



Bowness-on-Solway Primary School Newsletter

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www.bowness-on-solway.cumbria.sch.uk

Friday 31st March 2023

Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

Fri 31st March	Last day of spring term.
Fri 31st March (evening)	<u>Chocolate bingo!!!</u>
Mon 17th April	First day of summer term.
Mon 17th April	Swimming lessons begin for years 2-6.
Wed 19th April	Parents Association AGM.
Tue 25th April	Parent / carer phonics and reading workshop.
Tue 9th May	SATs week begins.

Swimming Lessons

Children in the Kestrels and Ospreys classes will have a block of swimming lessons at The Sands Centre on Monday afternoons, with the initial session taking place on the first day of the summer term – **17th April** – and the last being on **10th July**. Children will need their full swimming kit and towel, with the option of goggles.



Class Dojo

This is a great app which works very well in school. It is intended for direct communication with teachers about class matters, e.g. homework. Please note that I have directed teachers to only respond to messages before school (8:30) and after the school day (15:30 – 17:00). They do not access messages throughout the day whilst teaching, or in the evenings or on non-school days. Notes about other matters e.g. absence, should go to the school office.



After School Clubs

We are delighted to offer a new selection of after school clubs for the start of the summer term. After school club finishes at 16:15.

Please note that additional childcare is available until 17:00 but this is intended only for circumstances where it is **needed**, e.g. when working parents/carers are unable to collect children earlier.

It is by prior arrangement so please let us know as early as possible so that we can ensure appropriate staffing ratios.



Mobile Phones in School

Please note that mobile phones are not permitted to be brought in to school. However, we understand that there might occasionally be special circumstances where it is necessary, in which case parents / carers must inform school. The phone must be handed in upon arrival at school and it will be kept securely in the office and returned at the end of the day. It should be kept away in the pupil's bag whilst on the bus.



Attendance

Please familiarise yourself with our attendance policy if you have not yet had the chance:

[https://www.bowness-on-solway.cumbria.sch.uk/uploads/107/Attendance_Policy_2023.pdf/](https://www.bowness-on-solway.cumbria.sch.uk/uploads/107/Attendance_Policy_2023.pdf)

Unauthorised absence has a major impact on children's learning progress and can result in legal action being taken by the local authority.

Week beginning 20th March

Owls: 95% Ospreys: 92% Kestrels: 100%

Week beginning 27th March

Owls: 87% Ospreys: 94% Kestrels: 100%

ATTENDANCE

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Miss Hannah Eastwood to our staff. She will be working as a teaching assistant initially in our Owls class from 17th April.

Miss Eastwood is hugely experienced and we are certain that she will be a valuable addition to our super staff.

We also have Mr Cameron Blackley who is doing a great job volunteering in all classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Collecting Pupils / Appointments

Please always let us know if there will be a change to pick-up arrangements for your child after school, e.g. if they will be collected by a different person than usual or at a different time, or if they are not going on the bus etc.

Similarly, if your child has an appointment and needs to be collected early, please let us know in advance as soon as you can.

Charity Fundraising Challenge!

Elaine, Deborah and friends are again completing 10,000 steps a day for a whole month during April to raise vital funds for Eden Valley Hospice. You can donate on their *JustGiving* page here:



www.justgiving.com/page/deborah-smith-1680035712541

Easter Holidays

I wish you all a wonderful break over Easter. Everyone has worked so hard over the last two terms and I'm sure a couple of weeks off will be welcomed by all of our children and staff!

Stay safe and we look forward to opening up our doors again on **Monday 17th April**.



Chocolate Bingo

Don't forget that this popular event is **tonight, Friday 31st March**. Doors open at 6:30pm; eyes down at 7:00pm.

Any further donations of raffle prizes can be brought on the night.

Eco Corner

Duracell's *Big Battery Hunt* is a nationwide programme to help educate and inspire young people to recycle more used batteries.



Did you know...
600 million batteries are thrown away in UK homes each year?
Batteries can take 100 years to decompose?

The good news is that you can bring your used batteries to school!

We can accept AAA, AA, C and D batteries for recycling.

www.bigbatteryhunt.co.uk

Roundup of Recent Happenings

Since the last newsletter, our Y2-6 pupils have performed a star turn in conjunction with Kirkbampton School as part of *The Big Play*.

Children in years 3 and 4 represented us at the Nelson Thomlinson tennis festival, coming third overall with Thomas collecting a prize for an outstanding individual performance, winning 7 out of 7 matches on his court.

Children were interviewed by the BBC this week – listen out on Radio Cumbria at breakfast time. It will be between Tue & Fri, possibly 7:30ish.

The new toddler group is going very well – it now takes place on Wednesdays between 13:30 and 15:00. All parents/carers with babies and toddlers are very welcome to come along!