

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter October 2019

Dear Families,

Welcome to our first half termly newsletter of the new school year & a special warm welcome to new families joining our school community for the first time this term. We hope you are feeling at home already and have managed to attend some of our Parent meetings / workshops – and maybe to join in with PTA events coming up this week. (see diary dates on the last page). We also look forward to seeing you at Parents Evenings this week to discuss how your child is settling in and progress made so far this term. Please note that you will not receive a written report until the first week of the Spring term– this will update you on progress made between now and then.

We also invite you to take part in our Parent Survey whilst you are here. We are holding a Prize Draw after half term for anyone who completing the survey, with a chance to win a free place at one of our after school sports or hobby clubs during the year. We will publish each half termly newsletter on our website under the newsletter tab, and will send it out by email to all families. Please let the School Office staff know if you require a paper copy. We are now including photographs, so please check that you have returned signed permission slips to school to enable us to do this.



Playground reminder:

In the interests of safety for all, please get off and push bikes and scooters to & from parking in the playground. We advise locking them as school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage. Ball games are not permitted whilst parents are dropping off & collecting children. The Trim Trail & climbing wall are not supervised by staff at these times—parents have responsibility for supervising their children before & after school. Smoking (including vaping) and dogs, apart from Guide dogs, are not permitted on school sites and we ask that mobile phones are not used on school premises.



Baby News: On 8th September, Mrs Bailey gave birth to a boy, named Ellis and both are doing well.

Miss Woods will be starting her maternity leave at half term and we look forward to good news in early November.

Uniform reminder:

Great to see everyone looking so smart in school uniform – items all look the same so check everything is named. Please ensure hair below shoulder length is simply tied back with bobbles. Keep ornate hair decorations at home—other children can't see past them!! Note that jewellery is not permitted apart from small studs for pierced ears (removed or covered for PE) and wristwatches.

Lost property:

Under the EYFS covered area– help yourself to anything un-named that fits... anything left at the end of term will be given to charity shops.

Water reminder:

Please provide a clear, named bottle for your child to rinse & refill with water to drink daily so we can ensure they stay hydrated

Coast to Country Project:

Last term, our school took part in a Deeside schools project raising awareness of the beauty of Wirral and the need to conserve our local environment for the future. Following a very successful exhibition of pupils artwork at The Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead, it has now moved to Chester Cathedral .

A short film compilation of some of the work which took place across the schools can be seen by clicking here: <https://youtu.be/2HwtFYHtSTA>

Clubs

Clubs are proving very popular. We will email you when the next clubs will be released and they will be filled on a first-come first-served basis.



What are the children learning this term?

Just a reminder that the curriculum tab on our website always has up to date information about current topics for each key stage. Click [HERE](#) and then select the key stage for your child and download the overview for the half term.

Look down the list on the left for more information about the rationale behind our curriculum at West Kirby Primary School or for more about different subject areas.

Last week, pupils in Years 5 and 6 spent two days in costume, experiencing life in Victorian times- thank you to parents for supporting this. A special well done to the Year 6 servants, who waited until the more privileged Victorian children had finished their roast dinners before eating themselves and then cleaning the dining hall !

Thank you to Mrs Smith and our EYFS team for hosting the Phonics Workshop-& great to see so many parents participating- hope this gave lots of ideas for games to play at home too..

Thanks also to Mrs Muratore, Mrs Coombes and Year 3 for leading our Harvest Festival celebrations last Friday – with great support from families. Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts for the Wirral Foodbank.



Lunches

The new winter menu will be posted on the website soon. Our delicious meals are free for every child from F2-Year 2 and excellent value at just £2.20 a day for children in Years 3-6 (and continue to be free for families in receipt of free school meals).

For families providing a packed lunch, we ask you to follow our Lunchbox Policy, which is in line with the same Government nutritional guidelines that apply to school meals. Please avoid nuts at all times and include crisps only on a Friday. Please click [Here](#) to download from the Policies tab on our website)



School End of Key Stage Results 2019

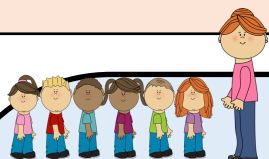
We are very proud to have again achieved excellent results in all of the national assessments for 2019 - from the end of Foundation Stage, Year 1 Phonics, End of Key Stage 1 and End of Key Stage 2 assessments. All of our results are above the national averages and even higher than for last year—again amongst the highest in Wirral. We are committed to supporting all of our pupils to achieve their very best and to enjoy their time in our school. Please click [HERE](#) to see our 2019 results summary (and available to download under our School Data tab on our website)



Home Learning

Reading together and talking with your child about their learning are shown to provide huge benefits. To help these conversations, we are now including a 'Learning Mat' for each half termly topic with key vocabulary & facts to remember and some key questions to discuss. We also provide a menu of suggestions for fun activities to try at home to support your child's learning as well as a week by week breakdown of maths and spellings to practise. These can be downloaded for each key stage by clicking [HERE](#) or look under the Home Learning tab on our website. Please contact the school office to request paper copies.

This year, we will also be offering published workbooks/ study support to all pupils in Years 5 and 6.



Attendance and Punctuality

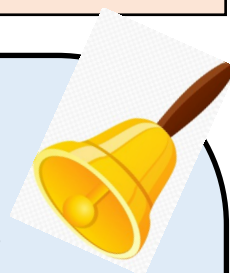
Click [HERE](#) to see our Attendance Policy which can be downloaded under the School Information tab on our website.

Thank you to all who have supported us to improve rates of attendance and punctuality at school over the past twelve months. We want all of our pupils to enjoy coming to school and achieving well so please let staff know if anything is preventing this at home or in school. We are committed to working together with you to resolve any issues that arise.

Please keep your child off school & inform the School Office by 9am if they have sickness, an upset tummy or a high temperature. It is fine to bring them in if they have no obvious symptoms and you are unsure. If your child becomes unwell at school, we will contact you and let you know. If a child has been sick or had an upset tummy, it is essential they remain absent for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

May we remind you 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.

We will let you know if we have concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality to discuss how we might support you to improve this. Please be aware that it is a legal requirement for parents/ cares to ensure their children attend school regularly and that legal action may be taken in cases of unauthorised absence. Please click [Here](#) to access the Local Authority Education Penalty Notice Code of Conduct, which is available to download under the Policies tab on our website.





We have achieved our Silver Award again for 2018-19

Sports Review

Autumn 1 2019

Playmakers

20 children from Year 5 were trained by Edsential to become leaders at lunchtime. They developed their skills to provide organised games following skill cards showing a variety of activities. They are all now on a rota to lead sessions, one day a week. This group of children will help to make play sessions even more inclusive and enjoyable.



Handball

30th September - A team of Year 3 and Year 4 pupils represented West Kirby Primary School at a handball competition. They were hugely successful and won the competition.



Basketball

7th October - Two teams from Year 3 and Year 4 represented West Kirby Primary School at a basketball competition at Somerville Primary. It was a very close contest and the children came a very close second.

Judo Club

On a Thursday morning before school a group of children from KS1 and KS2 have been attending Judo sessions. It has once again proved to be a very popular and enjoyable club

Sports Leaders

Autumn 1 has also seen the appointment of Sports Leaders from Year 5 and Year 6. They will be hosting sport competitions at lunchtimes where the children can beat their own personal times in activities such as speed bounce in a bid to develop stamina. The Leaders are:
Freya, Georgia, Eliana, Sam, Cooper and Ted.



Tag Rugby

14th October - A team of Year 5 and Year 6 showed great skill in a Tag Rugby Competition at Birkenhead Park Rugby Club. They were very strong defensively and very quick in attack, this resulted in a fantastic first place.



PTA

Friday 25th October

Mad Hair Day

The Sale of Spooky Jolly Jars at 3.30pm

Social Evening at West Kirby Social Club 8.00pm - mid-night Tickets £5 from the School Office

We plan to use the money raised this year to create some additional green space at the front of our school in the recently extended picnic and Quiet Area of our playground.

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to all who helped with the walk down to swimming and back and to those who have volunteered for day trips. We are sorry we cannot always accommodate everyone & will try to respond more promptly .

Year 6 Residential:

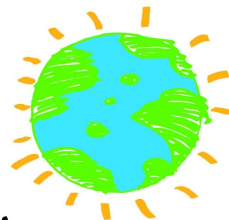
Please note that from 2020 this is moving earlier in the year so that the children can enjoy the benefits of all that bonding together in October before they have to leave us in July.

Data/Medical Information/ Privacy Notices and Image Consent

Thank you to everyone who has returned up-to-date information and consent forms to the office. It is vital that we have a response from everyone - and the images consent is needed in order for us to include photographs in our future newsletters and on our website. *Please also ensure any medication held in school for your child is within date (eg Epipens, inhalers, etc) prior to Brexit.*



Clean up



the world

Clean air project

Anglesey Road is very busy before and after school with school traffic including buses trying to pass in both directions. Next half term our Year 4 pupils will be measuring levels of air pollution at the beginning and end of the school day and thinking about how we might improve the air quality. We are working with Thingwall Primary School— also on a busy road to compare data and work to improve it - watch this space!



Autumn Term Diary Dates 2019 and Holiday Information

Monday 21st October and Wednesday 23rd October - Parents Evenings

Friday 25th October—PTA Events—see above

Friday 25th October - School closes for half term 3.30pm

Wednesday 31st October - Deadline Year 6 applying for Secondary School

Wednesday 31st October - Deadline Year 6 applying for Secondary School

Monday 4th November - School opens

Tuesday 12th November - Individual Photographs

Tuesday 12th November pm—EYFS Booktime Event at West Kirby Library

Friday 15th November 8.55am - EYFS Share a Story

Friday 15th November - Children In Need

Tuesday 19th November - Flu Immunisations F2—Year 6

Friday 22nd November - Years 1 and 2 to Birkenhead Park

Tuesday 3rd December 2.30pm - EYFS Maths Workshop

Tuesday 17th December 10.15am - Year 2 Carols at West Kirby Library

Tuesday 17th December - PTA Christmas Carol Service at URC

Thursday 19th December - Christmas Performances in School Hall—details to follow

Friday 20th December - School Closes for Christmas Holidays

Monday 6th January - INSET Day School Closed **Tuesday 7th January** - School opens for Spring Term

