



## GREAT ORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents

What an amazingly busy Autumn term we have. I cannot believe that there is only three weeks left until we break up for Christmas!

This edition of the newsletter is slightly longer than usual due to some important pieces of information that I wanted to share with you.

### Winter Weather Advice

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice and Schools are often affected.

In the event of severe weather conditions, we will endeavour to keep Great Orton Primary School open. However if it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite, or enough staff cannot reach the school to ensure we have enough staff to man the school safely, then we would need to make the decision to close the school.

### **How will we let you know if the school is closed?**

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions then the decision may be made to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via -

- SMS/Email (please make sure that we always have your up to date details).
- We will also publish the information on the school website [www.greatorton.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.greatorton.cumbria.sch.uk) and School Facebook page
- You can visit the Cumbria County Council website using the attached link [https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/school\\_closures](https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/school_closures)
- Parents can listen to CFM Radio or Radio Cumbria for school closure announcements.

### **What can you do to help?**

- Please visit <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/winterready> for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Carlisle so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school carefully and **DO NOT PARK** directly outside the school gates under any circumstances.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if the weather dictates.



## **Behaviour**

You may be aware that our School Council have been busy working on our 'School Rules'. These now have pride of place in our new eBook which you can view using the following link

<https://www.greatorton.cumbria.sch.uk/about-us/prospectus.html>

Alongside this, we have started to review our Behaviour and Exclusion policies and would welcome your input.

Draft copies of both policies can be found, using the attached links –

[https://www.greatorton.cumbria.sch.uk/uploads/590/Draft\\_Whole\\_School\\_Behaviour\\_Policy\\_Nov\\_20.pdf.html](https://www.greatorton.cumbria.sch.uk/uploads/590/Draft_Whole_School_Behaviour_Policy_Nov_20.pdf.html)

[https://www.greatorton.cumbria.sch.uk/uploads/591/Draft\\_Exclusion\\_Policy\\_Nov\\_20.pdf.html](https://www.greatorton.cumbria.sch.uk/uploads/591/Draft_Exclusion_Policy_Nov_20.pdf.html)

Our school staff and governors aim to ensure that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. Our school's Whole School Behaviour Policy and procedures is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote the overall well-being of pupils and staff and an environment in which everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

If you would like to discuss either of these with Mrs Bellas, then please contact Mrs Wright in the school office, who will arrange a mutually convenient Zoom meeting.

## **After School Clubs**

We have received government guidance that After School Clubs can recommence with effect from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. Below is a reminder of which clubs are on this term. If your child did not attend prior to lockdown, but would like to now, then please contact Mrs Wright in the school office. All clubs run from 3:30 pm until 4:30 p.m. and there is no charge.

Monday	Class 2	Football
Tuesday	Class 1	Multi Skills
Wednesday	Class 2	Zumba

## **Armistice Day**



On the 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11:00 a.m., the whole school paid their respects in a two-minute silence at the war memorial in the grounds of St Giles Church, in the village. The younger children created hand print poppies and the older children created water- colour silhouettes on which they wrote heart felt words.

## Curriculum

Miss Shannon's class have been learning about Elizabeth Blackwell and her life and struggles to become the first female doctor. The children also interviewed a trainee doctor on Zoom, to compare with life now and then.



As part of their Science topic, Mrs Bellas, Mrs Thomson and Mrs Nolan class have been conducting experiments to learn about magnets and forces.

## Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

All pupils are invited to take part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day by pulling on a Christmas jumper for a great cause.

We are asking pupils to make a £1 donation, or whatever they can give, to help transform the futures of children in the UK and around the world.

All money raised will go to Save the Children and will help make sure every child, no matter where they're born, has essentials like food, water and a safe place to sleep at night, and ultimately will ensure children can go on to make their mark on the world.

All your child needs to do is wear a festive woolly and bring in a donation. There is no need to splash out on snazzy new sweaters to join in the fun – why not swap, borrow or bling up an old woolly with some festive decorations.

## Christmas Parties

This year, each class will have its own separate class party (enabling children to remain in their class bubbles). These will both take place on the afternoon of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. School will provide all snacks and drinks. If the children would like to change into some party clothes, then they should bring these into school on the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> December in a named carrier bag.

Unfortunately, this year, due to COVID we are not able to invite parents and their families into school to share the usual Christmas performances with the children. The children will still be taking part in Christmas activities in school, which we will share with you – more details to follow....

Best Wishes

Mrs Catherine Bellas  
Acting Headteacher



## School Term Dates for the Diary

### Autumn Term 2020

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Class Christmas Parties

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – School Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas Break

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – School Reopens at 8:45 a.m. (Breakfast Club 8:00 a.m.) for the new Spring Term

