HUNTER HALL

PREPARATORY & PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 3
Spring Term, 21st January 2022

Dear Parents,

Despite being struck by the dreaded Covid this week, the children both at home and school have coped remarkably well. Luckily this strain does not appear to have affected the children too greatly, and it's been nice to see some of them back on teams on what has become very familiar surroundings for all of us! That said, we are very much looking forward to having both children and staff back and hope that next week does not bring us anymore Covid gifts.

We are now busily working through our events calendar and deciding which events to take forward - assessing risk and potential staffing. This is always going to be a fine balancing act and we are keen not to put people in situations they feel uncomfortable with, post Covid. Being out of public circulation for so long has certainly dinted confidence in some, but hopefully we can now begin to see a way through, and we are very hopeful that by the summer term we will once again be running a full programme of all events, including residential trips, fixtures, and further events to mark our 30th anniversary year at Frenchfield.

One such event will be a celebration of 30 years of music at Hunter Hall and this is one for your diaries, as it will be a very special evening with guests, Old Hunters and a host of musical talent making up the programme. The date is set for **Saturday 14th of May** in the evening.

Speaking of music, Hamish played the national anthem on the trumpet for us in our Monday morning music slot in assembly this week – we all duly stood as a mark of respect for our Queen, and this being her 30th birthday year, I suspect Hamish will be playing it for us a few more times!

With regards to Carlisle Festival, a decision has been made by the organisers to continue to go ahead, but they have changed the format to solo and duo entries only, avoiding large groups such as choirs, orchestras, and ensembles. Our own groups, however, will still work towards performances for our Spring Concert.

Our governor committees have been busy this week - safeguarding and marketing meetings have taken place and I have also met with our Chair of Governors - Mrs Natalie Harling. She is hoping to run a breakfast morning with other governors later in the term - a very informal affair where parents can chat over a coffee and croissant etc.

It has of course been quiet on the fixture front - all fixtures being cancelled due to our outbreak, but the Cumbrian Cross Country Championships will run next Wednesday - albeit Mr Hetherington has slightly shifted things further over to Frenchfield to allow for greater space and distancing. I know many of the children are looking forward to running, I am only sorry that we have withdrawn from the Malvern Championships this term - it was felt that a residential event this side of Easter was a step too far from some. Disappointing, but great that the children have other opportunities to show off their mettle.

Our mathematicians have been busy learning their tables and a plethora of gold certificates were given out this morning for prowess in completing Mr Sturgess' Ultimate Times Tables Test. It's great to see the children keen to improve at their own level. However, special mention must go to Seren who has broken the school record (which has stood for 5 years since Andrei moved to senior school), for the Ultimate Times Table Challenge – completing it in a staggering 3 minutes 58 seconds.

Lots of reading has also been going on and it has also been good to see Mrs Fletcher's new book box, delivered courtesy of parent group funds in situ. much to the delight of our little ones who can now choose their books with ease. Thank you again to our parents' group.

In assembly we analysed the contents of the snack bin (!) this morning looking at packaging etc in our continuing quest to be greener and I also read an article to the children from our weekly 'First News' magazine, regarding being able to recycle electrical goods. The launch of this has been helped by former Blue Peter presenter and now author, Konnie Huq. Research from the campaign has revealed that UK households alone, throw away enough Christmas lights to circle the Earth 12 times! If this is something you would like to be involved with go to the website:
www.recycleourelctricals.org.uk

Have a lovely weekend everyone, don't forget to test your children prior to Monday – fingers crossed we have ridden this wave. If you are struggling for kits, we were kindly donated some which are in the office.

Mrs D Vinsome

Pre-School News

What a lovely week we have had in pre-school.

This week we have been continuing to learn all about winter and we have created some beautiful pictures for our winter display.

We have been talking about what we wear in winter to keep us nice and warm. We then designed our own item of winter clothing, using paints, materials and cutting and sticking.

The children were also very excited to start to create our own snow globes; they were very good at posing for their pictures, which will the go inside our snow globe.

We were very excited at the beginning of the week when we found frost and ice in our outdoor area, we explored it and talked about its features and how it got there.

In 'Work it out Wednesday' we had the tricky task of keeping an ice cube from melting the longest, we thought of some great ideas to succeed in our quest!

We have also had lots of fun outside practising our ball skills, throwing, catching and kicking.

Hope you all have a fabulous weekend.

Mrs Parker

Hunter Hall Cookery Club-Spring Term

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

Fri 28th Jan
Year 5 Ellie, Willa, Inara, Poppy, Iona and Finn
Year 6 Joe, Seren, Minnie, Zara and Antonia

Fri 4 Feb
Year 6

Fri 11th Feb – No Cookery

HALF TERM

Fri 25th Feb – Year 5
Fri 4th Mar – Year 5
Fri 11th Mar – Year 6
Fri 18th Mar – Year 6
Fri 25th Mar – No Cookery

Hair Accessories!

Miss Fawcett has now managed to source hair accessories in the correct school colour for the girls.

If you need fresh supplies, please see her in the school office.

Carlisle Festival

Thanks to all of you who have entered your child for the Carlisle Festival. The entries have now been accepted by the event organisers, and we've received the set pieces for those classes that apply. If your child entered a verse category, they should bring their poem (hard copy) home today. Whichever class your child is entered for, they should be beginning to choose (where relevant) and familiarise themselves with their pieces. This means they will have plenty of time to improve their delivery and performance over the next couple of months. I would love to hear what they have been practicing. In a few weeks, I will seek them out in order to be able to give them some encouragement and feedback on their progress.

If your child has entered a prose category, I need to send copies of the texts they intend to read at least a week prior to the festival. I will remind you about this again nearer the time, but it if it is convenient for you to pass those on to me now, that would be great.

Enjoy the prep! Don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions.

Mrs Fletcher

Sport

The dates for the Sedbergh Easter and Summer courses are now out. The courses on offer provide science, theatre and sporting opportunities.
We have a strong link with the courses and past Hunter Hall pupils, who have attended the camps, have always enjoyed an amazing experience.

The link to the website should provide you with all the information you need to know.
Sedbergh Summer & Easter Courses (sedberghschool.org)

There is a 10% discount afforded today and boarding prices for pupils from HH, please ask at the office for the code.

Their coaches will be joining us again at Hunter Hall for an afternoon of rugby on the 2nd of February.

Mr Hetherington

Cumbria School Athletics Association- County X-Country Championship - 26th January 2022 @ Hunter Hall

Next Wednesday we will see the County X-Country Championship come to Hunter Hall. The event is organised by Cumbria School Athletics and the race will take place on the fields to the rear of the school. This is the second time we have helped and due to the current covid situation we have insisted on several changes to the last time the event was run:

- All visitor parking will take place at Frenchfield.
- Access to the course will be from behind the Frenchfield pavilion (no access through the school/ farmyard).
- Toilets will be available at the Frenchfield pavilion, staffed by GLL.
- Face masks should be worn at race registration and whilst visiting toilets.
- No refreshments will be available.
- Individual medals will be awarded as runners cross the line; there will be no presentation at the end of the races.

Our plan is for all pupils in years 4 to 6, who are fit and well, to take part. Children need their full PE kit, suitable footwear and plenty of warm clothing- school coat, hat, gloves buff etc.

RACE TIMINGS:
2.00pm- Y4 girls' race
2.15pm- Y4 boys' race
2.30pm- Y5 girls' race
2.45pm- Y5 boys' race
3.00pm- Y6 girls' race
3.15pm- Y6 boys' race

3.45pm – Children will be back at school and ready for collection. Clubs and care will still run as usual once the children return to school.

The top 8 runners, in the year 5 & 6 races qualify to represent Cumbria at the National Championship (likely one of the last two Saturdays in March). Pupils finishing 9-12th will be considered depending on their ability.

Spectators are welcome and should access the course through the gate to the rear of the Frenchfield pavilion. Hunter Hall staff will be present and in charge of the team. We would appreciate your support around the course, but request that we do not all congregate around the team. We hope to set a good example for others to follow.

We do need some help marshalling- this will simply involve wearing a high viz jacket and having a face mask at hand in case you need to support a runner. If you are able to help please drop an email to andrew.hetherington@hunterhall.cumbria.sch.uk who will advise you of your position on the course and arrival time.

It promises to be an exciting afternoon of running. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Hetherington on the above email address.

Week ahead

Monday 24 January 2022

09:30 - 12:00	Richard Evans (drums)
14:00 - 18:30	Barbara Gilbertson (piano, voice and violin)
15:20 - 16:20	Upper School Choir (Hall)
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School- Ball Skills
16:30 - 17:30	Band

Tuesday 25 January 2022

	Outdoor Education Year 3&4 Group 2
15:00 - 16:30	Barbara Gilbertson (piano, voice and violin)
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Chess
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School -Drama
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Running
16:30 - 17:30	Upper School - Exam Prep Year 5

Wednesday 26 January 2022

08:00 - 09:00	Ian Butterworth (brass)
13:00 - 15:30	County Cross Country Championships @ Hunter Hall
15:00 - 16:30	Lower School Mindfulness Colouring
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Languages

Thursday 27 January 2022

	Outdoor Education Year 5
08:30 - 16:00	Barbara Gilbertson (piano, voice and violin)
15:00 - 16:30	Lower School Construction Club
15:30 - 16:20	Upper school - Mindful Colouring
15:00 - 16:00	Football – Lower School
16:00 - 17:00	Football – Upper School

Friday 28 January 2022

	LAMDA
08:30 - 10:30	Garry Linsley (woodwind)
09:30 - 15:30	Andrew Roze (guitar/ukulele)
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Running
15:30 - 16:30	Cookery Club- Please see amendments above
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Free play

Please note some events may be subject to change pending our COVID situation next week.