

Mrs V Nicholas
Headteacher

Mrs N Gardner
Acting Deputy Headteacher



23rd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start by saying thank you for working with us during this difficult year. From the successful start in September, it led to bubbles closing, periods of self-isolation and a spring lock down. We appreciate how you took on the role of teacher and managed remote learning. We thank you for adapting to the changing expectations and showing support and appreciation when it was most needed. The fear of further closures and Covid-19 has been a heavy burden for us all. However, we remained positive and worked together as a community to do the best by the children. We will continue to support you in the new academic year and offer excellent provision to the children of Derwentwater through a vision of high academic standards within a supportive environment. Priorities always focus on fostering a love of learning that develops confidence, kindness and high aspirations.

Staff

Teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond this year in particular and I want to thank them for their dedication and resilience. They adapted quickly to the need to teach remotely and they never stopped improving on this offer. The teachers deliver quality lessons and care to all children at school every day and it is a pleasure to see the difference they make. Support staff have been amazing; they helped our school continue to run whilst supporting key worker children and are always dedicated to closing the gaps in learning.

Our office staff are an incredible team of people who keep the school running and keep parents informed. They have managed so much and always with a smile. Our caretakers and cleaning staff have kept our school safe and tidy. They are a great team who we rely on to keep the school open. Thank you to the catering team and SMSAs who feed and look after the children at lunchtimes. We appreciate all of the hard work that goes into the school running smoothly.

Governors

I would like to thank the governors and the chair, Geoff Carruthers, for their dedication, support and challenge. Their role is hugely important in ensuring standards at our school remain high. There are new openings on the board of governors so please come and speak to a member of staff or email the school office if you are interested. More information will be shared in September of what a governor role involves.

Children

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the children of Derwentwater. They have come to us with a desire to learn and do well. Their commitment to their learning remained strong throughout the pandemic and they approach school with energy and enthusiasm. Their resilience and motivation meant they made incredible progress this year. A huge well done. Keep up the good work and remember to read lots over the summer.

September

We are looking forward to September with optimism. We welcome the new families to our school in reception and nursery as well as new joiners throughout the school. We are sure they will feel the wonderful community spirit that makes Derwentwater such a special place to be.

Our vision is to create a community of successful learners who feel confident, happy and safe and who show respect for themselves, each other and the environment.

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Years 1 to 6 start on Monday 6th September and nursery and reception have a later, staggered start. We will continue with the current 'soft start' of 8.40 to 8.55 as this has been a success. Drop off will also stay as it is with years 3 to 6 being dismissed from the playground and EYFS and key stage 1 from their classrooms. Staff will be ready to direct you in September as your children move to their new classes and classrooms.

Please see below for the links to the website to access useful information about your child's year group. The Assistant Head teacher for EYFS and Key stage 1 is Mrs Hankin. The year 3/4 Assistant Head is Mr Butcher and the Phase Leader for year 5/6 will be confirmed in the autumn. In the interim, Mr Clayton will lead year 6 and Ms Ashton year 5. PE days, timetables and topic webs will be shared at the start of term.

Reception:

<https://www.derwentwaterschool.com/ckfinder/userfiles/files/reception%20parent%20information.pptx>

Year 1:

<https://www.derwentwaterschool.com/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Welcome%20to%20Year%201.ppt>

Year 2:

<https://www.derwentwaterschool.com/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Welcome%20to%20Year%202.ppt>

Years 3/4:

<https://www.derwentwaterschool.com/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Year%203%264%20%20parent%20information.pptx>

Years 5/6:

<https://www.derwentwaterschool.com/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Year%205%20%26%206%20%20parent%20information.pptx>

Google Classroom

Google Classroom was used for our remote learning platform. We hope that we do not have to self-isolate or close again but want to be prepared for all possible outcomes. Information will be shared at the start of the year on how to access Google Classroom and support will be given to families new to using it.

Shared Vision

The school development plan which outlines the school priorities will be shared at the beginning of the year. There are lots of exciting initiatives being introduced and we would like your input and feedback so we can make them a greater success.

Covid-19

School will continue to follow all guidance that keeps our school community safe.

- Good hand hygiene will remain but less frequently
- Regular cleaning of shared surfaces and classrooms will remain
- Good ventilation with windows and doors remaining open as much as possible
- Follow public health rules regarding self-isolation and testing

There will no longer be class bubbles as year groups can mix. Parents are allowed in the building without a mask but can still wear one if preferred. School is no longer responsible for tracing contacts as NHS test and trace took over from 19th July. We will update parents of the most up-to-date guidance before we return in September.

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Breakfast and After school Club

The school will continue to offer this wrap around care. We understand how important such clubs are for working parents and that this may be a factor for prospective parents when choosing our school. I want to reassure parents that there are no plans to stop the Breakfast Club. Please enquire at the office if you are interested.

Specialist Clubs

Specialist clubs will be shared at the start of term when we hope to offer more choice.

Mrs Nicholas

Mrs Nicholas sends her best wishes to everyone and thanks you all for the kind messages and gifts. We wish her a speedy recovery and will look forward to her returning during the autumn term. Further details will be shared at the start of term relating to her exact starting date.

School will be ready to welcome your children back in September. Most children will feel a mix of nerves and excitement; whatever your child is feeling we will be prepared to support them as they transition into their new year group with their new teacher and start another year of learning.

Have a great summer. You deserve it.

Yours sincerely

Nikki Gardner