



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

Cumwhinton School

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Headteacher: Mr Jon Stewart

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent(s) and Carers,

As we bid farewell to another inspiring week of learning and growth, it is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. This week has been a bustling hive of activity within the walls of Cumwhinton School, with children immersed in a spectrum of academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits. From captivating classroom discussions to spirited extracurricular engagements, our school continues to be a vibrant hub of curiosity and achievement.

I am delighted to share that our children showcased their talents in various arenas, from a presentation about the life of Anne Frank to our Member of Parliament to our pupils continuing their accessing of a broad and balanced inspiring curriculum, in and out of school. Their enthusiasm and commitment to excellence are truly commendable, and it's heartening to witness the positive impact of our collective efforts in nurturing well-rounded individuals. As we reflect on the accomplishments of this week, I am also eager to provide you with a glimpse into the exciting events and initiatives awaiting us in the coming weeks. Your ongoing support and partnership are invaluable to our shared mission of fostering a dynamic and enriching educational experience for our pupils.

### **John Stevenson MP visit to school**

It is with great honour and enthusiasm that we share the news of a distinguished guest at our school today, none other than our Member of Parliament, John Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson joined us to delve into the meaningful work undertaken by the pupils of Year 5 and 6, particularly focusing on their insightful exploration of the life of Anne Frank. This profound engagement is part of our broader commitment to fostering a curriculum that not only educates but also cultivates empathy, understanding, and critical thinking skills among our pupils.

The pupils' examination of Anne Frank's life serves as a poignant reminder of the historical lessons we must impart to the younger generation. Through various projects, discussions, and creative expressions, our pupils have delved into the complexities of Anne Frank's experiences during one of the darkest periods in human history. Mr. Stevenson's visit allowed for a valuable exchange of perspectives, emphasising the importance of such educational initiatives in promoting awareness and fostering a community that values inclusivity and tolerance. The learning derived from Anne Frank's life is not only a historical reflection but a timeless lesson in humanity, and we are grateful for Mr. Stevenson's interest and support in championing these endeavours within our school.

A huge thank you to Miss Birch for leading the work on Anne Frank and for organising the visit of John Stevenson MP.

### **Anne Frank exhibition**

We extend a warm invitation to the entire Cumwhinton School community to join us for a thought-provoking experience at the Anne Frank Trust exhibition, taking place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, from 14:45 pm to 15:15 pm in the school hall (enter through the ASC side door - where you will be met

by a member of staff). This powerful exhibition offers a unique opportunity for pupils, parents, and staff alike to engage with the remarkable life and legacy of Anne Frank. Through poignant displays and informative materials, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the historical context surrounding Anne Frank's experiences. Your presence at this event will not only contribute to the collective learning experience but also demonstrate our shared commitment to promoting empathy, tolerance, and historical awareness within our school community. We look forward to welcoming you and collectively honouring the lessons embedded in Anne Frank's extraordinary journey.

### **OPAL Play**

Under the exemplary leadership of our dedicated OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Leads, Mrs. Ward and Miss Millican, Cumwhinton School has witnessed a transformative enhancement in the quality of our outdoor play environment. Thanks to a strategic investment of £4000 from our school's Sports Premium, we have been able to procure a wealth of new resources that not only invigorate our outdoor spaces but also promote imaginative, inclusive, and active play among our students. Mrs. Ward and Miss Millican's unwavering commitment to fostering a dynamic and engaging outdoor learning experience has been instrumental in the success of our OPAL initiative.

The judicious allocation of the Sports Premium funds has allowed us to create a vibrant outdoor space that caters to the diverse needs and interests of our students. From climbing apparatus to interactive learning stations, the new resources serve as catalysts for physical activity, social interaction, and skill development. Furthermore, the implementation of OPAL principles under the guidance of Mrs. Ward and Miss Millican has not only elevated the quality of play but has also contributed to a positive and inclusive school culture. We are proud to witness our pupils actively embracing the benefits of enhanced outdoor play, fostering a sense of well-being and camaraderie that extends beyond the classroom. The strategic investment in OPAL reflects our school's commitment to providing holistic educational experiences that nurture the physical, social, and emotional development of every child.

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

We are thrilled to announce that the Cumwhinton School Choir is set to captivate audiences with a 40-minute public concert at the iconic Carlisle Cathedral on Tuesday 12th December, starting at 2:00 pm. This concert promises to showcase the immense talent and dedication of our pupils as they bring harmonious melodies to one of the city's most esteemed venues. Under the guidance of our passionate music director, Ed Taylor, the choir has been tirelessly rehearsing a diverse repertoire that spans genres and showcases the depth of their vocal prowess. We invite parents, friends, and the broader community to join us for this festive celebration of music, unity, and the spirit of the season as our talented young performers grace the historic surroundings of Carlisle Cathedral with their harmonious voices. Your presence will undoubtedly contribute to the joyous atmosphere as we come together to celebrate the incredible musical achievements of our school choir.

### **8:45am start of the school day**

We extend our sincere gratitude to all parents for their cooperation and commitment to the safety of our pupils during the morning school drop-off routine. Your prompt response to the whistle signal and the subsequent departure from the school playground, allowing the children to line up safely, greatly contributes to our overarching commitment to health, safety, and safeguarding. This disciplined approach ensures a smooth and secure start to the school day, allowing our staff to efficiently supervise and transition pupils into the learning environment. Your ongoing support in adhering to these procedures reflects a collective dedication to providing a secure and organised setting for all children. Together, we create an atmosphere where the well-being and safety of our children remain paramount, and for that, we are sincerely appreciative.

### **After School Club staff vacancy**

**Exciting Opportunity!** We currently have a vacancy for a dedicated and enthusiastic After School Club (ASC) member of staff to join our team every Friday from 15:30 to 18:00. If you have a passion for working with children and creating a fun and engaging after-school environment, we would love to hear from you! To express your interest or for further details, please email us at [head@cumwhinton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@cumwhinton.cumbria.sch.uk) Join us in shaping memorable after-school experiences for our pupils!

### Lunchtime Supervisor vacancy

Join Our Team! We are currently seeking a reliable and caring individual to join us as a Lunchtime Supervisor, working Monday to Friday from 11:45 to 13:00. If you enjoy working with children and creating a positive and inclusive lunchtime atmosphere, we want to hear from you! To express your interest or for more information, please email us at [head@cumwhinton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@cumwhinton.cumbria.sch.uk)

Be a part of our school community and contribute to fostering a welcoming and nurturing environment during lunchtimes. We look forward to welcoming the newest member of our lunchtime team!

### Panathlon Winners!!

*Callan, Thomas, Michael, Josh, Paul, Jerry, Alex, Joshua and Joshua*

It is with immense pride and joy that we celebrate the outstanding success of our Cumwhinton School Panathlon winners. Our talented and dedicated pupils have once again demonstrated their commitment to excellence, bringing home well-deserved victories in various athletic competitions. Their hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship have not only earned them accolades but have also set a shining example for the entire school community. These triumphs go beyond the medals; they embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and resilience that defines our school. Congratulations to our Panathlon champions for their exceptional achievements and thank you for representing Cumwhinton School with such distinction. Your success inspires us all and reinforces our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel both in and out of the classroom. Well done!

### Upcoming events and activities

- **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,



Mr Stewart  
Headteacher