



Newsletter – 9 May 2024

Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of the summer term! We're excited to share with you all the wonderful things happening around our school, especially as we embrace the warmer days ahead. This term, we're diving deep into the world of creativity, making art the heart of our enquiries across all year groups. It's a fantastic opportunity for our children to express themselves, explore their imaginations, and discover the joy of creating something truly their own.

For our youngest learners in Nursery, the enquiry theme is "What is art?", sparking curiosity and wonder as they begin to explore the vast landscape of artistic expression. Reception children will embark on a quest to discover "How does art make you feel?", a journey for children through different emotions and how artists express this in their art. Meanwhile, Key Stage 1 children will delve into "Where does a picture take you?", encouraging a deeper understanding and appreciation of art in its many forms from around the world. These themes are not just about teaching art; they're about nurturing creativity, confidence, and a sense of identity in our young learners.

In addition, this newsletter is packed with important dates for the summer term - make sure to mark your calendars! We also have an exciting update about changes to our lunchtime routine. We've listened to feedback from our children and made adjustments to ensure lunchtimes are smoother, more enjoyable, and nourishing for everyone involved.

Plus, we can't help but brag about the incredible writing achievements of our students. The number of children who have eagerly come to share their writing with me is both astounding and heartwarming. It's a testament to the vibrant, supportive community we've cultivated here.

- **Mr A Butterworth-Drury**

Headteacher



Proud to be

part of the **Flying High Partnership**



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Lunchtime update



Since the start of term, you may have heard from your child (in Reception to Year 2) that their lunchtimes have changed. Our intention behind these changes is to improve the experience for all children by offering a more personal dining experience in the hall as well as a greater range of activities on offer on the playground. I'm pleased to report it's going very well so far and feedback from children has been overwhelmingly positive.

One of the biggest changes has been our move away from a family-style meal service (where children's full meal was already plated up) to a live meal service approach. This allows children a level of autonomy to choose elements of their meals directly from our amazing catering team. The choice is minor (such as requesting peas and/or sweetcorn) and will always be in line with a child's recorded dietary requirements, as



well as ensuring a fully balanced diet, but has given children greater independence. Recent feedback from our Children's Government highlighted that this shift towards a more interactive and personal dining experience has not only been met with enthusiasm from the children but has also led to a significant reduction in food waste – a win-win for everyone involved!

On the playground, we have different zones with a greater range of games and equipment (including lots which are new). Using our outdoor speaker (when weather permits) has allowed us to have music playing at one end of the

playground to create a dancing area that always has a number of children in. Each day, one of our midday supervisory team also organises games which children can participate in to increase physical activity – so far tennis is proving to be a popular addition on days when it has been the chosen sport.

To celebrate and promote positive play behaviours, we have also introduced a new lunchtime reward system (separate from our in-class reward system) where children earn pompoms for positive play behaviours which contribute towards a class prize (of 15 minutes additional playtime). After 4 weeks, one class is already nearing the number required



for their reward! We also wanted to provide the opportunity for celebrating individual children, so each week our midday supervisors can nominate children for a Lunchtime Award that is presented in our Friday celebration assembly.



It's wonderful to see that after much planning this new system is working so well to create a calmer and more enjoyable lunchtime experience for so many children.

THRIVE is back!



We're thrilled to announce that THRIVE community event, our beloved school summer fair, is making its highly anticipated return this year! Mark your calendars for Friday 19th June 5:30pm-7:30pm, as we invite our school and local community to join us for an occasion which we hope will be filled

with fun, laughter, and community spirit.

Alongside the popular favourites such as the mouth-watering barbecue, we're opening up the floor to all members of our community. Whether you've got crafts to sell, games to play, or any special activity you'd like to share, we want you to be a part of this

vibrant event. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your talents, connect with others, and make this year's THRIVE an unforgettable experience.

Interested in hosting a stand or know someone who might be? Please reach out to our school office.

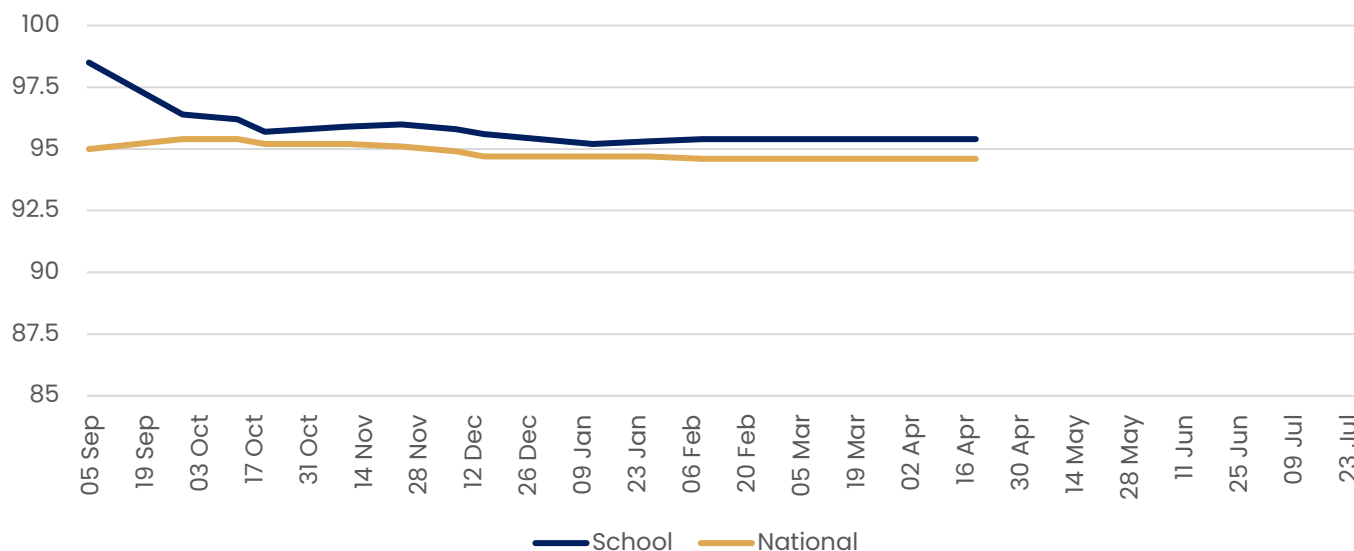
We can't wait to see the amazing contributions that will make this year's event truly special. Let's come together and make THRIVE an evening to remember!

Attendance matters



Yet again our school attendance remains above that of other primary schools nationally which shows how much our school community values good attendance!

School attendance (Year to date)



School values



In our vibrant infant school community, we cherish values that inspire, create, and persevere. Our Friday assemblies are the heart of our week, a special moment where we celebrate the incredible achievements of our children. Guided by our core values of aspiration, creativity, confidence, enjoyment, pride, perseverance, and responsibility, we acknowledge those who shine brightly. Our team

of staff nominate children for certificates, a testament to their hard work and spirit. Excitingly, we've introduced a new design for our certificates and also welcome the return of 'Dusty' (our Tidy Award trophy) to inspire pride in our shared spaces. This week we're focusing on our cloakrooms – I wonder which class will win



Notices and reminders



We love reading and ask that families help your child develop this fundamental skill by reading with them at home every day. In school, we teach daily reading and phonics lessons as well as having reading opportunities within other lessons. All children from Reception onwards have two fully decodable books (which they are assigned) as well as one library book (which they are free to choose). Children in Nursery can borrow books from our Potting Shed library.



Please remember to return permission slips and donations for the Reception (Chestnut & Willow) visit to the Windmill. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



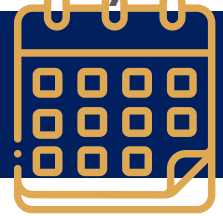
Please remember to return permission slips and donations for the Year 1 and Year 2 visit to the Lakeside Arts. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



If you are going to be late at collection time, please phone through to our school office so we can let your child's teacher (and your child) know.



Please remember to ensure that all of your children's belongings and uniform are named. It makes it a lot easier to reunite them with anything that has been misplaced.



Key dates

Friday 17th May – Sports Day (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 only)

Monday 20th May – School photos – Class groups

Thursday 23rd May – Reserve date for Sports Day

Thursday 23rd May – Non-uniform day for £1 donation

Thursday 23rd May, 9.00am-10.00am – Stay & Play (Nursery only)

Thursday 23rd May – Break up for half term

Friday 24th May – INSET day (school closed to children)

Monday 3rd June – Children return to school

Thursday 6th June – Themed lunch for the 80th anniversary of D-Day

Wednesday 12th June – Willow class visit to Green's Windmill

Friday 14th June – Chestnut class visit to Green's Windmill

Thursday 20th June – KS1 (Cedar & Maple class) visit to Lakeside Arts

Friday 21st June – KS1 (Beech & Oak class) visit to Lakeside Arts

Monday 17th June – Stuart Robinson MBE (Wheelchair Rugby Paralympian) visiting the school! More details to follow!

Y2 to Eskdale transition starts – see dates below

Friday 28th June – CAMO day at Alderman Pounder (to mark Armed forces day)

Wednesday 3rd July – Children into new classes for next year (Y2 see below)

Wednesday 3rd July, 5pm – New-to-school parent meeting

Friday 5th July – Virtual Author visit ([Bethan Wollvin](#))

Friday 5th July – Brick-a-Brac donations for THRIVE

Tuesday 9th July – Children into new classes for next year

Wednesday 10th July, 2.45pm – Share a Story (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 only, details to follow)

Friday 12th July – Year 2 fun (more details to follow)

Monday 15th July – Cake Donate Plate for THRIVE cake sale sent home

Thursday 18th July – Flying High Partnership Awards (invite only)

Friday 19th July – Cake Donate Plates returned to school for THRIVE

Friday 19th July – Reports out to parents

Friday 19th July – THRIVE (Summer Fair) – new families invited too

Thursday 24th July, 2pm & 5pm – Y2 Leavers' performance

Friday 25th July AM – Leavers' assembly for Y2 children

Friday 26th July – Break up for summer holiday

Year 2 transition dates

Thursday 6th June – Eskdale teachers to visit children in class

Wednesday 19th June – Y2 Transition workshop with MHST

Tuesday 25th June – Eskdale teachers reading story to half of the year 2 children

Thursday 27th June – Eskdale teachers reading story to other half of the year 2 children

Friday 28th June – Eskdale coffee morning for Y2 parents (times TBC by Eskdale)

Wednesday 3rd July – Y2 children to visit Eskdale

Thursday 4th July – Eskdale parent information evening

Academic year 2024/25

A downloadable calendar of our term dates can be found [on our website](#).



Monday 2nd September – Administration day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 3rd September – INSET day (school closed to children)

Wednesday 4th September – Children return to school (Welcome back!)

Thursday 17th October – Break up for half term

Friday 18th October – INSET day (school closed to children)

Monday 4th November – INSET day Alderman Pounder only (school closed to children)

Tuesday 5th November – Children return to school

Friday 20th December – Break up for Christmas holiday

Monday 6th January – Children return to school

Friday 14th February – Break up for half term

Monday 24th February – INSET day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 25th February – Children return to school

Friday 4th March – Break up for Easter holiday

Tuesday 22nd April – Children return to school

Monday 5th May – Bank holiday (school closed)

Friday 23rd May – INSET day (school closed to children)

Monday 2nd June – Children return to school

Tuesday 29th July – Last day of term



Thank you for reading

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