

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 8th 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the summer break- and especially to any families joining us for the very first time. We hope you will be very happy here with us. We try to keep you up-to date and well-informed through our school website which has tabs for general information including term dates, uniform, lunch menu; for curriculum where you can find out what is taught in each age group; for home learning where you can find the tasks and challenges set for children to complete at home to support their learning in school; for Governors where you can find out who they are and what they do and so on... This is our first monthly newsletter of the new academic year. It usually comes out on the first Friday of the month unless we are on holiday. We send out one paper copy per family and all of our newsletters can be downloaded from our website under the Newsletter tab or click here [Newsletters](#)

Beginning and end of the school day

Our Playground and school entry and exit points can be very crowded. In order to address this, we made some changes last year and are making more this year.

From Monday 12th September, when the morning whistle goes at 8.50am, the morning arrangements are as follows:-

EYFS: When the whistle goes, parents/carers of children in EYFS should bring the children to the EYFS central white doors where they say goodbye to you and a member of staff will receive them and help them to settle inside. There will also be another member of staff outside the doors with a clipboard to take and pass on any urgent messages. (This is the same as last year)

At the end of the day, parents/carers should come to the doors at the end of the session/ day where they will be dismissed by staff.

Please be patient as this may take longer initially as staff get to know you all.

KS1 (Years 1 and 2): When the whistle goes, parents/carers of children in Years 1 and 2 should say goodbye to their children in the main playground (we suggest the sports area where they used to line up) and encourage them to walk through the blue gateway and into school through the white corridor doors themselves. To begin with, some children may want parents to take them to the door, where a member of staff will be waiting to take care of any child feeling upset for any reason and to take any urgent messages from parents. (This is a change from last year when the children lined up in the playground). May we politely ask parents to stay clear of the covered area and area in front of the bike sheds and to avoid the temptation to look in through the windows as this is unsettling for the class.

At the end of the day, parents/ carers should wait in the main playground behind the blue fence. Children will be dismissed from the same doors they go in through in the mornings by staff at the end of the day. Please be patient

as this may take longer initially as staff get to know you all. We have the names of adults you have authorised us to allow to collect your child. Please be sure to tell us if there are any changes.

KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6): When the whistle goes, children walk into school themselves through the doorway beyond the Bike Sheds where there will be a member of staff to receive them and take any urgent messages from parents. (This is the same as last year).

At the end of the day, children will be dismissed from their classes by staff and will make their own way into the playground. Parents/ carers should meet them in the main playground. We suggest the sports area where they used to line up- please stay well away from the KS1 entrance and bike sheds. Children are told to speak to a member of staff if they can't find you. Please let us know if anyone different is collecting your child or, for older pupils, if you are happy they can walk home safely themselves.

May we remind you that no dogs, except for Guide Dogs are permitted on school premises and that we are a No Smoking site (including electronic cigarettes). Ball games are not allowed before and after school and the trim trail is out of bounds. Children are asked to walk their bicycles and scooters through the playground (not to ride them). Please do not bring or leave dogs near the school gates. The staff car park is not to be used by parents/carers at the beginning or end of the school day. All of these restrictions are for the safety of the children.

Contacting staff

We are very happy to meet with you to discuss issues or ideas face to face. Alternatively, you can send a text to 07860 005023, telephone the Office on 625-5561, email the Office or send an old-fashioned note into school!

Staff in each Class

This is a list of the staff in each class this year:

Class	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
F1/2	Mrs Smith Miss Wood	Mrs Hope Miss Lancashire & Mrs Billington
Y1	Mrs Igglesden	Mrs Davies and Miss English
Y1/2	Miss Liney	Mrs Davies & Miss English
Y2	Mrs Green	Mrs Davies & Miss English
Y3	Mrs Bailey	Mrs Gilbert & Mrs Davies
Y3/4	Miss Oxtan	Mrs Gilbert
Y4	Mrs Boothman	Mrs Gilbert
Y5	Mr Procter	Mrs Smith
Y5/6	Mrs Rogers/ Mrs Mills	Mrs Smith & Mrs Hearty
Y6	Mrs McCann	Mrs Hearty

For a full staff list, please look on our school website under the Our Team tab or click here [Our Team](#)

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School Lunches

School meals are free of charge for all pupils in F2 and Years 1 & 2. We would like to encourage 100% uptake of this offer- not much in life is free and the food on offer is fantastic. Our Kitchen Team are used to catering for different dietary needs as well as for 'fussy eaters' and our School Cook, Louise, is happy to discuss any individual needs or concerns with parents.

For pupils in KS2 (Y3-Y6), the price for a school meal is £2.20 or £11 per week, unless you are in receipt of certain benefits and eligible for school meals. Ask Office Staff if you are unsure and/or experiencing financial difficulties.

Our current menu is available to download under the School Info tab on our website or click on the link [Menu](#)

Packed lunches

A number of parents and children have expressed understandable confusion about what is allowed in a school lunch and in a lunchbox,

Contrary to what some children may claim, the Government nutritional guidance is exactly the same as for school meals and set out in our Packed Lunch Policy which we ask you to adhere to if your child is bringing a packed lunch. Look under the Policies and Procedures tab on our website or click here to read it [Lunch Box Policy](#). Please contact us if you have any queries.

Curriculum Information and Home learning

A number of parents have told us they would like to know more about what their children are learning in school.

Our half termly topic webs are on display in the school foyer with an overview of the curriculum. There are also folders with information about our rationale and each of our Core Themes.

You can also have a look under the Curriculum tab on our school website or click on [Curriculum](#) to find out all kinds of information about our School Curriculum. This includes the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum requirements for all pupils from Y1-Y6.

Topic webs showing what the children are learning this half term in each Key Stage are also in this section of the website.

Home Learning tasks for Autumn Term 1 can be found under the Home Learning tab or click on [Home Learning](#). Please contact the school office if you require paper copies of either- we are happy to provide them on request. And please let us know if you are unable to find the information you are looking for.

We will continue to open our ICT suite after school every Friday for any parents who wish to come in with children to have a look on our website, speak to staff or to complete any Home Learning tasks with their children here.

Keeping children safe

This is our number one priority in school. The Government provides statutory guidance- the key document is called Keeping Children Safe in Education which sets out the responsibilities of all staff in Part one. It has just been updated and the full document can be downloaded from the DfE website or click [Here](#) to read Part One.

We use some resources provided by the NSPCC to teach our children about personal safety and invite

representatives from the NSPCC to lead assemblies and run workshops with older pupils later in the year. Every September we talk to all children about the importance of sharing any worries or problems they have with an adult they trust. We also remind them of the NSPCC PANTS rule which is displayed on posters around the school.

Information about this, including the posters and guidance for parents can be found on the NSPCC website or click [Here](#). This year there is also a song with cartoon dinosaurs which we will use with our younger pupils to get the message across. It has received some criticism as the adult dinosaurs are not clothed. We will discuss this with the children- and if you hear your child singing a song about pants, you will understand why! We also use the thinkuknow website which has age-appropriate messages for children as well as advice for parents about on-line abuse. Click [Here](#) or access via our website.

We all need to be vigilant. As parents, it is hard for us to keep up with developments in technology and most children are way ahead of us, but the responsibility remains with us as the adults to ensure our children stay safe. Many apps used by children have the possibility of being misused. We are aware that many have private messaging facilities which may not be immediately apparent. We have been made aware of an app called Musical.ly designed for sharing music. It also has a private messaging facility and a short video make and share facility. Parents are reporting incidences of children of primary school age in Wirral being targeted and groomed on line. We advise that you encourage children to share with you any content they send &/or receive. Report any on- line concerns to <https://www.ceop.police.uk/> and please don't hesitate to contact us if we can offer any advice or support.

Parents of pupils now in Year 6

In the next few weeks, your Y6 child will bring home important information about how to apply for a Secondary School place. Please contact school by Monday 26th September if you do not receive it.

Please note the closing date for Secondary School applications is 31st October 2016 (which is the day we return to school after half term)

Many Secondary Schools are holding Open Evenings in the next few weeks (see list at the end of this newsletter or check dates on that school's website) and you are encouraged to visit with your child. Daytime visits are for parents only and pupils are not authorised to visit during school time (unless it is to sit an entrance examination).

Grammar school selection tests: Those pupils sitting the tests for Calday, West Kirby or the Wirral Grammar Schools will take two tests, here in school, on Monday 19th September. Please let us know if your child is sitting any other tests for selective schools.

School Uniform

Children look very smart in their uniforms this week and there have been lots of positive comments about the new splashes of blue with the grey. The blue jumper/ sweatshirt/ cardigan has been introduced to follow on from F1. Blue is already the uniform colour for the summer dresses- and the colour of our school railings! A more significant uniform change would have gone out for wider consultation. It is fine for children to continue wearing grey jumpers this year.

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It is great to see so many children wearing our traditional blue, red and yellow striped school tie with their uniform this week.

Please ensure all items are named please and train your children to look after their own belongings and put things away. We will not be held responsible for lost items but will always return named items that we find.

We expect all children with shoulder length or longer hair to wear it tied back at school and we ask that jewellery be left at home.

Our uniform requirements are listed under the School Info tab on our website or click here [Uniform](#)

Lost Property

Lost Property can be found in the school foyer- please feel free to come and look through this if needed. We are always staggered by the amount of unclaimed and unnamed items left in school and this summer have recycled 6 large bin liners full of clothing

Please ensure your child also has a named water bottle with them each day and that bags brought in are also named and small enough to hang in our cramped cloakrooms.

Clubs

During the Autumn term there will be a variety of clubs that will be offered before school, during lunch time and after school. The clubs will be for different year groups and letters will be sent home in the coming weeks. This term our clubs will consist of Multi-Sports, Cheerleading, Judo, Early Morning Fitness, Computing, Athletics, Charity Club and Beach Club.

100 years of Roald Dahl

On Tuesday 13th September we will be celebrating 100 years since the birth of the famous storyteller Roald Dahl. We are asking everyone to dress up on Tuesday as their favourite Roald Dahl character. During the day, children will take part in a range of Roald Dahl based activities. As a school, we will have a Roald Dahl focus in our learning over the next few weeks.

30 years of Nursery

This month is the 30th anniversary of the opening of West Kirby Primary School Nursery. It is also the 30th anniversary of our longest serving member of staff, Mrs Forrester who started working here when the Nursery opened in 1986. We will be celebrating this on Friday 30th September- more details to follow...

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with any aspect of our school provision, please let us know. In the first instance please speak to or write to the relevant member of staff directly to try to resolve the matter. If you are not satisfied with outcome, please contact the Headteacher via the School Office. If your complaint is about the Headteacher, then please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Richard Chapman at chair@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk. The full Complaints Procedure is available to download on our website under the Policies and Procedure tab or click here [Complaints](#)

Volunteers

We really appreciate the contributions made by all of our volunteers to the life of our school. Please see the Volunteers Letter going out next week and return it to the Office if you can offer any help.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Takashima
Headteacher

Autumn term diary dates 2016 and holiday information

Please note that term time and holiday dates including INSET days for 2016-17 can be found under the School Info tab on our website or click [Term dates](#)

Please be aware that schools are not permitted to authorise term time holiday absence apart from in the most exceptional circumstances and that approval from the Headteacher should be sought prior to booking. Schools are required to record and report instances of unauthorised absence as it is a legal requirement that children of statutory school age attend regularly. Please be advised that Wirral Borough Council may issue a fixed penalty notice with a fine for unauthorised absence.

Tuesday 13th September – Roald Dahl Day

Thursday 15th September – Open Evening at Hilbre High School 6.00 – 8.00pm

Monday 19th September – 11+ Test Papers 1 and 2

Tuesday 20th September – Open Evening at St Anselm's 6.00 – 8.00pm

Wednesday 21st September – Open Evening at Calday Grange Grammar School 6.00 – 8.00pm

Thursday 22nd September – Open Evening at Calday Grange Grammar School 6.00 – 8.00pm

Thursday 22nd September – Open Evening at Upton Hall 5.30 – 8.00pm

Tuesday 27th September – Year 4 meeting for parents re Residential

Wednesday 28th September – Open Evening at West Kirby Grammar School 6.00 – 8.00pm

Tuesday 4th October – Open Evening at Birkenhead High School Academy 6.00 – 8.30pm

Wednesday 12th October – Friday 14th October – Year 4 Residential Barnstondale

Thursday 13th October – Open Evening Pensby High School

Tuesday 18th October – Individual photographs

Wednesday 19th October – Parents Evening

Thursday 20th October – Parents Evening

Friday 23rd October – Claire House Fundraiser

Monday 24th – Friday 28th October – Half Term

Monday 31st October – Term starts