

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2nd 2018

Dear Parents,

Arctic conditions, a school full of crayons, swimming and a visit from Chester Zoo. It's been quite a week!

Keeping children safe

Special thanks to our caretaker, Mr Houghton, who has been arriving at school extra early in the morning to clear the snow and grit the pathways into school. We all enjoyed the novelty of perfect snow on Tuesday and thanks to Mrs Gilbert and Miss English, who have put up a great display of photographs of the children in the snow.

This week, we are proud of two of our Year 5 pupils for promptly reporting a concern about a man who took photographs of them playing in the snow at lunchtime. As a precaution, we did inform the police, who have let us know that they have not received any similar reports matching the description given. As always, we remain vigilant.

World Book day

Thank you to Mrs McCann and to our Librarian, Jane for organising events. It was great to see such a colourful school as staff and pupils appeared as crayons from the book 'The day the crayons quit'. Thank you for supporting us - and for coming along to the Book Fair. It was great to have so many parents reading with children in Foundation Stage.

Congratulations to the winners of our 'design a book cover' competition: Maisy Year 6, Lucia Year 5, Jack M Year 4, Finlay Year 3, Olivia Year 2 and Grace Year 1. For more information about World Book day, please click on the link: <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

Reading in Foundation Stage

Everyone enjoyed this, so we would like to continue to invite parents to come in and read on a regular basis. Our doors will be open on the third Friday of each month (we will put a reminder in the newsletter on the first Friday each month). This means we will have our next Read with Us on Friday 16th March.

Awful Auntie Competition

Win a family ticket for four to see this stage adaptation of David Walliams' book at the Floral Pavilion on Wednesday 21st March. More details [Here](#). Please note the deadline is Saturday 3rd March.

Home learning and topic webs

The latest Home learning tasks and topic webs for this half term are available to download [Here](#). Please refer to these to find out what we are asking your children to work on at home- and to see the topics they will be covering across the curriculum in school. We are happy to print off paper copies on request.

Fairtrade/ Bike-it Breakfast Volunteers

If you could spare us an hour from 8.15am on Tuesday 6th March, we would appreciate help serving and clearing away breakfast in the hall (and would offer you a thank you breakfast too!). Please let the School Office know if you can help.

Basketball Final

We have been offered some free tickets for the Women's British Basketball League Trophy Final next month and will be writing to parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils next week with more details of this exciting opportunity.

Beginner sailing course for children

West Kirby Sailing Club is running a beginners sailing course for children aged 7 and above 'The Optimist Dolphins'. There is an Orientation evening for newcomers on March 16th and the course is due to start on Saturday 21st April. Email optimistwksc@gmail.com for more information

Governor News

Thank you to the 5 parents who have put themselves forwards for the role of Governor. We will be holding an election shortly.

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

The information slides from both of these presentations are available to download [Here](#).

Free school meals

Parents and carers who are receiving Universal Credit, will soon qualify for Free School Meals for school aged children (provided a claim for this is made).

You will qualify, even if you are working and get Universal Credit in addition to wages at any level.

A wage threshold is to be introduced from 1 April 2018 and anyone who works and successfully applies before 31 March 2018, will get transitional protection so your child(ren) will continue to receive Free School Meals either until 2022 or until they finish their current phase of education, regardless of any increase in your earnings level.

Wage thresholds for working parents, who also get Universal Credit will mean some parents will **not** qualify if you make a **new** Free School Meals application after 1 April 2018.

So the big message is **APPLY IMMEDIATELY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CERTAINLY BEFORE 31st MARCH 2018.**

Applications can be made in any of the following 3 ways:-

1. Via the Wirral Council website www.wirral.gov.uk/free-school-meals (parents should ignore any negative messages they receive from the eligibility auto checker)
2. Via a paper form submitted at a One Stop Shop or posted to Benefits Service PO Box 290 Wallasey CH27 9FQ
3. Via e-mail to freeschoolmeals@wirral.gov.uk advising full name, address, date of birth, National Insurance number, names of children and schools attended

Parents Evenings

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss the progress of your child now we are more than half-way through this academic year. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for a Parents Meeting [Here](#)

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We would like to use this opportunity to seek your views about our school to help us continue to improve. Please pick up a short survey when you sign in and post it in the box as you leave with any comments you wish to add.

Weather protocol

Please assume the school will remain open during the bad weather. If the school is closed we will put a notice on the school website and send a text. Please [Click Here](#) to see our Bad Weather Protocol.

At the end of the coldest week in a long time, hope you all stay warm and cosy this weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Takashima
Headteacher

Spring term diary dates 2018 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 March – Class 3 and Class 5 swimming every afternoon

Tuesday 6th March – Bike it Breakfast

Friday 9th March – Years 5 and 6 to Liverpool

Philharmonic am

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

Tuesday 13th March – Years 3 and 4 to Hoylake Tennis Centre am

Tuesday 13th March – Years 1 and 2 Sports Festival pm

Wednesday 14th March – Years 5 and 6 to Author event at WKGS

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