



NEWSLETTER

Friday 8 September

2023



Welcome back everyone and it is lovely to be back with all your children. I hope you all enjoyed a very restful summer. School has been a joy to witness in our opening couple of days. Certainly the older children are taking very good care of the younger ones, which is fantastic.

ROBINS CLASS NEWS

Parents of children in this class will already be aware that Mrs Ritchie had an accident while on holiday in France and needed an operation to fix her broken leg. Ms Amber Watson has picked up the reins in Reception class and Romy has been pulled back into our nursery until Mrs Ritchie is back on her feet. Certainly the Robins' setting is looking superb! A big thank you to Mrs Mackay and Mrs Ritchie for all their work and creativity during the summer. We are offering up lots of prayers and sending healing thoughts Mrs Ritchie's way.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we listen, learn and care.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

Ms Hodgson has worked her magic in our school library, which is looking very inviting. She has a favour to ask. If there are any unwanted good quality KS1 picture books which you might want to donate to school, she would be very happy to take them in and give them a very good home. Please either pop them in to the office or she will be happy to take them on the yard. Thank you in advance, as always, for your support.

PLAYGROUND AT THE START OF DAY

A gentle reminder (as I have done with the children this week) that we want to keep everyone safe as we gather in the morning before the whistle. There are lots of little ones around and grandparents too, so please football should not be played until playtime and lunchtime.

MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

We understand that older children might need a phone with them in school as they may walk home under their own steam. These will be kept locked away during the school day. Please make sure they know to keep their phone out of sight near school and in After School Club.

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

We have had several new starts in school this week. Maggie-Mae, Selena, Ivy, Josh, Mikayla and Harvey have joined our Swifts class and had a great day settling in yesterday. And of course a huge welcome to all our new starts in Robins class. It was great that so many mums and dads were able to pop in and see our lovely new setting for them.

RAAC IN SCHOOLS

I'm sure you've seen a lot of publicity about this concrete in the press, but I wanted to reassure you I had confirmation from our Chief Operating Officer at a meeting in Carlisle on Tuesday that there is no RAAC at Dean Gibson. However, we will be having some routing condition surveys undertaken over the course of the next couple of weeks.

INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING

Bamboozled by filters and want to know how to keep your child safe online? All parents are invited to an internet safety training session at Ghyllside School on Tuesday 19th December between 6 and 7pm. Our staff are attending earlier in the day as part of their professional development. Just let the office know if you hope to be there so that we can give Ghyllside an idea of numbers.

LUNCHES

Dolce are no longer taking Direct Debit payment for school lunches. They have requested that all school meals accounts are kept in credit at all times. Please add credit to your account via their website or by contacting Customer Care on 01942 707709 (option 1).

CLUBS FOR AUTUMN 1

A timetable of clubs, which will be starting next week, is attached alongside this newsletter. Please complete the form and return to the office stating which club your child would like to attend. Don't forget our school times have changed, so after school sessions will run from 15.20 until 16.05.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Our first celebration assembly will start at 14.50 on Friday 15th September. We look forward to seeing you there!

SILVER ARTS MARK AWARD

I am delighted to let you know that our school has received a Silver Arts Mark award. We have had a real focus on creativity and the arts in different forms in school, particularly since lockdown. Ms Hodgson started gathering our evidence a few years ago and lockdown has meant our journey towards achieving the award has been a long one! Nevertheless she and Mrs Joyce have persevered and have made sure that we have found lots of new ways to nurture the creativity which is inherent in all our children, in many different forms. Thank you also to Nicki the artist, a former parent and governor at school, for all her ideas and practical help. Well done, children!

Dates for your diary:

Meet the Teacher

Finches, Swifts, Kingfishers & Eagles (Y2/3 to Y6): Monday 18 September

Robins & Sparrows (Reception & Year 1) Date to be confirmed asap

END OF TERM

School closes for the Easter break on **Thursday 30th March at 2pm** and reopens for the summer term on **Monday 17th April**.