

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2nd 2018

Dear Parents,

A belated happy new year! Thank you for all of the cards and gifts showing appreciation to our staff and brightening those dark December days at the end of last term. Now January is behind us, the days are starting to get a bit lighter for longer...

Changes to school entrance and exit routes:

Just before Christmas, we experimented with using different doors for Key Stage Two children to enter and leave the building at the beginning and end of the day. We are now using the original door beyond the bike sheds to come in and sometimes using some classroom doors to exit, depending on the weather. May we remind all parents to stand well clear of all of the doors to reduce congestion and enable the children to see you.

Keeping children safe on line

Do you know who your children are talking to whilst playing games on line? Do you realise that any game or app with a messaging facility provides an opening to the outside world? Recently, the popular Roblox game has been reported to be used by adults posing as children and to have some content unsuitable for children. The game has its' own website with safety information for parents: <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day- a day to remind us of the benefits and the dangers of using the internet.

Please click on the link below to open the section for helpful tips, how-to guides and information on the issues to be aware of, how to use parental controls and set up filters and how to talk about on line safety with your child. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Don't be complacent- turning a blind eye could place your child at risk. Make sure you know how to help them stay safe on line.

Children's Absence

Please may we remind you to contact school if your child is absent for any reason either by phone 0151 625 5561, email schooloffice@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk or text. The number for texting **only** is 07860 005023.

School of Sanctuary

We are currently working towards this award in school. A School of Sanctuary is a school committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all- and especially for anyone seeking sanctuary. We will explore what this means with the children in our school- it could mean people fleeing from danger in another country, or those with troubles at home or in school looking for a place of safety.

Our school aim is to create a happy, caring community where all are included, secure and confident as they learn. So this fits well with our ethos. Look out for more information from us in coming month and learn more about the concept using the link below: <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policy

The results on the Parentview survey site currently tell us that about 20% of the parents who have responded are not sure how we respond to reported incidents of bullying in school. We also received feedback from a small number of parents asking us to make it clearer when exclusion from school may be considered. We have now reviewed our school Behaviour and Anti- Bullying Policy in response to this feedback and in line with the Department for Education advice to schools. We have published the revised policy on our website so please [Click here](#) to download it.

Please have a read through and let us know if you have any queries or comments- try messaging us via the Contact section on the website: [Click here](#)

If you would like to take part in the survey, just click follow the link: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Reading Volunteers

Thank you to those parents who helped us by making and assembling the phonic keyrings for our Key Stage One pupils to take home. We are now looking for volunteers who can commit to reading weekly with individual children in school. Please contact the School Office if you can help provide this valuable extra support.

Governor News

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Governors for the very important voluntary work they do in overseeing the work of our school and making key decisions about our curriculum, staffing, premises and finance.

In recent months, a number of Governors have had to step down for different reasons. This week, our Chair of Governors, Richard Chapman, has informed us that he is no longer able to fulfil this role after 5 years of holding office.

Huge thanks to Richard as well as to Dan Sach, Jenna Ryan and Boo Stone.

We now have a number of vacancies. Two of these are for Parent Governors so we will shortly be holding an election. We will be writing to you next week to ask you to consider whether you, or someone you know, may be willing and able to put themselves forwards as nominees for this role. We have lost Governors with skills and experience in PE health and well-being, HR and staffing and local community work.

In addition, we have two vacancies for co-opted Governors. Ideally, these would be members of our wider community – including extended family members such as grandparents. Please consider whether anyone you know may have the time and commitment to our school to take on this important role. For more information about what the role involves please [Click here](#)

Parent meetings about end of Y2 and end of Y6 statutory tests

We will shortly be holding information meetings for parents of pupils currently in Year 2 and Year 6. You may be aware that the tests changed two years ago. We will explain the changes; give you an opportunity to see the test papers from last year; explain how the children's scores are used and why they are important as pupils move from Y2 to KS2 and from Y6 to Secondary school.

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

We are running each meeting twice at different times of day and hope that this will enable everyone to be able to attend.

PE

On Monday 22nd January, four of our Key Stage Two children took part in a Fencing Festival. The festival was held at our school, and three other schools attended. The four children took part in games on different courts. The winners of each court went through to the semi-finals. The two winners of the semi-finals then went through to the final. All of the children showed great Fencing skills, and Peter Halpenny finished champion of the whole Fencing Festival – Well Done Peter!

On Friday 26th January, Year 5 and Year 6 took part in an Intra School Basketball tournament, using the Basketball skills that they have been developing this half term. Well done to the Red Team in Year 6, who came in 1st Place, and the Blue Team in Year 5.

On Tuesday 30th January, eight of our Key Stage Two children attended a sporting festival at Leasowe Leisure Centre. During the morning, the children participated in Sitting Volleyball and in the afternoon the children participated in Kurling. There were many other schools attending the event, and we are pleased to announce that our team won the Kurling event – Well Done!

Key Stage Two Judo sessions will start in the summer term. Look out for letters, which will be coming out soon following a demonstration Judo assembly.

There is a Pretty Muddy Kids 5K event taking place at Birkenhead Park on Saturday 30th June 2018. This is a fund raising event for Cancer Research. Further details can be found on the website.

<https://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org/find-an-event/birkenhead-park-pretty-muddy-kids-2018-06-30-0000>

Children should be aiming to do 60 minutes of physical activity every day – this should range from moderate activities, such as walking, cycling or playground activities, to vigorous activities, such as running, tennis, football or swimming.

Term dates for 2018-19

Please note that the term dates for the next academic year have now been published on our school website please [Click here](#)

Staff news

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Lancashire gave birth to a baby girl, Ivy-Rose during the holiday and the whole family are doing well.

PTA

The PTA would like to thank everyone who bought their children's personally designed Christmas cards. They made a healthy profit of £333, which went towards purchasing robotic Bee Bots.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Takashima
Headteacher

Spring term diary dates 2017 and holiday information

Please note that term time and holiday dates including INSET days for 2017 - 18 and 2018 - 19 can be found under the School Info tab on our website or please [Click here](#)

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.

Monday 5th – Friday 9th February – Mental Health & Well-Being Week

Tuesday 6th February – Whole School Science Day and Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February – FS Science Workshop 2.45pm

Tuesday 13th February – Years 3 and 4 to Blue Planet Aquarium

Tuesday 13th February – Years 5 and 6 Art Day

Tuesday 13th February – Year 6 Parent Meeting re end of Year 6 Tests 3.00pm and 6.00pm

Friday 16th February – School Closes for Half Term 3.30pm

Monday 26th February – School opens

Monday 26th February – Friday 9th March – Fairtrade Fortnight

Monday 26th February – Friday 9th March – Class 3 and Class 5 Swimming

Tuesday 27th February – Year 2 Parent Meeting re end of Year 2 Tests 3.00pm and 6.00pm

Wednesday 28th February – Years 1 and 2 to Woodchurch Leisure Centre

Thursday 1st March – World Book Day

Tuesday 6th March – Bike it Breakfast

Friday 9th March – Years 5 and 6 to Liverpool Philharmonic

Tuesday 13th March – Years 5 and 6 to Chester Zoo

Thursday 22nd March – Years 1 and 2 to Knowsley Safari Park

Thursday 29th March – School closes for Spring Break 3.30pm

Monday 16th April – School opens