HUNTER HALL

PREPARATORY & PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 3 Spring Term, 20th January 2023

Dear Parents,

This week we have seen a very cold snap take hold again - well done everyone for safely making it down the hill (and navigate the traffic lights that have materialised up the road!). Hopefully both will disappear quickly, but in the meantime, we are about to take delivery of a new grit bin for the drive and car park courtesy of funds raised by the parents' group. Linked to a new grit bin, we have also ordered some children's snow shovels as I was so impressed with Josh earlier in the week who brought in his snow shovel to help clear the snow. Thank you all.

I met with Mrs Hutt, their Chair this week to discuss future events and possible purchases. I understand that playground equipment is high on the agenda, we could also certainly do with more playground storage and Mrs Price has rather big plans to revamp and rejuvenate the science garden too, which will be discussed at their next meeting. Their next event is a pancake breakfast prior to half term - I am sure that will go down a treat with everyone!

It is cross country season and this week the children have been out to two events, the CSAA County Cross Championships and the Rawthey Run at Sedbergh. They had tremendous success both individually and as part of a team. Very well done to all of them - Mr Hetherington tells me they simply ran their hearts out such was their resilience and tenacity to acquit themselves well. You can read his report in this newsletter. Next week the older children have the Catterall Shield run at Giggleswick.

As well as celebrating our cross country successes in assembly this morning, we also had a very special guest to help us celebrate the Chinese New Year as Pre- School have been very busy making a super-sized dragon! In the dragon came with the children hiding underneath it to a huge round of applause

from the school as they 'roared their way around the hall. A special moment to start the day. For those born this year it is the year of the rabbit and legend has it that children born in this year will be calm and peaceful 😊.

On to senior school news - it was my pleasure to welcome Natalie Dimmock, Director of External Relations at Windermere School, to school on Wednesday this week. Natalie was able to share with me that Windermere have just launched their scholarships programme, with a wide variety of options from academic, creative arts, adventure, sailing, sport, music scholarships. All information is on their website here. With a daily bus service having launched in September to Penrith, Windermere is now far easier for our children to reach. Pick up and drop off points are very flexible. If you are thinking about senior schools, you may find this information useful. Please click these further links to their prospectus and scholarship days.

We have also had a visit from the LAMDA examiner today as many of the children take their first set of exams for 2023. We wish them well.

Enjoy your weekend, the term seems to be flying by in the wink of an eye! Whilst there is no holiday club at half term, the holiday club dates for Easter have been confirmed as **Monday 3rd of April until Thursday 6th of April** (the Friday of that week is Good Friday). The booking form will be released in the newsletter in the weeks to follow.

Mrs D Vinsome

Pre-School News

What a very exciting start to this week we had, when we arrived to pre-school in the snow!

We were all very eager to get out in the snow. After getting prepared in our snow boots, suits, gloves and hats we were ready to go and have lots of fun.

We took ourselves to the school field where we had snowball fights, created snow angels, rolled around in the snow, made snow men, snow animals and had a go at creating lots of different marks in the snow using different parts of our body!

Inside in the classroom we have been exploring Chinese New Year, which begins this weekend. We learnt about how it is celebrated. We also looked at China and where it is in the world. We then talked about where we live and the differences between our countries.

The boys and girls have joined in with so many activities to help celebrate Chinese New Year. We have created our own decorations for pre-school, drawn our own colourful dragons using oil pastels, tried fortune cookies, had a go with chopsticks, found red envelopes with chocolate coins in and worked really hard to make our own dragon costume where we could all hide underneath!

In Work it out Wednesday this week we had to choose an animal to help get across the ice, by making something for them to sit on, or wear to help them get across. The children came up with some fabulous ideas such as a sledge, ice skates and a snowboard.

In our forest session this week we worked in a small team to look for signs of winter. We found lots of ice around school and investigated what it did to leaves, flowers and the trees. We then had a go at drawing some of the things we had seen.

Well done Pre-School!

Mrs Parker and Miss Graham

Outdoor Education

Go Outdoors discount

A few years ago we set up a discount for parents and staff to use at Go Outdoors, Penrith. That arrangement seemed to have been forgotten about over time, and likely when the company was taken over by JD Sports. I have been in communication with JD sports over the past couple of weeks, and I am pleased to say that we have been able to set up our discount with them again. This will enable all parents to take advantage of an extra 10% off the card prices displayed in store. You will require your own member's card (£5 per year) and it would be worth taking with you something that shows your association with Hunter Hall School e.g. a headed letter or an email from school displayed on your phone.

Martin Spooner

Parents' Group

The Big Pancake Breakfast- Friday 17th February (from 7.45 a.m.)

A selection of American-style pancakes with a variety of toppings. Everybody welcome. Join us for an early pancake day celebration.

Senior School News

St Bees

St Bees are offering tours to all year 5 and 6 parents if you would be interested in a place at their school. Please find the links below:
A short video about the school can be found here. And their prospectus here.

Christ's Hospital

We warmly welcome families considering their senior school options to our upcoming Open Morning, on **Saturday 4 March 2023.**

Our termly Open Mornings are the perfect occasion to explore the school with pupil tour guides (hopefully in the beautiful spring sunshine!), attend talks on the admissions process and about life at Christ's Hospital, with our unique, lunchtime tradition of Band Parade to finish.

Windermere

Scholarship application deadline is 27 February with assessment days on 11 and 18 March. Please click these further links to their prospectus and scholarship days.

With a daily bus service having launched in September to Penrith, Windermere is now far easier to reach. The Penrith bus route is from Carleton Manors, Kemplay roundabout, Penruddock, Glenridding, and Troutbeck arriving at Windermere for 8.10am. Pick up points are very flexible

Sports News

2023 Cumbria Cross Country Championships

It was a pleasure to take our top 15 runners to the County Champs this week. To have so many out there wearing the burgundy and white, competing against the counties finest, was an amazing achievement.

Our trip to Sedbergh Prep. on a cold and frosty afternoon, proved to be a very fruitful one. Training session during PE lessons, running clubs and for some, runs at home, ensured they were well set for the challenge that faced them. The first race off was the year 4 girls, and while there were certainly some butterflies about, this young group (Elle, Iona A, Cecily and Lucy W) produced performances that were off the chart! Lucy W chased down the lead runner throughout her 1.6km run, never giving up, and produced a sensational finish that saw her crowned the 2023 County Y4 Girls Champion. Elle and Iona, both year 2, finished in 8th and 12th respectively, a performance that had Mr. Hetherington welling up with pride. Cecily finished in 15th place to ensure their team score of 36 was enough to earn the top Y4 girls' school team in Cumbria. A truly amazing achievement.

Fergus provided the burgundy army with plenty to cheer about as he took on the army of year 4 boys. This experience will sit him in good stead for next year, when he will be racing against boys of his own age.

Our Year 5 girls' team then emulated their younger compatriots' achievements, amassing a tiny score of 43, to be crowned Y5 girls' school team county champions. Anna Forster (20th) emptied the tank, producing her finest run of the year. India continued her fine season with an impressive 19th and with Orla coming home in 3rd place the team were well placed. Maggie continued her dominance with a fine piece of front running that broke the hearts of the entire field. A stunning run that saw her finish on top of the podium.

The Year 5 boys' team showed they were more than comfortable at this level with a string of strong runs. Ollie (25th), Forest (30th), Hubi (42nd) and George (55th) ensure the boys picked up the bronze team medal. A fabulous achievement for the team who gave it their all out there, pushing themselves to the limit for each other and their school.

We had no representative in the Year 6 girls' race, but in Sam and Hamish we had a pair of Y6 boys who represented Hunter Hall superbly. Hamish attacked his running with gusto and Sam produced a run that saw him finish in a very impressive 12th place. Hopefully just enough to earn himself a county vest at the national championships.

It was a wonderful event; we met up with a few old Hunters, made new friends, stretched comfort zones, pushed our bodies to the max, supported each other superbly, appreciated the efforts of our team mates and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Congratulations to everyone for qualifying to run at this event. With the top ten runners in each race now earning a county vest, we now wish Maggie and Orla all the very best when they head to the National Cross Country Championships at Prestwold Hall, Leicestershire on Sunday the 25th March. Go well girls when you represent Cumbria for the first time.

Y4 Girl County Champion- **Lucy Wood**

Y4 Girls' Team County Champions- **Hunter Hall**

Y5 Girl County Champion- **Maggie Rowely**
Y5 Girls 3rd place- **Orla Meek**
Y5 Girls' Team County Champions- **Hunter Hall**

Rawthey Run

Cross countries are like buses, you don't get one in ages, then two come along in a week! Fresh off the back of the county championships our hardy runners headed to Sedbergh Senior School for the 2023 Rawthey Run.

A stunning day and sensational course greeted our two U11 teams. The U11 girls' team put on a fine display of distance running over the undulating 2km course. Weary legs were never mentioned, the prospect of going again, clearly exciting our young chargers. Poppy, Hermione and Emma were welcome additions to our team and produced fine runs in the cold conditions. Their efforts helped ensure the girls' secured 3rd place in the team event. Orla grabbed an impressive 4th place, Lucy W enjoyed the chance to test her mettle against older girls coming home in the top 10, with India hot on her heels. Congratulations must once again go to Maggie. She set off at a fierce pace and quickly found herself at the front. Another impressive piece of front running securing her 2nd gold medal of the week.

The boys were equally heroic. Sam securing a top ten finish while the rest of our team produced fine performances of their own. Josh, Jack and James joined strengthened the squad and they certainly rose to the occasion. It's safe to say they have all earned a rest this weekend!

Week ahead

Monday 23 January 2023

09:30 - 11:30	Richard Evans (drums)
14:30 - 18:30	Barbara Gilbertson (voice, violin and piano)
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Art
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Running
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Choir
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Chess
16:30 - 17:30	Upper school - Band

Tuesday 24 January 2023

08:30 - 09:30	Ian Butterworth (brass)
10:00 - 11:30	Barbara Gilbertson (voice, violin and piano)
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Multi-sports
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Running
15:30 - 17:30	Upper School - Exam Prep Year 5

Wednesday 25 January 2023

08:30 - 09:30	Ian Butterworth (brass)
09:15 - 10:00	Y3 Swimming @ Penrith LC Swimming Pool
13:45 - 15:00	U11 & U9 Eden v Eamont Football @ HH
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Mindfulness colouring
15:30 - 16:30	Lower school - languages

Thursday 26 January 2023

08:30 - 15:30	Barbara Gilbertson (voice, violin and piano)
11:30 - 17:00	U11 XC Catterall Shield @ Giggleswick (Parents needed for transport)
13:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Outdoor Education Year 3&4 - Climbing
15:00 - 16:00	Lower School - Football
15:30 - 16:30	Lower school - Colour and Craft
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Drama
16:30 - 17:30	Upper School - Football

Friday 27 January 2023

08:00 - 10:30	Garry Linsley (woodwind)
08:00 - 16:30	LAMDA
09:30 - 15:30	Andrew Roze (guitar/ukulele)
13:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Outdoor Education Year 5P - Climbing
15:30 - 16:30	Lower school - Golden Time free play
15:30 - 16:30	Cookery Club - Year 5&6
15:30 - 16:30	Upper School - Netball Club

Please see the notice board or Parent Portal for fixture team lists.