

8th March 2019*GCSE Examinations start in 66 days*

Dear Parent/Guardian

Following the recent Ofsted inspection, the final report can now be accessed via the following link: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/119745> Whilst we are extremely disappointed with the outcome, we accept the inspectors' findings and, with the support of the local authority and Star Academies, will continue to work hard to drive further improvements in those areas where we can do better. A long-term improvement plan is already in place to help us to raise attainment and to make sure that progress continues to happen quickly. The leadership team is committed to working together effectively to drive improvements with the full support of the staff and governors and we have put focussed plans in place to ensure that this continues to happen. I'd like to reassure parents that there is evidence of improvement already, particularly in key areas. We are all committed to making sure that these improvements, and a positive change, continue to provide the best possible education for our pupils. Inspectors commented "Leaders have been successful in creating a more positive culture for learning. They have ensured that the provision for pupils' personal development has improved. Furthermore, leaders have been effective in raising the standards of pupils' behaviour since the last inspection. We are pleased that the inspectors recognised many of the improvements that have been made since the last inspection and found many things to praise about our school, including that children feel safe, are polite and loyal and their wellbeing is supported. "Leaders have been effective in promoting a positive environment for learning. Pupils' personal development and behaviour are improving." It is encouraging that such a large number of parents responded to the Ofsted questionnaire and I would like to thank you for your time in completing this. Your support is very much appreciated; together we will continue on our improvement journey to ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential. We will work closely with the county council and Star Academies on those areas where we can do better. The suggestions that Ofsted made are helpful and clear and we are determined to do all we can to meet the challenge.

Uniform

Following a fall in the standard of uniform across school, a thorough check will be conducted from the 12th March. Please could parents ensure the following standards are met as detailed on the school website:

Trousers are of a plain, tailored style - skinny trousers, jeggings, leggings, jeans and tracksuit bottoms are not allowed. **Trousers must be full length worn with plain black ankle or knee length socks with black sensible shoes.** Training shoes, boots, canvas shoes and trainer socks/shoe liners are not allowed. Please ensure that your child's uniform meets these standards as you will be contacted to verify the situation. If there is ever an issue with uniform please ensure that you send a letter into school explaining the issue and the date it will be resolved. Your support in this matter is appreciated.

Academy Conversion Update

The academy conversion will now take place 1st May. The date has been moved back by one month to allow Star Academies, Lancashire County Council and the Department for Education to finalise the funding agreement.

Please could parents/guardians ensure that their child comes to school each day with the correct equipment needed for lessons. We suggest that pupils should have at least 2 pens, 2 pencils, a ruler and an eraser. Having this equipment ready ensures a smooth start to every lesson. Please can parents/guardians also ensure that their child brings their planner to school every day and that this is checked daily and signed weekly by parents/guardians.

As you are aware Year 11 pupils will soon be taking their GCSEs. It is essential that pupils prepare for these thoroughly and all pupils should have a revision timetable. If you have a child in Year 11 please can you ask to have a look at their revision timetable and support them by asking each day which subjects they are revising for. Unfortunately I have been made aware that some pupils do not have a revision timetable which at this stage in Year 11 is very worrying. Pupils have been advised about how to do a revision timetable through a group called Elevate who have come in to school and worked with pupils on a number of occasions this year and have also worked with Form Tutors on this. Should your child need further assistance or a revision timetable template please ask them to speak to their Form Tutor or Mrs Ward who will be more than happy to help.



Thank you to all the parents who attended the French trip meeting last week. Please could you remember to bring in the £10 for the packed lunch as discussed at the meeting, if you haven't already done so.

This week saw four Fearn's pupils attend the Primary School Lancashire Sportshall Athletics Championships on Tuesday 5th March in Blackpool. Harry Cameron, Lizzy Mawson, Amy Evans and Beth Parker had a long day and an early start with Mr Bibby (Rossendale School Games Organiser) picking them up from school at 7am and not getting back till 6:15pm. They were given one of the most important and stressful jobs of the day as they were time-keeping and had the sole responsibility of ensuring the correct results were recorded. They did an amazing job with one of the organisers stating how impressed he was with their 'professional manner and calm demeanour when working under pressure'. All four pupils did Fearn's and Rossendale very proud. Well done!

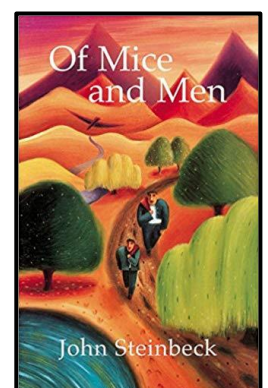
Our Year 8 and 9 Literacy Leaders took part in a national day with the BBC on Wednesday. BBC Young Reporter Day has been run in school for a number of years now. After an introduction to journalism with Catherine Smyth, our budding journalists had to decide what articles they would write. Topics covered were; horse-riding, a valid sport or not?, football heroes from Fearn's, video games the pros and cons, the National Curriculum, World Book Day, animal testing, animal neglect and our Youth Enterprise. The pupils had to work to a deadline for the day and had the opportunity to interview staff where they could. The finished articles will be uploaded to the BBC website in due course.



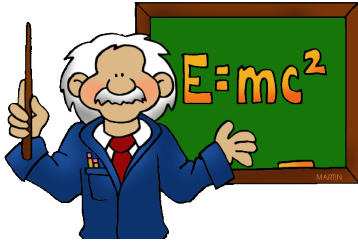
Bert the Bookworm Recommends...
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

This book is about a troubled, strong man called Lennie Small. He only likes small animals but ends up getting angry with them and kills them. Lennie is supported by his friend, George who wants to leave and get a nice farm with a small holding so Lennie can have some rabbits. They embark on a great adventure together to try and get away from the loneliness of the other ranchers but Lennie keeps on doing "bad" things that set him back. What I like about *Of Mice and Men* is that you can develop emotions and other feelings with the characters easily. The best part was when Lennie acted innocently towards George about the death of the mouse Lennie was petting and that he did it "no harm".

Patrick Crossley (9F)



Numeracy Question



The answer to last week's numeracy question is 8hr 47min.

This week's numeracy question is: Which is the lowest multiple of 13 which when written as an eight digit binary number reads the same forwards as backwards?

Thank you for your continuing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs H Stead'.

Mrs H Stead
Headteacher