



The first entry in a weighty leather-bound log book in my office reads “School opened on Monday 5th June 1967”. Effectively Fellside is forty on Tuesday 5th June this year—Something to celebrate we think.

Friends of Fellside and Staff are developing ideas for how we can mark this day (the second day back after the half term break) making it memorable for our current children, and equally for adults who actually worked here or who attended Fellside in the past—possibly even in 1967.

We’ll be in touch again about ‘Fellside at Forty’ before half term. In

the meantime, if you, family members or friends attended Fellside in the past, know anyone who did, or who has taught here please alert them to this milestone and the likelihood of events at school on Tuesday 5th June.

Photographs, memories, memorabilia will all be welcome. Look out for further information during May.



Childcare at Fellside

You will probably be aware that we are working towards the provision of out of hours childcare based at Fellside to begin in September.

I am pleased to report that these plans have taken a significant step forward in recent weeks with the selection of a private provider to operate our childcare at school.

Having interviewed a Whickham based provider and one from London, operating nationally, we have offered the position to the local operator. Karen Renner currently provides a successful facility for children at St Mary’s RC Primary, based in St Mary’s Church Hall.

Karen, a Whickham mum herself knows exactly what the expectations of this school and the community we serve are. She’ll be working closely with myself, governors and the LA over the next month to ensure the best possible provision (in mornings from 8.00 to 8.55 and after school to 6.00 pm) at Fellside.

This provision will operate from our existing dining room, having use of the hall, outdoor areas and library.

Work begins shortly to improve & adapt facilities in the dining room, including a remodelled entrance from outside. Our library will also receive a substantial refurbishment to improve book display and storage of musical instruments.

What we do need is a name for our out of hours childcare provision. Karen’s provision at St Mary’s is known as ‘Small Saints’, reflecting the religious affiliation at that school. So have a think about a name for our childcare facility. The prize for the name chosen? ... The pride and satisfaction of seeing it on an impressive sign at the new entrance to the dining room and all correspondence from Karen. Please use the slip at the end of this newsletter to submit your entries.

We are currently finalising a pricing structure for childcare. You should hear more on this pretty soon.

Staffing Changes



Mrs Goodliffe left us on Friday to begin her extended maternity leave to Easter next year. Our thanks to Jo for her work with Reception for the last two years and of course our very best wishes to her and Simon for their forthcoming, life-changing arrival.

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Balkwill to Fellside as a teacher. Sarah, well known to many of you already as parent of Pippa and Rachel, active member of FOF and school governor, will work with Mrs Nevin full time in Reception class until Jo Goodliffe's return next year.

Mrs Ducker returns week beginning 8th May on a half time basis to half term, full time thereafter. We are delighted that she is fit to return to work. Mrs Stroud will continue her half time role in Year Four until half term, working closely with Mrs Ducker. Ms Gough's period in Year Four finishes on Friday 4th May. We thank Claire for her work with Year Four since December. Thoroughly professional, hard working and with a happy, positive approach much appreciated by children and adults at Fellside.

Mr Ellerbrook's expecting to be a Dad very soon. His wife, Alison, due to give birth in mid-May. Karl will take two weeks paternity leave from the birth.

We have supply cover on 'stand-by' for Year Five. Best wishes to Karl and Alison.

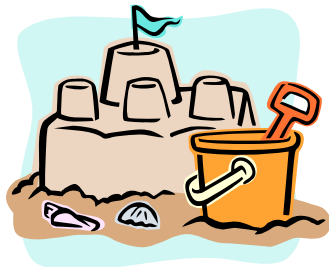
We will of course inform you of new arrivals!

This Term ...

In many respects this is the busiest term of the year. Assessments of all children, including Y6 SATs in a couple of weeks is followed by something of a move towards less academic, yet equally important areas of the curriculum often connected to the Arts, Sport, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship and of course sheer good fun.

There'll be educational visits, visitors in school, sports and art activities, a new design technology homework project, concerts, class assemblies. In addition are social events—40th birthday—Tuesday 5th June, Pedalling Picnic—Saturday 16th June, FOF Summer Fair—Friday 29th June and of course the now legendary Barbecue on Friday 13th July. Our younger children can also look forward to the beach coming to Fellside on Wednesday 11th July. ROK Construction, who built the shelter on the field, will deliver a few tons of sand for Sandcastle Day.

In short lots to keep everyone busy!



Holiday Dates ...

Holiday dates are all on the website. Dates for this term are:

- Thu 3 May - school closed to children for local elections
- Fri 25 May—Mon 4 Jun - Half Term
- Mon 25 Jun - Occasional Day Holiday
- Fri 20 July - Summer Holiday begins

Playground Equipment

The new installation in the KS2 area is obviously very popular with all our children. A similar installation, largely financed by your generous sponsorship for the poetry event which raised £1924.51 will be built in mid June in the KS1 play area.



Childcare Names:

Suggestion:

By:

Class:

