



'Aiming High  
Together'

**Calow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School**  
North Road Calow Chesterfield Derbyshire S44 5BD  
Headteacher: Mr D. Sumner



## Newsletter

### 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for the warm welcome I have received as your new Headteacher. In my first two weeks, I have enjoyed getting to know the pupils, staff, parents and Governors, and my first impressions of Calow are very positive. We are all committed to doing our very best for the children in our care, working in partnership with families and the community, and I am confident that the school has a bright and exciting future. As I wrote in my initial letter, please speak to us if you have any concerns or if there is anything we can do to help. It's also nice to hear when we're doing something well or if you have any positive suggestions for the future.

Kind regards,  
Daniel Sumner  
Headteacher



#### **The sun has got his hat on.....**

....and we would like all our children to do the same, please!

Whenever there is a chance of a sunny day, please ensure that your child:

- puts on **sun cream** before coming to school
- wears or brings an appropriate **sun hat/cap** to school
- brings a **named, full water bottle** to school. This must contain water only, not juice or squash. They can be refilled during the day.

As we cannot apply sun cream to your child's skin in school, we advise using cream which will last all day. Children in Years 3-6 may bring some in to reapply themselves, if they wish, and this must be named and kept in their bag.

#### **Nursery**

At the moment, we are hoping to offer mornings and afternoons in our lovely nursery, from September, to tie in with the 30 hours of free childcare initiative. We cannot promise anything or take formal applications until the admin is all done, but if you would be keen to take up the offer of afternoon nursery, please speak to Mrs Hermiston. We will confirm whether this is going ahead as soon as possible. Fingers crossed!



#### **Our new website ([www.calow.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.calow.derbyshire.sch.uk)).....**

...is still under development, but we're getting there. We want to make it as clear and useful as possible, and we will be adapting and adding features over the course of this term. The old website is no longer being updated, and we are waiting for it to be taken down completely.

There is a new section on the website for **letters**. From next week, any letters which have gone out recently will be uploaded once a week, on a Wednesday. Hopefully this will help you find the information you need if an occasional letter gets lost or is forgotten. We will continue to send home paper copies as normal.

### Term-time absence....

....can only be granted in exceptional circumstances. That has been the law since 2013, when the entitlement to 10 days of term-time holiday was also removed from legislation. The school's attendance policy, which was approved by Governors in 2015 and is available on the website, makes it clear that holidays will not be authorised, and it remains our position that term times are for education. Children and families have 175 days off school to spend time together, including weekends and school holidays, and dates are published well in advance. To help you understand the situation, we will send out some further clarification as to what is considered "exceptional circumstances", which are generally considered to be rare, significant, unavoidable and short, e.g. the funeral or wedding of a close family member. You are welcome to fill in a request form if you think your circumstances might meet the criteria, and we promise that all requests will be seriously considered on their own merit, but please understand that holidays of any sort are very unlikely to qualify, and Derbyshire County Council may make the decision to fine parents if absence is unauthorised. This is not our decision to make.

### Getting here on time.....

.....really helps the day to start smoothly and maximises your children's learning. I know from first-hand experience how difficult it can be to get children ready in the morning, but please continue to make every effort to arrive punctually at school.

### What have we been up to?

**Nursery** children are very excited that some very real caterpillars have come to join the class!

**Reception** children have also been looking at minibeasts, including making their own papier mache minibeasts for a wonderful display.

**Year 1** have been learning all about Ranulph Fiennes and his expeditions.

**Year 2** children have been reading *The Magic Paintbrush* and writing their own stories. A boat has appeared in the classroom, which the children have named *The Sailing Squid!*

**Year 3** have done some fabulous pirate artwork and have even been learning to talk like pirates....Aarrgh, me hearties!

**Year 4** children have enjoyed learning about conditions in the mines, and written some persuasive arguments around mine closure.

**Year 5** tasted some Greek food and made some Greek costumes. They have written some fantastic poetry and enjoyed their swimming session.

### Key Dates for the Diary

7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET
28 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Half Term
6 <sup>th</sup> June	Meeting for parents of new reception intake
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photos
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	INSET
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Assembly and End of Term



**Year 6** have enjoyed writing some interesting biographies of the famous scientist Mary Anning, and they have also written some biographies of fictional characters.