



Irthington Village School
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Headteacher Lynn Harrison

19th January 2023

Dear Parents,

As always, the spring term very quickly fills up with exciting events and activities for the children and I have attached a summary of key events and dates at the end of this letter for your convenience.

Before I move onto the forthcoming events, I need to make all parents aware of some concerns that we at school have regarding your child's safety. Through games played outside, comments made and discussions in class with friends and staff it is apparent that some children are accessing online accounts and playing games designed for much older children. Once on sites such as TikTok or YouTube, your child can literally access videos, vlogs and content whether age appropriate or not. We do all we can in school to keep your child safe and would urge you to monitor the types of sites and accounts your child has online. TikTok for example has a suggested minimum age limit of 13 years. The NSPCC suggests that parents of children using this app create 'a paired' user account so that you can see the types of material your child accesses. However, we would recommend that you do not allow your child on sites with a suggested older age limit.

Please do read the monthly online safety newsletter that we send out to all parents as it will inform you of new challenges or issues your child may face online.

Forthcoming events and activities.

Classes 2 and 3 really enjoyed their visit to the Theatre by the Lake and the children in Class 1 are eagerly awaiting their visit to the Tyne Theatre next Wednesday. These visits have been made possible because the PTA have fully funded the cost of the transport and tickets. The PTA have 2 fundraisers coming up in the spring and summer term, and we have a meeting on Tuesday 7th March at 7pm to make arrangements for these. Please do come along to the meeting as **all** parents are most welcome.

Dates for your diary.

Wednesday 25th January - Class 1 to visit Tyne Theatre in Newcastle - during the school day.

Monday 30th January - Whole school Parents' Evening – 1.30-6pm. Mrs Lawson will email out online booking arrangements.

Wednesday 8th February - Yr2 SATs info session for parents: 2.45 – 3.30pm in the school hall.

- Yr6 SATs info session for parents **3.30pm – 4.15pm** ** amended time to one first published in class 3 newsletter!!!

Monday 13th February - Action Ants in school, fun activities for all pupils.

Tuesday 14th February - Class One Assembly for parents 9.15am.

Monday 27th February - School reopens. Fairtrade Fortnight begins.

Tuesday 7th March - PTA meeting at 7pm in school – all parents welcome.

Tuesday 14th March - Class Two Assembly for parents 3pm.

Monday 20th March - Class Three Assembly for parents 3pm.

Tuesday 28th March - Whole school Easter Service in church (details to follow)

Thursday 30th March – Non uniform day – children to donate an item for the chocolate Tombola (details to follow).

Friday 31st March – PTA coffee morning and chocolate Tombola and Egg hunt: 9 – 10.30am (details to follow) school closes for Easter at **2pm**.

Monday 17th April – School reopens for summer term.

Sunday 23rd April – Great North Air Ambulance Clothing Collection – in and around the villages of Irthington, Newtown, Newby, Laversdale and Old Wall from 10am. See the school app for full details. We welcome all offers of help to distribute bags around the parish over the Easter break and collect them in on this date.

Monday 24th April – Great North Air Ambulance Clothing Collection – schoolyard collection. Bags can be left in the schoolyard by 9am.

Monday 1st & 8th May – Early May Bank Holidays – school closed.

Sunday 14th May – PTA Summer Fair 2-4pm.

Monday 12th June – Class photographs.

Monday 26th – Friday 30th June – Key Stage 2 Residential to Hawse End – please ensure all payments are up to date – see payment schedule letter dated 8th November 2022.

We will be running some afterschool clubs after half-term, details will follow in a separate letter.

As always if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to speak to me at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Harrison.