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NEWSLETTER 14

28th April 2017

WELCOME BACK ...

... to school and the start of the summer term , although it did seem more like winter as I drove over the moor from Settle earlier this week. I was, however, rewarded with some stunning landscape scenery.



This term, the topic for the children in Class 1 is “Great & Ghastly Events” and for Class 2 children it is “Rich & Poor”. Further information about the topics will be sent to parents shortly, and also put on the school website. This will be a very busy term, and the events and activities – as we know them at present - are listed on the attached School Calendar.

CERTIFICATE AND KIM AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the children who were presented with certificates and KiM Awards at our Easter Celebration Assembly. They were:-

	Certificates				KiM
Class 1	Edward	Aimee	Betsy	Ruby	Matthew
Class 2	Katy	William H.			Anna

OPEN MORNING “THANK-YOU”

Thank-you to everyone who attended and helped to organise our open Morning at the end of last term. It is so important that the school has a positive profile in the local community and events such as the Open Morning help greatly with this.

ICT

As many parents will know, Paul Forrow has been working with children in Class 2 since January, and many of you have asked him about this. As a result of your interest, Paul has asked for the following item to be included in the Newsletter.



Rolls-Royce
Science Prize
Special Merit Award Winner 2011



As you may be aware, I've been teaching computer programming to the class 2 children over the last term. For those who don't know me, I moved to Malham in summer 2015 and my son Edward is in reception at Kirkby Malham. I work for Barclays, who are very keen to support community initiatives. My work involves a lot of computer programming, so it seemed natural to help out with this at school.

Those who attended the celebration assembly before Easter will have seen some of the computer programs which the children have built, and seen the enthusiasm generated. The children are a pleasure to teach, very engaged, and keen to keep learning. I've had several requests from parents for more information so that parents can understand more, and perhaps get involved from home.

We've been using a simple online programming language called Scratch. It's very visual, and is designed to be accessible and quick to learn. You don't need to download anything - you can do it all from a web browser (e.g. Chrome or Safari). The easiest way to get started is to read the online material:

1. <https://scratch.mit.edu/about/> provides a basic overview
2. <https://scratch.mit.edu/parents/> is an overview for parents
3. https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/editor/?tip_bar=getStarted gives a simple step-by-step guide to get started

For the more old-school (!), there are also some good books available, for example '[Coding for Beginners Using Scratch](#)' (£4 on Amazon).

As you saw in the celebration assembly, last term we focussed on making a simple quiz based on work topics such as 'Land of the Free' and 'The Great Barrier Reef'. This term we'll be looking at making a simple computer game. In each case, I've put together some examples which we'll use, and you're welcome to take a look. You can see them by searching for 'PaulFarrow' in Search bar at the top of the the [Scratch website](#), and then clicking on the examples (e.g. 'Simple Quiz').

If you've got any questions or need a hand then please feel free to drop me a line at paul@farrow.com or 01729 830433.

We will also include the links above on the school website as soon as possible.

CLASS TEACHER RECRUITMENT

We will shortly be starting the recruitment process for a teacher starting in Class 2 in September. It is our intention to have made the appointment before the end of May - i.e. before the half-term holiday – so that a teacher currently working in a school can have sufficient time to give appropriate notice.

PARENTS' MEETING

Because there are so many developments taking place in school, the Governing Body will be holding an Open Meeting for Parents in the very near future. This will most probably be in the week commencing 8th May – we will confirm the exact date as soon as possible.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Tempest Photography will be in school during the afternoon of Tuesday 9th May to take photographs of different groups and classes. This year, we are going to have a more creative style of group photograph which we hope you find as an attractive way of remembering your child's time in their current class. It will be appreciated if all the children can wear their smartest schoolwear, including red sweatshirts or cardigans, on this day. I'm sure you will be pleased with the final results.

SCHOOLWEAR

If any parents need any new schoolwear for their children, please let Mrs. Milner know in the School Office by Friday 19th May so that we can then put an order together from the school.

MALHAMDALE BROWNIES

I have been asked to include the following item from Malhamdale Brownies in our Newsletter, and I am happy to do this in order to publicise another opportunity for some of our children to be involved in.

"Malhamdale Rainbows (the youngest section of Girlguiding), meets in Gargrave during school term time. We currently have places for girls age 5 and 6 to come along and meet others, to play games, get messy, eat different things, try out new activities and generally enjoy themselves, (and maybe learn a little along the way) and at just £2 per session (an hour and a quarter) it is very good value. For more information please contact Debbie Gomersall on 01729 830589 or debbiecgomersall@gmail.com or to sign up go to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/> and click on Information for Parents."

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

This is a repeat of the item in our previous Newsletter – we have not received any responses, so do please let us know what you think.

We have been doing a lot of work recently to bring our website up-to-date. If you have the time, we would be very interested to hear your views and receive your comments about aspects of it that you like, and ways in which you think it could be improved. Our home page can be accessed at <http://kirkby.schooljotter2.com/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- a) Swimming lessons begin for all children on Monday 8th May. All families are receiving a letter about swimming today.
- b) Yr6 SATs take place during the w/c Monday 8th May. We give our best wishes to Charlie, Oscar and William as they take their tests.
- c) All other events are listed on the attached School Calendar.

Chris Norris,
Interim Headteacher



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