

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 7th 2016

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your edible contributions which made a wonderful display for our harvest festival this morning. We also had some home grown produce from our school harvest including tomatoes, runner beans, lettuce and herbs

Thank you also to the volunteers/representatives of the Salvation Army who came along to talk to the children about homelessness, poverty and hunger here in Wirral. They will pack up the food donated and distribute it all locally. Have a look at the photographs on our website gallery.

Beginning and end of the school day

Last month we set out the changes we were making to try to ease congestion at the beginning and end of the day.

The mornings seem to be smoother and the children are coming calmly into school once the whistle has blown at 8.50am.

We are aware there are still difficulties at the end of the day with congestion around the blue fence and bike sheds and ask you all to help us with this whilst we explore more permanent improvements.

Parents of children in Foundation Stage need to get through the same blue gates that Key Stage 1 children come out through. Key Stage 1 parents need to be able to see their children before staff let them go. Some of our Key Stage 2 pupils need to come out past the Bike sheds and collect their bikes. Please be considerate of each other and make sure you are not blocking these routes.

May we politely remind you that once staff have handed over the children to you, they are your responsibility. We sometimes spot children leaving the premises on their own – and of course will bring them back inside. However, the children at this point are not our responsibility and we are not always there...

Just a reminder that we do not tolerate abuse which includes shouting at members of our staff. This is unacceptable and sets a very poor example to children. If you are upset then come inside and speak with us so we can try to resolve any problems in a calm adult manner.

Curriculum Information and Home learning

Topics for this term are:-

EYFS: Journeys

KS1: Food and Me

KS2: World War One

KS2 pupils studied this topic two years ago, but this time have a different focus. We are hoping to collate a book of stories of experiences of world war one from within our school community. Although it is unlikely, this is within anyone's living memory, there may be older family members who recall being told of events by their parents or grandparents. We would welcome any contributions written by adults or children - or written together which children could bring into school to share this term...

Keeping children safe

You may be aware of a couple of incidents in Wirral recently where children have been approached by strangers. We have reminded our older pupils to be wary and to shout loudly for help if they ever feel threatened.

Safety online: Following on from last month, below is a link where parents can sign up to receive information about new social networks and Apps that children may be using. There are also links to information about Parental Controls and tips about talking to children about how to stay safe online: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

One of our parents has informed us that it is possible to book an appointment on line to go into an Apple store and staff will synchronise devices to allow any child's device to be linked to yours so that you can see exactly where they are going and what they are doing on line. You can set controls e.g. to prevent the child directly downloading any new Apps (has to go through you). If your child protests about their right to privacy, it is the ideal moment to teach them that nothing they do or say online is private and could end up anywhere - even if it only appears for 10 seconds! Just as we accompany and supervise younger children out and about and just as we ask them where they are going, who they are with and what they are up to once they are old enough to go out without us, keeping an eye on what they are up to online is our responsibility as parents to ensure that they are safe.

Turning on Safety mode in YouTube on a computer/tablet/phone will help filter videos that may be inappropriate for children and will also activate SafeSearch in Google. Click here to find out how: <http://www.real.com/resources/youtube-parental-controls/>

It is also possible to set different profiles for users of different ages on the same device. Note that most devices will default to factory settings after updates so you will need to repeat the process periodically.

30 years of Nursery and 30 years of Mrs Forrester

Last week we celebrated 30 years of our Nursery class here at West Kirby Primary School and 30 years of service to our school from Mrs Forrester who joined the school at the same time and has just retired. She has given our youngest pupils a fantastic start to school for the last 30 years and everyone who has experienced her down-to-earth warmth and humour will miss her. We were delighted to welcome many former and retired staff members coming to visit, as well as former pupils. One of our guests, Mrs Joy Beynon, actually retired as Deputy Headteacher here 30 years ago. Both subsequent Deputies, Mrs Montgomery and Mrs Strawbridge also attended. We are delighted that they all continue to retain such strong links with us. We caught up with the very first Nursery teacher, Mrs Carol Edmondson as well as several other teachers from 'back in the day'. Some of the very first pupils in that class which included one of our current parents and a member of our staff also took a trip down Memory Lane. Our current staff put together a fantastic display of photographs and extracts from the school Log Book which we will put out at our next Parents Evenings for everyone to see.

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School Lunches

Although we can't include them all, thank you to everyone who has made winter menu suggestions. Our Kitchen Team are now assembling the new selection from the children's ideas to ensure we comply with the nutritional guidelines from the government. We will share it with you shortly...

Parents of pupils now in Year 6

Just a reminder that the closing date for Secondary School applications is 31st October 2016 (which is the day we return to school after half term). Please ask us if you need any advice or help with this process.

Book Club

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/west-kirby> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by 14th October.

Governors

We currently have vacancies for 2 new Governors to be elected by parents. We will be sending out more information shortly including a guide to the skills we are looking for currently.

If you are interested in this role, please click on the link below to find out more:

<http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx>

Parking

Our neighbours are tolerant and understand that congestion is inevitable at certain times of day. However, we have recently received a complaint from a neighbour who could not get access to their own driveway as a parent had parked across it and was then abusive when approached. This kind of anti-social behaviour brings our school into disrepute. Please be considerate.

PTA

Our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Caroline Carney for her hard work and enthusiasm as Chair of the PTA for the past two years.

Thank you to Mrs Louise Russell and Mr Matthew Balnaves Molloy for agreeing to share this role. Our PTA forms the heart of our school community bringing everyone together for fun and fund raising. We also rely on these funds to provide resources and experiences for our pupils we would not otherwise be able to afford.

It is very difficult to plan out a programme of events unless enough parents reliably commit to helping out. We understand that lives are full and busy but if a parent from every family helped with just one event each year, it would make a huge difference...

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.

Our Attendance procedure and leave of absence form can be downloaded from our website

http://www.westkirbyprimaryschool.co.uk/website/attendance_and_term_dates/17375

Tuesday 11th October – Foundation Stage Reading and Phonics Workshop 9.00am – 10.00am

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

Thursday 13th October – Open Evening Pensby High School

Tuesday 18th October – Individual photographs

Tuesday 11th October – Foundation Stage Home Learning Workshop 2.45pm

Friday 21st October – Claire House Fundraiser- Pyjama Day

Monday 24th – Friday 28th October – Half Term

Monday 31st October – Term starts

Tuesday 1st November - Pop Project £1.50 donation

Wednesday 2nd November – Flu Programme for Years 1, 2 and 3

Tuesday 8th November – Foundation 2 visit to West Kirby Library

Wednesday 9th November – Parents Evening

Thursday 10th November – Parents Evening

(Please note change of dates from previous newsletter)
Tuesday 22nd November – Years 5 and 6 to Museum of Liverpool

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Concerts – details to follow

Wednesday 21st December – End of Term

Monday 9th January 2017 – School opens for Spring Term