

# St Mary's Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter No. 17 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016



### Dear Parents, Guardians and Parishioners

I am passionate about investing in our children to enable them to have the best opportunities whilst they are at school. As far back as the summer I have been evaluating how we can develop our grounds as well as resources to improve our school. Importantly as you would expect, it has been important for me to begin to understand the school, the community and therefore the needs we need to prioritise. We now have a clear plan of how we would like to develop the school.

- 1) Firstly we have recently tendered for the outside of the school to be painted. I believe this is a priority so that the children feel they have a very special school to come to. We continue to look at other areas of school to improve.
- 2) Secondly we are pleased to announce that we have purchased £2000 of new books for our juniors to enable them to have a greater range of reading books to go home with. We have also invested in new books for our infant pupils.
- 3) I have been impressed with the new playground equipment for our infants which is in addition to the superb equipment introduced into the juniors at the beginning of the year.



- 4) Finally I am delighted to be able to inform you we are also purchasing 15 new tablet computers for classes to share as well as other laptop computers for classes. This will make a significant improvement in our ability to enable the children to complete their ICT curriculum. We will be improving our broadband to accommodate for this.

You will also be aware we have developed our school website, taking on board views of all those who use our website. A letter is also coming out this week highlighting how to get the most from our website and engage with our class blogs.

### **Parking and Dropping off**

I am all too aware of the challenges of dropping off and parking in and around school. I have been very impressed with the ongoing dialogue there has been to try to address many of the issues that surface. In March there will be yellow lines on the corner of Harling Bank and on Kendal Road. This will allow the roads to be clear and flow better in the mornings and allow larger vehicles such as buses or emergency services to have easy access through the road.

Recently over the past few weeks in the morning and after school parents have been parking in places which means the traffic cannot flow. This is both dangerous and limits the ability for everyone to drop off their children and move on. Could you please be sensitive to this and be aware of the knock on effect of where you park. It does cause unhelpful and unnecessary tension amongst parents and the community. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Times-tables Challenge**

You may be aware that we are providing children with times-tables bands to encourage them to learn and consolidate specific tables. Thank you for challenging the children on a regular basis. Please surprise the children and throw random questions at them! Teachers will be choosing the children to represent their houses in an inter house times-tables challenge very soon!

### **Home Projects**

These project options have been given out this week and discussed with the children. They will hand them in on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup>. We are looking forward to seeing the new projects.

### **Future Dates:**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Tim Farron and Arthur Capstick MBE visiting juniors**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Junior Inter House Cross Country (am)**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan – Inter School Swimming Competition – Sedbergh Prep**

**Monday Feb 1<sup>st</sup> - Project Day**

**Tuesday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> - Houses of Parliament outreach visit (Year 5/6)**

**Wednesday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> – County Cross Country**

**Wednesday Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – Inter School – Hockey**

**Family Talk Time:**

**Word of the Week**

**A noisy or rowdy party.**

Wing-ding

