

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2012

Dear parents,

I am very pleased to be back from our annual ski trip; this year it was in a resort called Les Menuires in France. 143 children from all over Cumbria attended and the children from Patterdale were brilliant. They coped really well with being far from home, kept themselves organised, made new friends and learned to ski superbly. It was a pleasure to take Helen, Raven and Louis – well done all of you.

200 CLUB

The 200 club is one of our biggest fund raisers and is one of the easiest to run. Mandy Scrivens has kindly agreed to continue to organise this. It has been a little while since we recruited new members to the club and we have also realised that some of our newer families do not have membership. The scheme is simple – each member pays an annual fee of £10 and they are allocated a number. Three numbers are drawn at the end of each month and cash prizes of £30, £20 and £10 are won. Notification of the winners is posted on the notice board in Glenridding, Patterdale Post Office and in school. If you do not have a ticket or would like to involve other members of your family or friends, please fill out the slip below.

SUPPORT GROUP FUNDS

Please find enclosed our current financial position as at 18th January 2012. As you can see, we have had a fantastic fund raising year (our financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March) we have banked £11,400 which is amazing. This is particularly remarkable in the current financial climate. The Support Group have really aimed their fund raising at visitors to the area; this seems to be the way forward as there are so many groups locally that need to fund raise.

Sadly, we cannot rest at all in our efforts. Government cuts continue to put significant pressure on us and, as I am sure most of you know, the money generated by the Support Group contributes a great deal to the salaries of our Teaching Assistants, who are invaluable to the way in which we support our children.

There are some new events to be organised over the next 18 months or so – again targeting the tourists, but requiring some hard work from us. The first of these is **The Big Breakfast** which will take place on Sunday 1st April 2012. The organising group will be asking for help shortly.

In May 2013, we are planning to hold an exhibition for local artists – this will be the next 'big' effort, and work in preparation for this will begin soon.

Thank you for all your efforts – the more we work together as a team, the less the burden is for just a small group of people.

PTO

NEW TREASURER FOR THE SUPPORT GROUP

We are extremely grateful to Lisa Smith (Regan's mum) who has kindly volunteered for the role of Treasurer to the Support Group - she was duly elected at the last meeting.

GRAND RAFFLE

So far, the raffle has raised £1962, thanks to the huge efforts of several people, but especially Rob Shephard who has worked really hard to organise this. It would be great to have a final flurry of ticket selling as the draw is due to take place on 30th March. If you have not already brought in your money and stubs, please hand them in to the school office as soon as

TRIP TO THE FIRE STATION

As you know, we have a new Fire Station at Patterdale and the children have been invited to visit on Monday 6th February in the afternoon. We shall walk there and back, so please collect from school at the normal time.

SAVING SCHEME FOR SCHOOL TRIPS

Last year we set up a savings scheme for parents for school trips. At the meeting we held last year, we said we would ask whether or not you felt the scheme was working or not. If you have any views, either positive or negative, please jot them down on the reply slip below.

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year, World Book Day is on March 1st and your vouchers are attached. These can be exchanged for one of the free World Book Day books or used as £1 off other books in participating stores. They are valid to use between February 27th and March 25th.

20MPH SPEED SIGNS TRIAL

Our school has been identified as a trial site for an Eden Local Committee approved installation of speed limit signs. These signs will go above the flashing lights near to school and will inform motorists that the speed limit is 20mph when the lights are flashing. These signs will be installed by the end of March 2012.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AFTER HALF TERM

Dance Club will continue on the following dates – 21st Feb, 6th and 13th March

Garden/Cooking Club will take place on March 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th – half of the children will garden and half will cook, alternating weekly.

The voluntary donation for clubs is £5 per half term per child. Club sessions finish at 4.30pm.

Please fill in the permission slips as appropriate.

Please reserve me ----- numbers for the 200 Club in the names of -----

Signed-----

Date-----

I give permission for ----- to attend the following After School Clubs after February half term;

Dance yes/no

Garden/Cooking yes/no

I enclose my voluntary donation of £5 per child, per club £-----

Signed -----

Dated-----

My opinions on the school trip savings scheme for parents;

Signed-----