

 **Newsletter**

 **8th September, 2022**

 **Important Dates**

Wednesday 14th September Roald Dahl Day (character dress-up day ~ changed from 13th)

Friday 16th September School photographs

5th-7th October Panthers Class residential visit to PGL Winmarleigh Hall

Friday 14th October Harvest Celebration

Friday 21st October School closes for half term

Monday 31st October School re-opens

Wednesday 2nd November Parents Evening for all classes

**WELCOME ☺**

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome our new children to school this week. Our new Reception children have made a fabulous start in Lions Class and seem to have settled in really well – fingers crossed this continues! This week we are saying. “Hello!” to our new Nursery children as they come for visits before starting next week.

We have also welcomed Mrs Knox back from maternity leave and also welcomed Miss Mallett to Panthers Class. In Jaguars Class we have welcomed Miss Barnes and Mrs Gaitanou and Mrs Hall has joined us in Tigers Class. If you see a new face in the playground, please say, “Hi!”

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**Reading at Catforth**

Last term, we spent a lot of time thinking about how we help children learn to read at Catforth. We have invested in some much-needed new home-readers for children in Lions and Tigers Classes and are very much looking forward to seeing the children enjoying them. It is really important that children of all ages practise their reading every day by reading aloud. This helps to improve fluency and confidence, which leads to better understanding of what they have read. In school, we teach children to read through daily phonics, spelling, English and guided reading lesson and then parents have a crucial role to play by ensuring daily practice is taking place and we really do see a difference in the progress of those children who are regular readers. If you think of it in the same way as learning to play a musical instrument – children may attend a lesson where they are taught by their music teacher, but if they do not practise at home, their playing will not improve.

Younger children who are not yet fluent readers, will benefit hugely from 5-10 minutes EVERY DAY. Little and often is the key and much more effective than half an hour a couple of times a week.

Older children who are developing fluency also need to read every day to develop their reading skills further, by developing reading stamina, reading with expression and being exposed to more complex and challenging language and sentence structures.

Please take the time at the beginning of the new school year, to develop a good habit of daily reading and recording progress in your child’s reading record.

Books should be brought back to school every day please.

**Parking**

Thank you to all those of you who continue to make the effort to park on the Village Hall car park. It is making such a difference to the traffic outside school at the beginning and end of the day and helping to keep our children safe. I’m sure it’s also making a difference to your stress levels!

**Homework**

In Tigers, Jaguars and Panthers Classes, maths and spelling homework is set each week on EdShed. Children have their own login for this. Tasks are set on a Friday and need to be completed by Wednesday please. Children who do not complete these at home will have the opportunity to do them in school at playtime on Thursday. Please let your child’s teacher know if you have difficulty logging on or accessing the website.

**Class Dojo Messages**

We have made the decision to turn on messaging between parents and teachers again on a trial basis. Teachers will check the messages periodically and respond when they have time to do so. They will have ‘quiet hours’ in the evenings and weekends, so please do not expect a response during these times. During the school day teachers are teaching and not checking messages. Please also remember to ensure your messages are always respectful and appropriate.

PLEASE NOTE that Class Dojo should not be used for messages relating to a child’s absence.

**Cost of Living Crisis**

In these difficult times, when we are seeing our household expenses going up and up, I am sure that many families might be feeling the pinch and struggling to make ends meet. Please be aware that we are able to make referrals the food bank for anyone who feels that it might help to make their budget stretch a little further. This will, of course be done in the strictest confidence, just send a message on Class Dojo or an email to head@catforth.lancs.sch.uk or come and see Mrs Bainbridge.

**Milk**

We have ordered a free carton of milk for all children in nursery and those in Reception who have not yet turned 5. Once children are 5, parents will need to order and pay for the milk (unless on free school meals) by visiting the ‘CoolMilk’ website so that their child can continue to have their milk each morning. The cost is subsidised by the government to ensure children are getting important vitamins and calcium for growing bones and teeth. <https://www.coolmilk.com>

**School Photographs**

Next Friday, 16th September, we have the photographer in school. They will be taking individual photos as well as family photos, class photos, and a year group photo for Reception and Year 6. If you have any younger siblings not yet in school and you would like them to be on a family photo, please see Miss Crossthwaite in the office. These are usually done earlier at around 8.30am.

**Roald Dahl Day – Wednesday 14th September**

Next week is our first themed day of the year! We will be celebrating the wonderful work of Roald Dahl with a character dress-up day, story-themed workshops, shared ‘buddy-reads’ and other fun activities related to Roald Dahl books and stories. This year’s stories will be, ‘Fantastic Mr Fox’, ‘The BFG’, ‘The Twits’ and ‘The Enormous Crocodile’.