

CUMWHINTON SCHOOL



*...inspired by Cumbria, ready for the world...*

Cumwhinton School

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Headteacher: Mr Jon Stewart

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reflect on the events of the past week; it brings me great pleasure to update you on the vibrant activities and significant achievements within our school community. The dedication and enthusiasm of both pupils and staff have been palpable, creating an atmosphere of collaboration and growth. As we approach Christmas, I am excited to share some highlights of the upcoming weeks, filled with enriching educational experiences and celebratory events that will surely enhance the spirit of togetherness leading up to the Christmas break.

### **Ofsted**

I am pleased to convey our sincere appreciation to both our pupils and parents for their active participation and engagement during the recent Ofsted inspection conducted last week. Your willingness to share your experiences and perspectives contributed significantly to the comprehensive assessment of our school. The collaborative spirit demonstrated by our school community reflects the dedication and commitment we all have towards ensuring the best possible educational environment for our pupils. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each pupil and parent who took the time to converse with the Ofsted representatives, thereby playing an essential role in portraying the strengths and positive aspects of our school. Your involvement underscores the collective effort that makes our school a thriving and supportive learning community. Once again, thank you for your invaluable contributions during this critical evaluation process.

### **Anne Frank Trust**

I am delighted to inform you of a meaningful and educational event that took place last week in Years 5 and 6. The Anne Frank Trust visited our school to conduct a workshop aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the historical significance of Anne Frank's life and the broader lessons it imparts. The workshop provided a thought-provoking and sensitive exploration of Anne Frank's diary and the events surrounding her life during the Holocaust. Our students in Years 5 and 6 actively participated in discussions, gaining insights into the importance of tolerance, empathy, and the consequences of discrimination. Such experiences are integral to our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom, instilling in our pupils a sense of social responsibility and a profound appreciation for diversity. We are grateful for the Anne Frank Trust's visit and the enriching opportunity it afforded our students to learn from this poignant chapter in history.

I am delighted to announce that our Year 5 and 6 pupils will soon be leading guided tours following the inspiring workshops conducted by the Anne Frank Trust. This initiative provides an exceptional opportunity for our students to share their newfound knowledge and insights with their peers and visitors. Miss Birch will be sharing the scheduled dates for these guided tours later this week. We look forward to the enriching experiences these tours will undoubtedly offer, as our students take on leadership roles in imparting the valuable lessons learned from the Anne Frank Trust workshops.

### **After School Club**

I am pleased to inform parents that our school's After School Club will continue to operate on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays leading up to the Christmas break. This extension offers a convenient and supportive option for families requiring after-school care and activities. The dedicated staff and engaging programs provided in the After School Club aim to enhance the overall well-being and enrichment of our pupils. We appreciate your continued trust in our commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment beyond regular school hours. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to reach out to our school office.

### **Start of the school day**

As we strive to create a focused and smooth transition into the school day, we kindly request the cooperation of all parents and guardians. When the morning whistle is blown at 8:45 am to signal the start of the school day, we ask that adults promptly and quietly leave their children in their designated class lines and exit the playground area. This small adjustment contributes significantly to the efficiency of our morning routines and allows our teachers to commence their lessons promptly. Your support in fostering a calm and organized start to each school day is greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **OPAL Play at Lunchtimes**

I am delighted to share the successful full implementation of the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) program into our school lunchtimes, enriching the play experiences of our pupils. The positive impact of this initiative on the physical, social, and emotional well-being of our children has been noticeable. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our OPAL Play Lead, Mrs. Ward, for her unwavering dedication and enthusiasm in driving this program forward. Her commitment to fostering a dynamic and inclusive play environment has significantly contributed to the overall success of the OPAL initiative. We are grateful for Mrs. Ward's leadership and look forward to the continued growth and enjoyment that OPAL play brings to our school community. If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding the OPAL program, please feel free to share them with us as we strive for continuous improvement. Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school environment vibrant and enjoyable for all children.

### **Cannon Reverend Michael visit to school**

It is with great pleasure that I share with our school community the enriching visit of Canon Reverend Michael from Carlisle Cathedral last week. Canon Reverend Michael led a poignant and insightful worship session, delving into the biblical narratives of King Darius and David. His engaging delivery and profound reflections not only deepened our pupils' understanding of these historical figures but also provided a meaningful context for reflection and spiritual growth. We extend our sincere gratitude to Canon Reverend Michael for dedicating his time to inspire and enlighten our school community through this thought-provoking worship session. Such collaborative efforts between our school and the wider

community contribute significantly to the holistic development of our pupils. We look forward to future opportunities for spiritual enrichment and shared learning experiences.

### **Christmas Fun Day**

We are excited to announce our upcoming Christmas Fun Day, organised by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), which will take place on Monday 18th December. On this occasion, children are invited to wear non-uniform attire, such as party or Christmas clothes, adding to the joyful atmosphere. A nominal fee of £1 per child for the Fun Day will be collected through School Money, with details to be added at the end of this week. Additionally, the PTA kindly requests donations for our Christmas raffle. These contributions, which can include new and unused items such as sweets, chocolates, children's games or toys, toiletries/toiletry sets, and Christmas food or drink, can be dropped off at the school via class teachers starting from Monday 20th December. Raffle tickets will also be available through School Money, added at the end of the week. Your participation and support are invaluable in making this Christmas Fun Day a memorable and enjoyable event for our school community. Thank you in advance for your generosity and enthusiasm.

### **Christmas Church Service**

I am writing to remind our school community of the upcoming Christmas Service at St John's Church in Cotehill scheduled for Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December. As detailed in the letter sent to our school's families on Friday 3rd November, the service promises to be a festive and meaningful occasion, celebrating the spirit of the season. We encourage all families to attend and share in this joyous event. The letter provides comprehensive details about the logistics and expectations for the Christmas Service, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for all attendees. Your presence and participation in this festive gathering are highly valued, and we look forward to creating lasting festive memories together as a school community at St John's Church. If you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

### **School Choir public concert at Carlisle Cathedral**

I am delighted to share with our school community the exciting news that our esteemed School Choir has been invited to perform at Carlisle Cathedral for a public concert on Tuesday 12th December at 2 pm. This prestigious opportunity not only showcases the talent and dedication of our students but also provides a platform for them to contribute to the cultural richness of our wider community. We extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the School Choir and our choir Director, Ed Taylor for their hard work and commitment in preparing for this special event. We invite all parents, guardians, and supporters to join us at Carlisle Cathedral to witness the musical prowess of our School Choir and celebrate the joy of the festive season together. Your presence will undoubtedly inspire and uplift our young performers.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

I would like to inform our school community that, due to scheduled events and preparations for Christmas festivities, all Extra-Curricular Clubs will not be running on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. This temporary pause in our regular extracurricular activities is necessary to accommodate other school commitments and festivities. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Normal scheduling for Extra-Curricular Clubs will resume from January. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school office. Thank you for your continued support of our school's varied programs.

### Diary dates for Christmas period

- **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November** - Panathlon Sports Festival
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November** - Reception and Year 6 height and weights (NHS)
- **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November** - Years 5/6 Football County Finals
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Antisemitism Workshops Years 5/6
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Jumper Day
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - School Christmas Service - 10am to 11am (Years 1, 3, 5)
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - School Choir public concert at Carlisle Cathedral - 2pm start
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - Reception Nativity (1.45pm)
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - School Christmas Service - 10am to 11am (Years 2, 4, 6)
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Reception Nativity (1.45pm)
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - Reception visiting Stock Wood
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - School Choir performing at Croftfields Residential Home
- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas School Lunch
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - PTA Christmas Fun Day
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** - School finishes for Christmas holidays (normal times)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mr Stewart  
Headteacher