

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 3rd 2017

Dear Parents,

A belated Happy New Year and thank you, on behalf of all of the staff, for all of the cards and gifts given to staff over the Christmas period and which were much appreciated.

It was great to see that so many of you were able to attend the Introduction to the GAPS workshop (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) on Wednesday. We have put photographs of the workshop with pupils from Foundation stage through to Year 6 demonstrating some of the activities they have used in class. A huge thank you to those children, to Mrs McCann for leading this event and to all of the teachers who have had to study this new area of the curriculum themselves in order to teach our pupils so well.

In two weeks, on Wednesday 15th February, we would like to invite you back for a similar style of event demonstrating the development of mathematical reasoning skills across the school.

Spring term Curriculum and Home learning

Information about our Spring term 1 topics and what will be covered in each curriculum area is available to download under the Curriculum tab on our school website or by clicking on the link below. Just select your child's key stage from the menu on the left, then click on Spring 1 2017. [Curriculum](#)

Home Learning for this half term is also ready to view under the Home Learning tab or by clicking on the link below and then selecting your child's key stage from the menu on the left and clicking on Spring 1 2017.

[Home Learning](#)

This information is also on display in the school foyer and paper copies are available on request from the school office.

Keeping children safe

Please may we remind you that pupils must not bring medication into school. It must be given to the School Office by a parent/carer and we ask you to complete a form giving written permission for your child to take it in school. This includes calpol and cold remedy capsules.

At the beginning of each term we remind all pupils of the need to keep themselves safe on line. Click [here](#) for a link to the Thinkuknow website section for parents and carers, which give tips on a range of topics including how to talk about on line safety issues with your child and parental controls you can put onto devices.

This week we were visited by representatives of the NSPCC who led assemblies for all of our pupils and ran workshops for our older (Y5 & Y6) pupils about personal safety. The children were advised to share any worries at all that they have with a trusted adult and were told about ChildLine - a free helpline for children who feel worried and don't know who to talk to.

NSPCC Fundraiser

Today, weather permitting, the children have completed their sponsored Skipathon in support of the work of the NSPCC. (If it was too windy, we will try to fit it in on Monday).

The children were invited to find sponsors at home- and that it is fine for siblings to all share one form. They have been encouraged to take part even if they just find one sponsor!

Staff news

Welcome to Ms Karen Tottey, who joined our Kitchen team this term and has been serving on the Deli Bar this week.

Mrs Gilbert is currently covering some of the work of our Learning Mentor.

Staying Healthy

As a school we have a duty to ensure that our children are active on a daily basis. PE lessons, playtimes and lunchtimes all contribute to this. However, some children are not always active at these times. Therefore, at the start of this term we introduced each class going outside for a short period of time to participate in physical activities. This may be walking, running, skipping, follow the leader or other activities chosen by the class teacher. At first we started off with each class being outside for 3 minutes, and we have gradually increased the time with the aim being for each class to be active for 10 minutes each day after half term. This is something we are aiming to continue for the rest of the year.

Next Week is Child Mental Health Week. As part of this, each class will be taking part in a variety of activities to think about different emotions, ways to be positive and looking at ways to relax the brain and body.

This half term, Parent and Football coach, Mr Vost is running football training each week for our three Key Stage One classes. The children have really been enjoying the weekly sessions and learnt many new skills.

Earlier this half term, we also ran football trials for the children in Year 5 and Year 6 who wanted to take part in the Premier League Schools Tournament. The standard of football skills was extremely high and it was a very difficult decision to select 8 children to take part. The football team will compete against other schools on Friday 3rd February at Vauxhall Motors. We wish them Good Luck, and would like to thank Mr Vost and Dan Sach (School Governor) for the weekly training sessions that they have run in their own time. We are hoping to also organise a few football matches against other local schools, so watch this space.

Ex-pupil and former national Taekwondo champion, Hannah Roberts is currently providing taster lessons for our KS2 pupils. Each KS2 class will have had two lessons by the end of this half term. If anybody is interested in further Taekwondo lessons outside for school, please speak to Hannah Roberts or Mrs Bailey for further information. There will be a KS2 morning club for Taekwondo after half term; letters will be coming out soon.

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Our Year 3 pupils have been swimming this half term, and they have two more weeks of lessons left. After half term, Year 4 will be going swimming for 6 weeks. If any parents or relatives are available to walk to and from The Concourse, we welcome as many walkers as possible each week.

Eight of our KS1 children will be attending a Gymnastics Festival on Tuesday 7th February, at Bedford Drive Primary School. This is being run by Premier sports. We look forward in hearing about their success in the coming week.

Musical Theatre, which is currently being run by Full of Beans, was really popular and the places did fill up very quickly. We are pleased to say that this will run again after half term for a different group of 20 children. Letters for this will come out soon.

KS1 Jolly Olly and KS2 VIP Club will continue to run during Spring Two.

Parent Survey

22% of the parents, who replied, disagreed that children are given opportunities to contribute to the local community. (30% of our pupils also feel we could do more). This month, we would like to ask for your suggestions as to how we could contribute more. Our School Councillors are also asking pupils for their ideas.

We did not receive any comments or messages about our December topic- *what would you like to know about our Governors?*

This week the ballot has been open until Friday lunchtime for all parents to vote for two new Parent Governors. Once the votes have been counted, we will send out a message to inform you of the results at the beginning of next week.

If you have any suggestions about how our school can do more for our local community or queries about what the Governors do, please message us via the school website/email or use the Comments Box in the school foyer.

PTA

Thank you again to the PTA for organising the Christmas Fair. £2100 was raised. All parents are welcome to join and to come along to any of the meetings. The next meeting will be held Wednesday 8th February at The Dee Hotel at 8.00pm.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Takashima
Headteacher

Spring term diary dates 2017 and holiday information

Monday 6th February – Years 4 and 5 to West Kirby Methodist Church

Friday 10th February – Year 5 to Calday Grammar School for Law

Wednesday 15th February – Maths Calculation / Problem Solving Workshop 3.10 – 3.25 pm and 3.45 – 5.00pm

Thursday 16th February – PTA Discos

KS1 – 5.00 – 6.00pm

KS2 – 6.30 – 8.00pm

Friday 17th February – Year 5 to Calday Grammar School for Law

Friday 17th February – School closes for Half Term 3.30pm

Monday 27th February – School reopens 8.55am
Start of Fairtrade Fortnight

Tuesday 7th March – Bike it Breakfast 8.15am

Tuesday 7th March – KS1 to Williamson Art Gallery pm

Wednesday 8th March – Years 5 and 6 to Chester Grosvenor Museum

Wednesday 8th March – Parents Evening

Thursday 9th March – Parents Evening

Friday 10th March – Fairtrade Tea and Coffee afternoon 3.00pm

Tuesday 14th March – Year 5 Bikeability

Wednesday 15th March – Years 5 and 6 to Liverpool Philharmonic pm

Monday 20th March – start of Waste Week

Tuesday 21st March – Year 5 Bikeability

Thursday 23rd March – Mother's Day Table

Friday 24th March – Mother's Day Table

Tuesday 28th March – Year 5 Bikeability

Friday 31st March – School closes for Half Term 3.30pm

Tuesday 18th April – School reopens for Summer Term 8.55am

Please note that term time and holiday dates including INSET days for 2017-18 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