

St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School

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4th September 2024

Dear parents and families,

Welcome back to the new school year. I really hope that your children have been able to have a decent break and have come back to school refreshed, ready for the year ahead. The teachers have spent a lot of time over the holidays, and over our last two INSET days, preparing the classrooms for the new school year and our new way of working. The school is looking and feeling brilliant, so thank you to them.

Obviously, our new systems will take a little bit of time to bed in, so please be patient as we implement the changes. As the year progresses we might need to make further adjustments but we will endeavour, at all times, to try and update at our earliest opportunity on anything that is going to be different.

Usually, at the start of any school year, there are 'teething problems', this is to be expected. Please work with us to resolve these and be as positive as possible about the changes.

We have updated our curriculum too. Information about this can be found on our school website;

www.windermere.cumbria.sch.uk

Absence – As you know, new council rules come into force this September. Any unauthorised absence of 5 days or more in a 10 week period will trigger a fine of £80 per pupil per parent. Further absence could lead to a second fine of £160 and the potential for an appearance in court. Please avoid absence in term times at all costs to avoid this. We cannot authorise holidays in term time. I have resent the council's letter with this email. Just to reiterate, school does not benefit financially from any fine.

If you do need to request an absence, you must inform the school office, as well as your child's teacher, and complete an absence request form. The form is also available to print or download from our school website or you can request/collect one from the school office.

Communication – Our school working hours are 8.30am until 4.30pm each day. Teaching staff and the office will not respond to messages or emails outside of these times. We will endeavour to respond to requests for updates and information in a timely manner but parents will understand that this is often difficult in a busy school day. If you do have a concern or a query, please feel free to contact the office to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

Mobile phones in school – As a rule, we don't want children to bring mobile phones and devices to school. If there is a particular circumstance where this might be necessary for a child in Year 5 or Year 6, please contact the school office for more information and the application request link to bring them in. Any mobiles will be locked away securely and children will not have access to them during the school day.

Friendship Love Forgiveness Trust Honesty Faith

200 Pets – Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraising project for the RSPCA. I think Glynis has been in touch with all of you and the book of photographs will be published at the end of September. Here is the link to her Just Giving page; [glynis-bland 200 Pets-glynisblandphotograph](#)

We all wanted to say thank you so much to Joe from **Lakeland Carpet Cleaning**. Joe has volunteered his time, expertise and materials to professionally clean some of our carpets in school (you can imagine they get quite mucky). Thank you so much, the place feels even cleaner and brighter.

Online Safety – every term we teach about staying safe online and remind children about what to do and what not to do when using the internet. There is lots of useful advice for parents on our website at; <https://www.windermere.cumbria.sch.uk/online-safety/>

If you are worried about your child's online habits please use this guidance and talk to your child about what they are up to. We teach this and manage this in school but you, as parents, are best placed to supervise your children at home.

I am really looking forward to a busy and productive year in school with lots of learning, lots of fun and some brilliant activities and adventures. I look forward to working with you to do our very best to educate your children and get them ready for the next steps in their lives.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Towe
Head teacher

'Life in all its fullness' John 10.10