

29th April 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome back for the Summer Term. It was funny to see girls playing out in their summer dresses in the snow - then the next minute in glorious sunshine.

SATs

You have probably seen lots in the media about SATs and tests in KS1 and KS2. This is nothing new - we have had tests at the end of Key Stages for a long time. What is new is the level required to pass the tests. Under the new framework children will be assessed as 'meeting expected level' or 'not meeting expected level'. In previous years they were awarded a level. I have 2 concerns with this.

- 1) The 'expected' level is extremely high both at KS1 and KS2. I think many adults would struggle to be 'expected' at KS2. For children with spelling difficulties it will not be possible for them to achieve expected in English even though they may be excellent readers with great understanding.
- 2) All our children have worked hard to reach the level they are at and we are pleased with their achievements. They need encouragement to build on their skills at secondary school not to be told they are 'not at expected level'. Learning is a continuous journey and children are not all at the same point at the same time.

We will still be taking the SATs and have to report whether your child is expected or not. We have tried to keep homework to a minimum but do not want our children to be at a disadvantage so some has been necessary. We will try to keep the SATs week as stress free as possible as we always do.

Online Safety - for Parents/ Community members

Richard Prescott (our IT technician) is holding an internet safety evening for parents and members of the community. As we now have broadband it is extremely important that we understand the risks. It will be entertaining and it would be great to see as many people as possible.

Hi 5 Netball

Children in Y5 and 6 are taking part in a Hi 5 Netball tournament at Lancaster Boys Grammar School next Friday 6th May. They will be back at 3pm in time for Family Assembly.

Mrs Fiona Ip

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Mon 2nd May - BANK HOLIDAY

Tues 3rd May - Cookie club - 4:30pm

Wed 4th May - Gymnastics club- 4:30pm

Thurs 5th May - Kid's club 4:30pm

Fri 6th May - Sports Reach Assembly 3:15pm All welcome

Future Diary Dates

Mon 9th - Thurs 12th May - SAT's week

Thurs 19th May - Online Safety for parents/carers/ community members 7:30-9pm