



Irthington Village School
Irthington
Nr Carlisle
Cumbria

CA6 4 NJ

Tel: 01228 212050

Email: admin@irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk

Headteacher Lynn Harrison

10.10.24

Dear Parents,

I would like to congratulate our Football Team on their fantastic achievement at the Brampton Inter-School tournament last Saturday. 18 teams competed and our team fought their way into the final of the small school's tournament where they lost to a golden goal in extra time to Longtown B team.

The team played brilliantly and were good sports throughout. They were presented with medals and a trophy. So very well-done footballers and a big thank you to Mr Harrison for taking the team along on a Saturday!

Thank you so much to everyone who baked, faked and came along to our MacMillan Coffee Afternoon, we raised £412 in little over an hour! This is an amazing amount for a very worthwhile charity!

Yesterday, I met with the Access and Inclusion Officer and the newly appointed Attendance Officer for our school. They came along to introduce themselves and to explain the key changes to legislation regarding attendance and taking holidays in term time. We all want the very best for the children in our care and all evidence shows that children with good attendance achieve better outcomes, leading to happier, wealthier and more enriched lives. In fact, a study from Universities UK shows that children with poor attendance are five times less likely to achieve 5 strong GCSEs. The key messages from the officers I must share with you are as follows.

- It is ***against the law*** to remove your child for the purpose of a holiday in term time and parents could be prosecuted and fined for doing so.
- Parents who repeatedly take holidays in term time could face larger fines (over £2500) and be taken to court and issued with a Community Order or imprisoned.
- The decision to prosecute rests solely with the Local Authority as an independent prosecuting authority.
- In Cumbria all the Attendance Officers have 'live' access to all pupil attendance data.
- Pupil with poor attendance or repeated 'Lates' are also subject to prosecution and fines.

In light of the above changes, I must urge you to book all holidays during school holidays and ensure that your child is in school on time.

We have been advised to produce a 'Leave of Absence' request form for parents to complete in the event of any planned pupil absence. It is essential that such forms are completed well in advance of the absence as the attendance officers will look at these when considering further action or prosecution.

School meals seem to be going very well, and feedback from the pupils is that they like the new menu choices. It is unlikely that we will have an online ordering system in place by October half term and so will continue with the current system until we can get the online system up and running. If you need to make any changes to the choices for your child or would like to order meals or just need like a copy of the menus, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Lawson in the office.

And finally, I very much look forward to seeing you at the Harvest Festival next Tuesday, 15th October at 2.30pm, in St Kentigern's church. The members of our community really do appreciate receiving their harvest hampers delivered by the children in Class 3 following the service in church. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity with these donations.

Thank you for reading such a long letter, and as always, my door is open if anyone has any queries or concerns that they would like to discuss with me.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Harrison