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Spring Term Newsletter 06 - 17/06/2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the government announcement on Monday that lockdown restrictions will stay the same for another 4 weeks, we have made arrangements for events that will take place this half term.

We are optimistic that many of our traditional summer term events will go ahead and have discussed as a staff how we can make some of them possible whilst remaining in our bubbles and adhering to government guidelines. Guidance from Cumbria County Council advises that parents should not be allowed on the school site and children should remain in their bubbles. Whilst we understand this is very disappointing for parents and carers, our intention is that children enjoy their last few weeks of this school year and we all remain as safe as possible. Cases locally are rising again rapidly.

Sports Day

We are planning to hold Sports day on Tuesday 29th June if the weather permits. We have reserve dates if needed. The format will be different than usual and we will not be inviting parents. Children will stay in their class bubbles and move around seven activities throughout the day including some fun field events and races on the track. The children will enjoy a day of physical activity and children who try their best and perform well will be rewarded with stickers. The aim is to promote teamwork and fun with an element of competition.

We ask that parents do not come to observe over the fence otherwise we are defeating the object of not inviting everyone in. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school, trainers and a water bottle.

Residential trips

This is exciting news for Years 4, 5 and 6 who have all missed their residential trips this year (and last). We have decided to hold sleepovers in school for these classes/ bubbles.

The dates are as follows:

Year 4 Thursday 24th June

Year 5 Thursday 1st July

Year 6 Thursday 8th July

We have chosen Thursdays as we expect children to be tired afterwards and suitable activities will be planned for the Fridays. A risk assessment has been completed and due to the fact that pupils and staff will remain in their bubbles, there are no extra risks to anyone in school. Year 4, 5 and 6 will receive a separate letter with further details and a kit list.

Move up days

We usually provide the opportunity for children to move up to their new classrooms and spend a morning getting to know their new teacher. Instead of moving children round school, new teachers will visit their new classes on Monday 5th July and work with their class for that morning. We have invited our new teachers in to school and we look forward to the children meeting them. This is subject the negative lateral flow tests.

Teachers for 2021/22

Reception	Mrs Hockaday
Year 1	Mrs Solloway 3 days / Mrs Dearden 2 days
Year 2	Miss Huddleston (one of our new teachers)
Year 3	Miss Barnes
Year 4	Mrs Barton
Year 5	Mr Hodgson
Year 6	Miss Wren (one of our new teachers)

You will notice that Miss Barnes is moving into Year 3 with her class. It is good for a teacher's professional development to gain experience of working in different areas of the school. She is looking forward to teaching in Key Stage 2.

Family Days

We have been looking forward to hosting family days again. For those parents and children who have not experienced family days, I will try to explain.

Each class is divided into 7 family groups. All classes meet in the hall for an introduction and input about the theme for the day. Children are then divided into their family groups (which contain children from each class). Each family group visits each teacher in their classroom to take part in a themed activity. Each activity is open ended and suitable for all age groups and is linked to a different curriculum area.

Family days are collaborative and allow for teachers and children all to get to know each other. Children will work with children of different ages and visit all areas of the school. They have been a strength of our curriculum in the past few years.

Obviously, we cannot reinstate family days at the moment but we are going to have a day when all children learn about Cumbria. Each class will plan an activity and deliver it on Seesaw so that all the other classes can join in. It will create a sense of community and allow all children to see each other and work on the same theme. An opportunity for sharing learning across school.

New Parents Meeting for Reception Parents

Mrs Hockaday will contact all new parents by e mail to inform them of transition information. Parents will receive a new starters pack and a video message with an opportunity for a phone call. Again, we were hoping to meet our new parents in the hall but this cannot currently go ahead.

Penningtonbury Festival

This is always one of our favourite events! An arts, crafts and musical day when children mix and mingle. Obviously, there will be no mixing but we hope to organise the day in a similar way to sports day where children will have the opportunity to take part in their activities whilst staying in their bubbles. It will be a non-uniform when children can wear festival clothes if they wish. We will make every effort to make this a day to remember.

Concert

We have been proud of the whole school concerts we have performed over the years, often using the Coronation Hall to stage the event. This year, Year 6 will perform 'Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies'. They are busy rehearsing. Their performance will take place in the school hall and will be recorded so that parents and all other classes will be able to watch it. Acting, costumes and scenery will be as impressive as ever. We look forward to watching!

Leavers Events

We plan to hold a special assembly for our Year 6 children on the last day of term. Last year, we filmed it live so that parents could watch- we intend to do the same.

We will organise a 'leavers lunch' from a take away. In the afternoon, Year 6 will do a lap of honour before they leave and we hope that parents will be able to watch. Details to follow...

Vacancies in School

We are currently advertising for two **Midday Supervisor** posts on the school website <http://www.penn.cumbria.sch.uk/vacancies.html>

If you know anyone who might be interested, please advise them to consider applying.

Sun cream, sunhats and water bottles

As the weather has turned warmer, please remember to apply sun cream to children before they come to school and send in sunhats and water bottles.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIFA 21

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3
Suitable for all ages



You don't need to be a football fan to have heard of the FIFA series of games (named after the Federation Internationale de Football Association: the worldwide governing body for the sport). Part of the franchise's massive appeal is that official licensing gives users the opportunity to play games as their favourite teams, controlling their favourite footballers. They either compete online against other players or work through a solo-player career mode. With updated editions launched annually, FIFA is playable on a range of consoles, with mobile versions available for smartphones and tablets.



Recurring Costs

FIFA's trump card is that it includes real current players; a feature no other football arcade game can offer. However, this means that a new version of the game is released every year, with updated teams, players, kits and stadia, plus gameplay tweaks and extra features. Young FIFA fans usually want to be playing the latest version, so the pressure to buy each annual update is likely to be considerable.



Online Chat

While the game of FIFA itself is suitable for children of all ages (as it does not include any inappropriate content), there is the issue of in-game chat. Your child can play against other people online and audio chat with them using headsets. As this communication is largely unregulated, it could mean that your child is exposed to language or conversations that are inappropriate.



Possibility of Scams

Your child may receive an email or see a message on social media or in forums which appears to be a genuine FIFA promotion, but could be a scam. Following these links would take them to what may seem like a FIFA login page but is actually a phishing attempt to capture their login name and password. Scammers often use a legitimate-sounding name, such as 'EA Admin' or 'FIFA Developer'.



In-Game Purchases

FIFA offers an array of in-game purchases. The FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode lets gamers build their own team, playing matches to win coins. These coins can be used to recruit better players or packs containing random players. Some purchases can be made with in-game currency; others require real money – which can become expensive. There have been reports of parents receiving large credit card bills after their children's in-game spending.



Addictive Gameplay

Your child could end up playing FIFA for long periods of time. Matches last around 20 minutes, so playing through an entire tournament can quickly eat up a large chunk of the day. Children sometimes struggle to control their gaming behaviour, at the expense of their daily routine. This is called 'gaming disorder' and is classified as a genuine mental health problem by the World Health Organisation.



Over-Competitiveness

FIFA has occasionally been criticised for its competitive gameplay leading to disproportionate aggression and negative emotion in some players. This can be amplified by the in-game audio chat with opponents in real time. The potential for an emotional outburst can sometimes reach unhealthy levels – especially if your child's team is losing heavily or is defeated by a very late goal.



Advice for Parents & Carers

Set out Your Strategy

As a parent, it's worth considering that – if they like gaming and football – your child's fascination with FIFA probably won't be short term. It's more likely to be the start of a relationship that could last for years, involving repeated outlay on each updated edition of the game. If you think this may pose a problem, it might be best to make your child aware of it beforehand to avoid disappointment later.



Give Abuse the Red Card

The facility to chat to other players certainly adds to the overall enjoyment of FIFA, and it's unlikely that you'll be able to convince your child to play the game without using it. It would be wise, however, to make sure beforehand that your child is aware of how to mute the audio of any abusive players and knows how to report anyone who is being offensive or intimidating.



Defend against Scammers

Teach your child to stay clear of scams. Explain why they should be suspicious of any link which asks them to verify their username and password or provide other sensitive information: game developers never send messages asking for players' login details. Console messages, emails and social media posts promising in-game content if a player inputs their login information are fake.



Control In-Game Spending

To spend real money in FIFA, a player's account must have a payment method enabled. Check whose debit or credit card – or PayPal account – is linked to the device that your child plays FIFA on. Most devices' parental controls can be adjusted to limit spending. There is also the prepaid option of Paysafecard – you can top up the balance, making it easier to control your child's purchasing in the game.



Avoid 'Extra Time'

Devices' parental controls can also be used to restrict the amount of time spent playing. If you feel it's necessary, keep an eye on how long your child spends playing FIFA, just like you might monitor how long they watch TV for. Warning signs of over-playing include disinterest in other activities, tiredness or fatigue, neglect of personal hygiene or becoming angry when they have to stop playing.



Encourage a 'Half-Time' Break

Monitoring in-game chat is difficult, as you can usually only hear one side of the conversation. But your child's reactions will be a good general indication. Dealing with the frustrations of a game and troublesome people can be useful life lessons – but if your parental instinct is that your child is getting too upset or angry, that's the time to intervene and encourage them to take a break from the game.



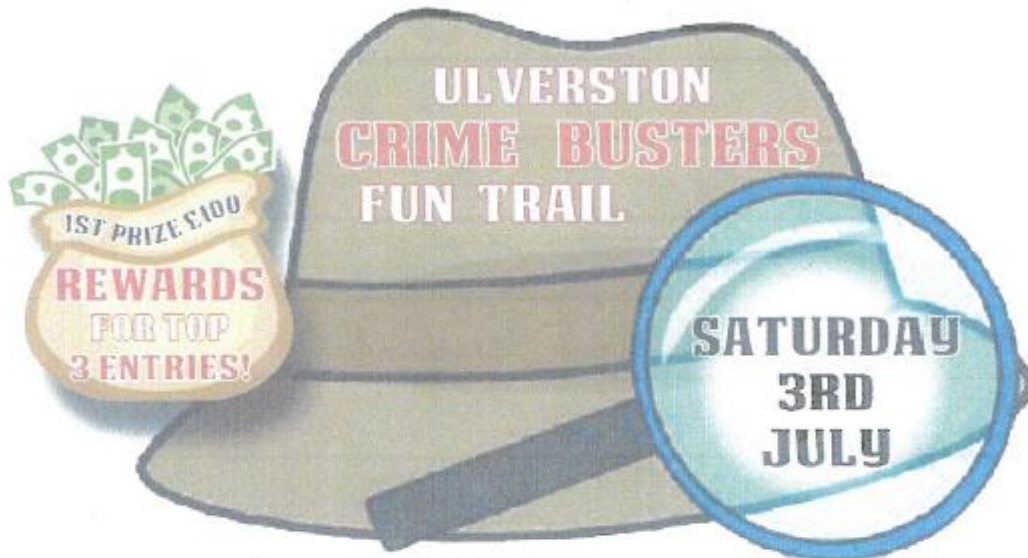
Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.





A St Marys Hospice &
Ulverston Rotary Club
Adventure



Help to identify a
couple who have
been creating havoc
in town



Follow the Trail, find
and answer the clues
to eliminate suspects.

Entry Booklets
Available At
MARKET CROSS
ON MARKET
DAYS



Complete The Trail Any Time Up To Or On
Saturday 3rd July. Visit Ford Park
Between 10am—4pm On 3rd July
To Join In Family Fun Games

ULVERSTON CRIME BUSTERS FUN TRAIL

**FIND & ANSWER
THE CLUES
To Eliminate 14 Of
These Suspects**



Linda "Workshy"
Wesley (Born 1964)



Gary "Grumpy"
Grundy (Born 1975)



Glen "Graffiti"
Green (Born 1989)



Wendy "Wachit"
Temper (Born 2000)



Rachel "Rip Off"
Rogan (Born 1995)



James "Tricky"
Nixon (Born 1991)



Jane "Lazybones"
Grey (Born 2002)



Larry "Litter Lout"
Lawless (Born 1956)



Dick "Lightfingers"
White (Born 1986)



Carly "Innocence"
Cross (Born 2001)



Brian "Buster"
Bates (1974)



Karen "Crafty"
Carter (Born 1981)



Bessy "Boozer"
Bates (1998)



Romeo "Ruffian"
Wren (Born 2003)



Martha Desperate"
Dawson (Born 1989)



Sterling "Burn it Up"
Ross (Born 1985)

COVID-19 infections are rising – take action

COVID-19 infections are rising again in Cumbria.

The new Delta variant of the covid virus is causing the infections.

We need the support of everyone in Cumbria to help stop the spread of covid. Because the Delta variant is more contagious and many people have not yet had both vaccine doses, there is still the risk that large numbers of people could become seriously ill if infection spreads.

You can help prevent the virus spreading:

- Do regular rapid result covid tests (Lateral Flow) at home as part of your family's weekly routine and register the results online. Visit cumbria.gov.uk/covidtesting to find out where you can get test kits. If the test is positive, self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test. Book PCR tests at [GOV.UK/get-coronavirus-test](https://gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)
- If your child is of primary/nursery school age, we do not recommend rapid result covid tests (Lateral Flow). If your child attends a primary or nursery education setting and either develops symptoms or is asked to get tested by their education setting or health professional, please book a PCR test at [GOV.UK/get-coronavirus-test](https://gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)
- If you or your children have covid symptoms – new persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell – book a PCR test through the national system and self-isolate until you get your result. Do not send your child to school if they have symptoms. If you're not sure about the symptoms, get tested as a precaution. If anyone tests positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. [GOV.UK/get-coronavirus-test](https://gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)
- Get vaccinated as soon as you are able. National data is showing that around 95% of people now being admitted to hospital have not been vaccinated. Visit [NHS.UK](https://nhs.uk) to book.
- Stay vigilant and follow the simple public health guidance – washing hands, wearing masks, keeping your distance and meeting outdoors are effective at preventing spread.
- Following Government advice, minimise travel into the Lancashire or Greater Manchester areas.
- If you do travel out of the county take a rapid result covid test on your return home, get a confirmatory PCR test if you test positive and self-isolate.
- Remember financial support may be available if you need to self-isolate. Check your **District Council website** to see if you are eligible.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Cox

Director of Public Health

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Dear Parent/Carer

June 2021

RE: LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

Absence from school due to family holidays taken in term time can be disruptive to children's education. It can also be disruptive to other pupils in the class. In addition, I am concerned that there could be some misunderstanding of the law in relation to absence from school because of holidays taken during term time

Any absence from school should be avoided unless for medical reasons, as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress, and can create difficulties for them on their return to school, particularly if they are joining a new school or class. It is important to note that only the Headteacher can authorise absence from school. Parents/Carers cannot authorise the absence themselves.

Changes to legislation have removed the discretionary 10 day period of absence which covered family holidays. Schools can only grant requests for holiday absence in term time in exceptional circumstances. If you believe that your circumstances are exceptional you can make a request to the school. In considering a request, the school will take into account the child's age, the time of year of the absence, and the nature of the visit. The Headteacher will also consider the child's stage of education and progress and the child's overall attendance record. It is highly unlikely that leave will be authorised if examinations or other important tests will be missed. Headteachers will not authorise absence unless they believe your circumstances are exceptional. In all cases it is best to have a discussion with the Headteacher in order to look at the issues as they affect your child.

All unauthorised absences, including holidays that have not been sanctioned by the Headteacher, are accumulated and parents who fail to ensure regular attendance of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. The amount is £60 if paid within 21days and £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days. It is therefore essential that parents take this into consideration if they are thinking of a family holiday in term-time.

The Department for Education define persistent absenteeism as below 90% attendance and schools may wish to use this figure to determine whether or not to pursue legal action such as the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

Many people are working very hard to help your child to succeed. I trust you will support us in this matter, in partnership with your child's school.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Barton
Assistant Director – Education & Skills