ORCHARD'S GOT TALENT



At the end of last term we held our very popular Crow Orchard's Got Talent competition. We could not believe the standard of the entries and the auditions were brilliant. The judges- Amanda Holden, Jessie Jay and Simon Cowell had a really tough job on their hands in selecting the finalists and an even trickier job deciding on the winners.

However in the end we made the following decision:-

3rd place -----Mischa, Victoria, Jess, Libby and Samantha singing 'Roar'

2nd place-----Katie and Emily singing 'Somewhere only we know'

AND----- Drumroll!!!!!!!

1st Place----- School of rock (Jack, Lewis and Gabrielus) singing 'See you again'

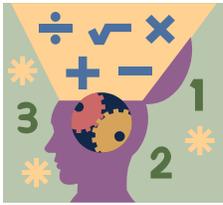
We made a special commendation to Luca Johnson who gave an absolutely unbelievable performance of 'Candy', however had won the competition before.

PUPIL PARLIAMENT



Well done to Georgina Wright- Jones and Braden Snell who are our new Crow Orchard Pupil Parliament representatives for Skelmersdale and Upholland. The children are involved in all sorts of decision making and events and help to give our children a voice in Skelmersdale. I am sure they will enjoy their new role and also be very good at it. They have already attended their first meeting and really enjoyed it.

MATHS CHALLENGE



As usual we entered the Lathom Maths Challenge on Tuesday 29th September. Our team was Abigail Ballard, Isabell Dearden, Braden Snell and Georgina Wright- Jones. The team tried really hard as it is a really tough competition and tried their best which is good enough. Georgina said they didn't win because they didn't like the algebra.....I know exactly what you mean Georgina!

Mc MILLANS COFFEE MORNING



Well done to Miss Dowling who organised an absolutely fantastic coffee morning in aid of Mc Millan's Cancer Support. It was very well attended and the atmosphere was lovely. Miss Dowling had organised lots of cakes to be brought in and had set the room out brilliantly, also catering for some children who came too.

We all have someone who has been affected by cancer and it was nice for us to think about these people, some of whom are our parents in school. Miss Dowling's mum has suffered over the last 18 months and we are all keeping our fingers crossed that she is on the mend, so I know it meant a lot to her.

I have to thank all the people who contributed to the morning and made it such a success.

I need to give a special thank you to the only man that I know was involved! Thanks to Brad (my daughter, Emily's partner soon to be husband). He made a plate of iced cinnamon buns which were without a doubt the top seller of the event, followed only by the second most popular which was a chocolate cake quite simply to die for! Well done Brad you are a star!..... I will be getting my order in for the Christmas Fayre! We raised £230 which was fantastic.

DINNER/ BREAKFAST CLUB/ AFTER SCHOOL CLUB MONIES



Please note that dinners must be paid for on the day that your child/ren have a dinner. I would however like to thank parents for really working with us on this, as Mrs Kirby and Mrs Jacobsen have told me that this is much better at the moment and parents really are helping by paying for dinners on time.

Can you also make sure that any clubs are paid for so we don't need to come asking for money, which no one likes doing.

HOLIDAYS



Can I remind everyone about the Government's initiative to ensure parents do not take their children out of school during term time? We can no longer authorise any holidays at all if not taken during holiday time, the dates of which have been set by the Governors. It is only in exceptional circumstances, or with a letter from your employer to state that there is no other time when a holiday can be taken, that we can authorise any holiday dates. If you have any problems or queries about this, pop into school and have a word with Mrs Kirby who is our Attendance Officer.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2015



If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2014 you must apply for a place by **15th January 2016- Primary** and **31st October 2015- Secondary**. You still need to apply even if an older brother or sister is already attending your preferred school. To apply for places you need to go online at www.lancashire.gov.uk and search 'school admissions'. Please could you let the school office know when you have applied so we can check on the application process?

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS



Well done to our lovely new Pre-School Group, who have all settled very quickly with few upsets or tantrums. We have one delightful little boy who was rather tearful at the start, but now he is simply bursting each day to remind us he is not crying anymore.

RECEPTION NEWS

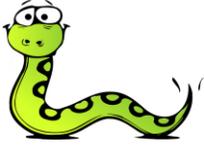


Reception went on their first trip out on Wednesday 30th September. The class went on an Autumn walk and were very lucky with the lovely weather we had. I know they will be doing lots of work related to their walk when they get back to class.

They will be making rhubarb crumble using the rhubarb they have grown in their outdoor area. Mrs Mahood has also planned for them to be working with mud.....sounds lovely!

The children are working hard on their Nursery Rhyme Challenge which they are going to perform to their parents.

YEAR 1 NEWS



Year 1 are learning all about animals in their topic this term. Mrs Baldwin is in the process of organising a visit from the Zoo Man who has come to us before. He brings with him a variety of animals and the children can get up close and friendly with them, which they love. Some Miss Hedges is keener to hold than others! I am sure this experience will help them to get really involved in their learning.

Message to all parents/ carers.....Please help your child with their spellings which will be sent home from this week. ***A little time spent learning at home will go a long way towards their learning in general.***

YEAR 2 NEWS



Mrs Smith's class are loving being the top infant class and are all behaving in a very grown up and responsible manner. We have a new Associate Teacher (Miss Holmes) working in this class and she is clearly loving it, getting stuck in from the start.

Thank you to all the parents who supported the sweet sale to raise funds for their school trip to Eureka. Miss Jones has also been very busy raising money for the trip too....Thank you Miss Jones. Fortunately with the money that has been collected and a further contribution from school we will only have to ask for a small contribution from yourselves to be able to fund the day out.

Your task this term is to support your child with learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. ***A little time spent learning at home will go a long way towards their learning in general.***

YEAR 3 NEWS



Mrs Heath recently took her class to an exhibition at West Lancs College. Their topic is 'No Place Like Home' and the college were celebrating the history of Skelmersdale. We thought it may be a little too old for the children, but Mrs Heath was amazed how interested they were and how many questions they asked. Since this trip, they are all into looking at the history of the school so I suspect Mrs Heath will need to be getting all our old Log Books and photos out for them to see. I was thrilled to hear of the children's interest, it is great that they are motivated to find out about their history.

The new Associate Teacher (Miss Blackledge) in Year 3 is settling in and already being put through her paces by Mrs Heath.

Please continue to support your child with their homework. Mrs Heath is really pleased with the effort the children have so far made. *A little time spent learning at home will go a long way towards their learning in general.*

YEAR 4 NEWS



Year 4's new topic 'Sparks Might Fly' is going down really well. They are being hard working scientists and making electrical circuits to light up bulbs. They are also learning about famous inventors and the amazing things they have created. This year we are using Year 4 as a new project. Usually Year 4 have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and this year we have changed from the clarinet to the flute. This is because we have a new wacky music instructor who the children love and he wants to trial this class playing the flute. I believe Miss Baron is learning to play too.

Remember to support your children with spelling, tables and reading at home. *A little time spent learning at home will go a long way towards their learning in general.*

YEAR 5 NEWS



Children are thoroughly enjoying their new topic 'Kingdom United' and are already finding out lots of exciting things about our country.

Thank you for the great effort that was made by children and parents for the cake sale to raise funds for their school trip. With the money that was raised and a contribution from school we have been able to cut down on the contribution from yourselves. Children are going to Martin mere which has a special Anglo Saxon village set up. I am sure they will also have a good look around everywhere else whilst they are there.

At the moment teachers are pleased with the effort the children are making with their homework. The maths tasks are now set to online activities which the children are excited about. *A little time spent learning at home will go a long way towards their learning in general.*

YEAR 6 NEWS



Year 6's topic is 'Survival' which is quite apt for life in Year 6! As usual Mr Spence being the creative teacher that he is has put his own slant on this and the children

are learning about survival with Bear Grylls. I am sure he will be getting the children to build dens and eat bugs, so lots to look forward to there.

Homework in Year 6 is crucial as it helps the children consolidate what work they have been doing in class, so please encourage them to complete tasks set. *A little time spent learning at home will go a long way towards their learning in general.*

I am sure my repeated message is clear, that homework can be very positive in developing children's learning skills. It also sets them up for further education. Try to make it a positive experience at home and encourage a good attitude in general to learning for your children.

ASSEMBLIES



Throughout the course of the year your child will produce a class assembly which parents and carers are invited to. These are lovely events where the teachers and pupils can share what they have been doing at school. Please try to come along to your child's assemblies as they love to see you there. The class teachers will let you know when they are and I also put the dates in the newsletters.

ATTENDANCE



Can I remind you that if your child, for whatever reason, is unable to come to school it is a legal requirement that you let us know? Please can you telephone the school on the first day your child is absent. If we do not receive this information then Mrs Kirby has to follow up the absence, which is a waste of her time when she could be doing something else.

DINNER LADY NEEDED



Mrs Gaskell one of our current Dinner Ladies is going to leave us at the end of this half term. She has been with us for many years and I would like to thank her for all her support in helping to make lunchtimes run smoothly over the years. I am sure she will think fondly of us when she is sitting having a leisurely lunch at home!

If you are interested in taking on a Welfare Assistant's role, the advert is on the school noticeboard with the details.

TEA PARTY SUPERSTARS

I will continue to have my tea party this year as they are very popular with the children who all want to come to one of my events!

These are for children who have been outstanding in school over the past month.

They will receive an invitation telling them when it is and can come into school the day of the party in their own clothes.

Reception	Noah Forshaw
Year 1	Ella O'Mara
Year 2	Ava- Mae Littler
Year 3	Lewis Dearden
Year 4	Ella Nisill
Year 5	Jamie Alcock
Year 6	Katie Emerton

A MOAN FROM US ALL!

Please, please, please put your child's name in all of their uniform.

After only three weeks of the term we have a full box of lost property, which is such a shame at this stage in the term, as much of it is brand new. If you write your child's name in their clothes this will not happen and it will also help us to find uniform when it gets lost.

A FEW NEW TERM REMINDERS..... I think this item is repeated in every September newsletter

- No jewellery allowed in school apart from small stud earrings which must be removed on PE days/ swimming days or covered with a plaster.
- No trainers for every day wear please-proper school shoes.
- Book bags and spelling books in every day.
- Please make sure your children bring their PE kits into school on designated P.E. days. We do have spare kit in school if they forget so no child is not taking part in P.E. lessons.
- School starts at 8.50- everyone to try to get to school ON TIME.
- Toast snack- provided every day- 20p per day or £1.00 per week
- Please remember that Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 finish at 3.10pm we have some teachers waiting till 3.30pm for children to be picked up.
- If you need places in After School Club can you book children in via the ASC mobile-07547203645. This helps us to plan accordingly.

AS EVER, IT DOESN'T MATTER FOR WHAT OR FOR HOW BIG OR SMALL..... IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS COME AND SEE ME AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.



WE ALL MAKE A GREAT TEAM!