



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

9th January 2026



SPRING
TERM



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Monday

Class 3 & 4—arrive in PE kits.

Tuesday

Swimming—years 1-3

Reception, Years 5 & 6 to arrive in outdoor PE kit.

Wednesday

Class 2—PE

Thursday

Vision Screening—C1
2.50pm—Celebration
Assembly

Friday

Class 1 Forest Friday. Bring wellies.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS Spring Term 1

Mon

Y3-6 Fitness Club 3.20-4.30

Tues

Y3-6 Skittleball Club 3.20-4.30

Weds

Y1&2 Gym Club 3.30-4.00

Y3&4 Gym Club 4.00-5.00

Y5&6 Gym Clubs 5.00-6.00

Thurs

Y3 Recorder Club 3.20-4.20

HAPPY
new year

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see the children back and raring to go after their Christmas break. I have heard that there has been a lot of illness over the holidays for some families, which I hope hasn't spoiled Christmas too much.

IMPORTANT NOTE

One of the illnesses that seems to be circulating is Chickenpox. Please note that this infection can be very serious for vulnerable children and adults, particularly those who may be pregnant, as it could harm their baby. That is why there are rules laid out by the NHS to reduce the risk of passing on the infection. **Please note, if your child has developed Chickenpox, they should not be returning to school until the spots have all dried up and are no longer infectious.**

ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION 2026

A reminder that the deadline for submissions for a place in a Reception class for September 2026 is next **Thursday the 15th January**. If you haven't already submitted an application, then the Admissions team have asked us to remind parents who have not yet submitted them to do so as soon as possible.

ARBOR

We are still getting to grips with our new internal system and we thank you for your patience regarding the hiccups we are having. I have spoken to other headteachers who have had to move onto this new system and we are not alone in finding it far more difficult to use than our old system. However, it is really encouraging to see that 86% of parents have now logged on and are using it. Should you experience any issues with Arbor please do not hesitate to contact the office.

We have now got the gym, breakfast and after-school clubs all setup correctly and accepting payments. If you have not yet logged on to Arbor, please do try and find ten minutes to have a look at it as this is the method of comms, payments, forms etc we will be using in future and we don't want anyone missing out on anything. You can also use the app to update any details throughout the year—for instance a new email address or GP etc. If you need the sign-up link resending please contact the office.

PARENTS' EVENINGS— Week of the 19th January

We would like to welcome parents to discuss their child's progress and achievements over the past term and answer any questions as to the next stages in their learning. The following days/times are when these will take place, which **you can now book on the Arbor booking system:**

Class 1— Weds 21st 3.30-5.30pm and Thursday 22nd January 3.30pm-4.30pm on 22nd).

Class 2— Monday 19th January & Thursday 22nd January—3.30pm—5.30pm

Class 3— Weds 21st January & Thursday 22nd January—3.40pm—5.30pm

Class 4— Weds 21st January & Thursday 22nd January—3.30pm—5.30pm

We have had an increasing number of parents who have in recent times been requesting parents evening meetings on different times to the set ones we provide. We have considered this and are offering two evenings to resolve this issue.

We have an 'Open door' policy at our school and we are happy to speak to parents throughout the year if they have any concerns about their child, however, it is only in **exceptional circumstances** that parents should be requesting individual parents meetings on alternate days because they are unable to attend the ones that are offered.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

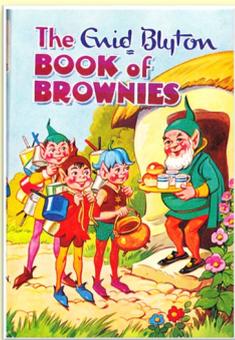
We are pleased to confirm that our new website is up and running. Please take the time to visit the site : www.st-patrickscofe.cumbria.sch.uk

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

You may be aware that there is evidence that children are choosing to read less, which is a major cause for concern for the future. We are very pleased to say that our KS2 reading results are always very high, and much higher than the national standard across the country. However, we are not complacent and have signed up to the National Literacy Trust to support them in their 2026 campaign to redress this fall in this decline.

We have looked at which children regularly read at home, which we are always recommending to parents as we know that this makes a huge difference to their progress. We have found that the majority of our parents really do support their child with this, which is really positive.

As a start to the year, I thought we could kick off with a book review section from all the adults in school which the children may find interesting. This week will be mine.



MRS EDMONDSON'S FAVOURITE BOOKS

Favourite Book as a Child: The Enid Blyton Book of Brownies

My first books as a young child were written by Enid Blyton and I remember that the first book I read by myself was 'The Enid Blyton Book of Brownies'. I remember being so pleased to be able to read this by myself and can even remember the first paragraph of it still off by heart.

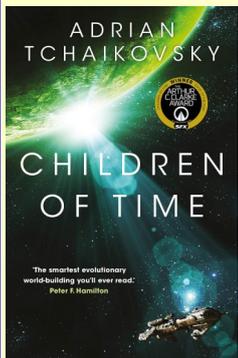
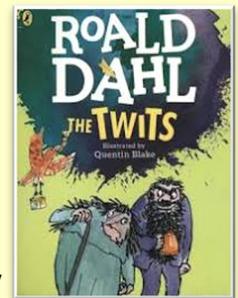
Favourite Children's Book: The Twits by Roald Dahl

There are so many good books for children these days so it is really hard to choose one, however I have picked one that I know has captured the imagination of many early readers I have taught in the past which has led to them becoming enthusiastic about reading.

I particularly remember a young child I taught who was a very bright boy and a brilliant mathematician, but he hated reading. I tried a selection of books with him, but they failed to impress but Roald Dahl's 'The Twits' had him hooked. He then read all of Roald Dahl's books and from then on always had a book in his hand.

Favourite Book Read This Year: Children of Time by Adrian Tchaikovsky

The book I found most interesting this year is 'Children of Time'. It is a science fiction book about how accelerated evolution, started by human's from Earth, creates an intelligent spider population on a planet. Possibly not everyone's cup of tea, but I found it fascinating!



Kind regards.

S Edmondson

Head Teacher