



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

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent(s) and Carers,

As we step into October and find ourselves halfway through the first half of the Autumn term, we are delighted to share the many exciting events and achievements from this week at Cumwhinton School.

As we embrace **Black History Month** at our primary school, we are excited to embark on a journey of discovery, learning, and celebration. This October, our theme is "Celebrating our sisters, saluting our sisters, and honouring Matriarchs of Movements." Through this theme, we aim to delve into one of our core values, "Finding a voice - HUMANITY and celebrating diversity," emphasising the importance of respecting and valuing everyone's contributions to society. This month, we will explore the remarkable achievements, talents, and legacies of Black women who have played pivotal roles in shaping history. It is an opportunity for our students to gain a deeper understanding of the rich tapestry of human experiences and to celebrate the diversity that makes our school community vibrant and strong. Together, let us embark on this meaningful journey of learning and appreciation.

**Settling In:** It is with immense joy that we report that our students have settled comfortably into their new classrooms with their new teachers. Their adaptability and enthusiasm for learning are truly commendable.

**Football Success:** On Tuesday, our Year 5 and 6 girls proudly represented our school in a football tournament held at Harraby 3G. The team showcased not only their football abilities but also the spirit and values of our school. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Tracy and Miss Reed for their dedication in taking our girls to the tournament. Be prepared for more exciting fixtures against Carlisle schools in the coming academic year.

**Harmonious Notes:** Music filled the air this week as Justin Kent from Cumbria Music Service delivered instrumental lessons to our Year 3 and 4 students. Year 3 embarked on their recorder lessons, while Year 4 enthusiastically began practicing and learning the clarinet. The delightful melodies and tunes have resonated throughout our school.

**The Anne Frank Trust Visit:** We had the honour of hosting representatives from The Anne Frank Trust who discussed workshops planned for November with our Year 5 students. These workshops will tackle crucial topics such as discrimination, prejudices, and equality, spanning two full days. We are pleased to share that these workshops are fully funded, emphasising our commitment to promoting equality and understanding.

**Library Love:** Today, our students had a special visit from the library van, generously provided by Cumberland County Council. Each child had the opportunity to explore and select books, fostering a love for reading and expanding their imaginations.

**Parents' Evening:** Please mark your calendars for Parents' Evening, scheduled for Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>. For Year 2 parents, the meetings will be held on Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Your child's books will be displayed outside their classroom. We kindly request that you arrive 5-10 minutes before your meeting to allow time for book browsing. Each meeting is allocated 10 minutes, but if you wish to have a longer discussion with the class teacher, please make an appointment.

**Football Extracurricular Club:** Our extracurricular football club for Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 had a phenomenal start this week, with a fantastic turnout. This club is proving to be massively popular. Whether your child is new to football or an experienced young player, they are all welcome. Families have been enjoying watching their young footballers in action. The £3 per session contribution will be used to acquire football equipment, fund new resources, and enhance the overall football experience with high-quality equipment. Please be aware that there will be a charge for all extracurricular clubs this academic year, which helps cover equipment, resources, staffing, and coaching expenses. Stay tuned for a detailed announcement about Cumwhinton School's ECC 23/24 Offer, which will feature a wide selection of clubs, including Pickleball, cooking, dance, LEGO club, crochet, and more.

**Parent Teacher Association (PTA):** Our heartfelt thanks go out to the members of our Parent Teacher Association who attended this week's meeting. Your fabulous ideas, determination, and unwavering support are invaluable to our school community. We are excited to announce that the first PTA event of the year will be a Spooky Disco, set to take place during the afternoon of Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. We are in search of helpers, so if you can spare some time, please let us know. If you're interested in becoming a member of the Parent Teacher Association, please reach out to the school. It is a fantastic opportunity to actively support Cumwhinton School.

**OPAL Play Request:** Mrs. Ward, our OPAL Play Lead in school, is currently seeking donations of scooters, wheels, old pots and pans, as well as small toys such as fairy garden items, dinosaurs, and action figures. These donations will contribute to structured and resourced play during breaktime.

**Choir Update:** Our school choir had their second rehearsal today, under the guidance of Ed Taylor. They enthusiastically sang well-known songs from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Matilda, and Mary Poppins. The children are eager to teach these songs to their family members, and lyrics will be sent home to facilitate practice. We are pleased to share that our choir has secured their first booking to sing at a local residential home this Christmas, spreading joy and music to our wider community.

**Facebook:** We are excited to announce that we will be re-launching our school's Facebook page next week. Our aim is to create an engaging and informative platform where we can share what is happening in our school, celebrate our students' successes, and showcase various events and activities.

To ensure that we can include images of our students in our posts, we kindly request your approval. We are committed to safeguarding your child's privacy and ensuring their safety online. Rest assured that we will strictly adhere to all guidelines and policies regarding the use of images of children on social media.

A letter will be sent next week asking for you to approve images of your children to be shared on our school's closed group (request to join) on Facebook. Your approval will enable us to share the wonderful moments and achievements of your child with our school community and beyond.

As we approach the weekend, we hope you have a wonderful time with your families. Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and a stylized 'S'.

Mr Stewart  
Headteacher