



Irthington Village School
Irthington
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Cumbria



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Headteacher Lynn Harrison

18.04.23

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Easter break. I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday.

I have to thank everyone concerned who came to the coffee morning on the last day of term. The baking was outstanding, and the children really enjoyed the Chocolate Tombola and Egg Hunt, so a special thank you to the PTA for organising this event. I believe that we raised in the region of £500 and more importantly everyone enjoyed the event! Hopefully with the same support the Summer Fair will be equally successful!

As always, the summer term is incredibly busy as we hope to pack in lots of enjoyable learning experiences for all of the children. We will be marking the King's Coronation with a Coronation picnic for the school children on Thursday 4th May. We also have the Year 6 SATS week commencing Tuesday 9th May, followed by the Year 6 post SATs treat. The Summer Fair takes place on the 14th May and Year 2 SATS begin the week commencing 22nd May. After half term KS2 have the residential to look forward to, children's forest activities and much much more! We shall also be entering the Cumbria in Bloom schools' category again this year, so if anyone is busy planting seeds, perhaps you could plant a few extra for school. Our green house should be ready for action at the end of this week!

As I am sure you will already be aware, Miss Evans, who was covering Mrs Blackley's maternity leave, has now finished, to embark on her year of travelling across Canada. I know that the children really enjoyed working with her and wish her well on her travels. Covering the rest of Mrs Blackley's leave until her return in September we have Miss Hughes joining us later this week.

Unfortunately, due to various factors, the attendance rate for pupils is generally falling. The national target rate for attendance is 96% or above. School Governors have been monitoring our attendance rate which has been fluctuating between 91% and 96%. They will shortly be contacting parents of children with attendance rates of less than 90%. Absence below 90% is deemed 'persistent absenteeism' by the DFE and must be addressed by the school.

We do appreciate that there have been some nasty viruses and sickness bugs but have also noticed a significant increase in the amount of holidays being taken in term time. I would urge you not to take your children out of school for holidays, because this time off, combined with absence due to illness, can quickly mount up and mean that your child has missed a significant amount of lessons, some of which will not be repeated again during the academic year.

On a separate note, we are offering some After School Clubs this half-term, which run from 3.30pm – 4.30pm on the days indicated. As there are a few bank holidays coming up in May the Gardening Club will run during the lunchtime of the following school day where this occurs.

Please see below the clubs available and complete and return the slip on the second page to indicate any clubs your child would like to be considered for a place. **Slips must be handed in to school by the morning of Friday 21st April at the very latest to allow places to be allocated.**

Day:	Club:	Staff member:	Who can attend:
Monday	Gardening	Mrs Harrison	Years 1 - 6
Wednesday	Singing	Mrs Sweetman	Years 1 - 6
Wednesday	Netball	Miss Pennington	Years 3 – 6

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Harrison

Headteacher.

After School Clubs:

I would like my child.....to be considered for a place in the following club/s:

Day:	Club:	Staff member:	Name of child:
Monday	Gardening	Mrs Harrison	
Wednesday	Singing	Mrs Sweetman	
Wednesday	Netball	Miss Pennington	