

# WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the summer break- and a special welcome to any families joining us for the very first time. We hope you will be very happy here with us. We try to keep you up-to date and well-informed through our school website, which has tabs for general information including term dates, uniform, lunch menu; for curriculum where you can find out what is taught in each age group; for home learning where you can find the tasks and challenges set for children to complete at home to support their learning in school; for Governors where you can find out who they are and what they do and so on...

This is our first monthly newsletter of the new academic year. It usually comes out on the first Friday of the month unless we are on holiday. We send out one paper copy per family and by email. All of our newsletters can be downloaded from our website under the Newsletter tab or click [HERE](#)

## Beginning and end of the school day

We encourage pupils to walk to school or use their bikes and scooters – please ensure these go home at the end of each day as we cannot be responsible for their security in the playground.

If you have to drive, please try to park away from the school - there are car parks at either end of Anglesey Road and at Aldi on Bridge Road just a short walk away.

We ask that you ensure you park legally and show consideration for our neighbours by checking access to properties is not compromised.

When waiting in the playground, may we politely ask parents to stay clear of the covered area (unless it is raining) and the area in front of the bike sheds to avoid congestion. Please avoid the temptation to look in through the windows as this can be unsettling for the class.

**Before school:** A member of staff is in the playground from 8.45 am and so all parents/carers are responsible for their own children up to this point.

When the morning whistle goes at 8.50am, the morning arrangements are as follows:-

**EYFS:** Parents/carers of children in EYFS should bring the children to the EYFS central white doors where they say goodbye to you and are greeted by a member of staff, who will help them to settle inside. There will also be another member of staff outside the doors with a clipboard to take and pass on any urgent messages.

**At the end of the day:** EYFS parents/carers should come to the same doors at the end of the session (11.55am or 3.30pm) where they will be dismissed by staff as they see you.

Please be patient as this may take longer initially as staff get to know you all. We have the names of adults you have authorised us to allow to collect your child. Please be sure to tell us if there are any changes.

**KS1 (Years 1 and 2):** When the whistle goes, parents/ carers of children in Years 1 and 2 should say goodbye to their children in the main playground and encourage them to walk through the blue gateway, under the covered area and into school through the white corridor doors themselves. To begin with, some children may want parents to take them to the door, where a member of staff will be waiting to take care of any child feeling upset for any reason and to take any urgent messages from parents.

**At the end of the day:** KS1 parents/ carers should wait in the main playground behind the blue fence. Children will be dismissed from the same doors they go in through in the mornings by staff at the end of the day. Please be patient as this may take longer initially as staff get to know you all. We have the names of adults you have authorised us to allow to collect your child. Please be sure to tell us if there are any changes.

**KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6):** When the whistle goes at 8.50am, children walk into school themselves through the doorway beyond the Bike Sheds, where there will be a member of staff to receive them and to take any urgent messages from parents.

At the end of the day, children are dismissed from their classes by staff and make their own way onto the playground. Parents/ carers should meet them in the main playground. We suggest the sports area where they used to line up - please stay well away from the KS1 entrance and bike sheds to avoid congestion. Children are told to speak to a member of staff if they can't find you. KS2 teachers are often out in the playground at the end of the day. Please let us know if anyone different is collecting your child. For older pupils, if you are happy that they can walk home safely themselves then please let us know in writing.

May we remind you that no dogs, except for Guide Dogs are permitted on school premises and that we are a No Smoking site (including electronic cigarettes).

Ball games are not allowed before and after school and the trim trail is out of bounds.

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Children are asked to walk their bicycles and scooters through the playground (not to ride them). Please do not bring or leave dogs near the school gates.

The staff car park is not to be used by parents/carers at the beginning or end of the school day. Please avoid cutting through the car park and use the pedestrian entrance to access the main reception desk at the front of our school.

All of these restrictions are for the safety of the children.

## School Lunches

School meals are free of charge for all pupils in F2 and Years 1 & 2. We would like to encourage 100% uptake of this offer- not much in life is free and the food on offer is fantastic. Menus are developed in consultation with the children and then developed in accordance with government nutritional standards. Our Kitchen Team are used to catering for different dietary needs as well as for 'fussy eaters' and our School Cook, Louise, is happy to discuss any individual needs or concerns with parents.

Our current menu is available to download under the School Info tab on our website or click [HERE](#)

For pupils in KS2 (Y3-Y6), the price for a school meal is £2.20 per day or £11 per week, unless you are in receipt of certain benefits and eligible for school meals. Ask Office Staff if you are unsure and/or experiencing financial difficulties.

Our Packed Lunch Policy follows the same nutritional guidance and we ask that you stick to this if sending a packed lunch to school. We ask you to avoid packs of crisps/ quavers etc. and avoid sweets, chocolate bars and other items sold as confectionary. (Chocolate is not banned as an ingredient but should not be the main constituent of any item). We have some children with severe nut allergies in school and would therefore please ask that you do not send any food items into school that may contain nuts or nut products.

Look under the Policies and Procedures tab on our website or click [HERE](#). Please contact the School Office if you have any queries.

## Staff in each Class

Since the end of last term we have made some changes to staffing arrangements. Parents of children in the classes affected have already been informed. We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Green is fit and well and back at school. We also need to inform you that, with regret, Mrs Igglesden has decided to resign from her teaching post at the end of this half term. She will now be supporting Mrs Green's return to work for the first few weeks of term and providing extra support for Y1 and Y2.

Below is an up-to-date list of the staff in each class this year:

Class	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
F1/2	Mrs Smith Miss Wood	Mrs Hope Mrs Lancashire & Mrs Billington
Y1	Mrs Hughes	Miss English
Y1/2	Miss Liney	Mrs Gilbert
Y2	Mrs Green	Mrs Davies
Y3	Mrs Bailey (am) & Mrs Sadler (pm)	Mrs Gilbert
Y3/4	Mr Wilson	Mrs Smith
Y4	Mrs Boothman	
Y5	Mr Procter	Mrs Smith
Y5/6	Mrs Rogers	
Y6	Mrs McCann	Mrs Hearty

For a full staff list, please look on our school website under the Our Team tab or click [HERE](#)

## Contacting teachers

The class teacher is your first port of call for any concerns relating to your child. We are very happy to meet with you to discuss any concerns in or out of school you think we should know about. We will try to arrange a ten minute appointment slot a.s.a.p. It helps us to be prepared if you could let us know the nature of your concern in advance so staff may ask you this.

For general school enquiries or queries, please contact the School Office on 625-5561, by email or by text on 07860-005023 e.g. to report an absence.

## Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with any aspect of our school provision, please let us know. In the first instance please speak to or write to the relevant member of staff directly to try to resolve the matter. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, please contact the Headteacher via the School Office. If your complaint is about the Headteacher, then please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Richard Chapman at [chair@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:chair@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk). The full Complaints Procedure is available to download on our website under the Policies and Procedure tab or click [HERE](#)

## Curriculum Information and Home learning

We display our half termly topic webs in the school foyer with an overview of the curriculum. There are also folders with information about our rationale and each of our Core Themes.

You can also have a look under the Curriculum tab on our school website or click [HERE](#) to find out all kinds of information about our School Curriculum.

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This includes the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum requirements for all pupils from Y1-Y6.

Topic webs showing what the children are learning this half term in each Key Stage are also in this section of the website.

Home Learning tasks for Autumn Term 1 can be found under the Home Learning tab or click [HERE](#)

Please contact the school office if you require paper copies of either - we are happy to provide them on request. And please let us know if you are unable to find the information you are looking for.

We will continue to open our ICT suite after school every Friday for any parents who wish to come in with children to have a look on our website, speak to staff or to complete any Home Learning tasks with their children here.

## Keeping children safe

This is our number one priority in school. We use some resources provided by the NSPCC to teach our children about personal safety. Every September we talk to all children about the importance of sharing any worries or problems they have with an adult they trust. We display the Childline number in school and talk with children about using this if they do not feel they have a trusted adult to speak to. We remind them of the NSPCC PANTS rule which is displayed on posters around the school. Information about this, including the posters and guidance for parents can be found on the NSPCC website or click [HERE](#). This year there is also a song with cartoon dinosaurs, which we will use with our younger pupils to get the message across.

We also use the 'thinkuknow' website, which has age-appropriate messages for children as well as advice for parents about on-line abuse. Click [HERE](#) or access via our website. We all need to be vigilant. As parents, it is hard for us to keep up with developments in technology and most children are way ahead of us, but the responsibility remains with us as the adults to ensure our children stay 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: 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.

We advise that you encourage children to share with you content they send &/or receive on line and check your privacy settings. Report any on-line concerns to <https://www.ceop.police.uk/> and please don't hesitate to contact us if we can offer any advice or support.

## Parents of pupils now in Year 6

Yesterday your Y6 child should have brought home important information about how to apply for a Secondary School place. Please contact school if you do not receive it.

Please note the closing date for Secondary School applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 (which is just after we return to school after half term)

Many Secondary Schools are holding Open Evenings in the next few weeks (see list at the end of this newsletter or check dates on that school's website) and you are encouraged to visit with your child. Daytime visits are for parents only and pupils are not authorised to visit during school time (unless it is to sit an entrance examination).

**Grammar school selection tests:** Those pupils sitting the tests for Calday, West Kirby or the Wirral Grammar Schools will take two tests, here in school, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please let us know if your child is sitting any other tests for selective schools.

## School Uniform

Children look very smart in their uniforms this week and it is great to see so many children wearing our traditional blue, red and yellow striped school tie with their uniform.

Please ensure all items are named and train your children to look after their own belongings and put things away. We will not be held responsible for lost items but will always return named items that we find.

We expect all children with shoulder length or longer hair to wear it tied back at school with plain elastic bobbles and to avoid more ornate hair accessories. We ask that jewellery, make up and nail varnish are not worn at school. Please ensure your child also has a named water bottle with them each day and that bags brought in are also named and small enough to hang on pegs. We Our uniform requirements are listed under the School Info tab on our website or click [HERE](#) Lost Property can be found in the school foyer - please feel free to come and look through this if needed.

## Clubs

During the autumn term there will be a variety of clubs that will be offered before school, during lunch time and after school. The clubs will be for different year groups and letters will be sent home in the coming weeks. This term our clubs will consist of Meditation Mondays\*, Multi-Sports, Judo, Athletics, Musical Drama, Library Club, Philosophy Club and Beach Club.

*\*Please note we can now offer more places to pupils in Years 4-6 for Meditation Monday, so please bring the completed reply slip and your child at 8.15am on Monday if you wish them to take part.*



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## Job vacancy

We currently have a vacancy in our after school Cleaning Team which is advertised on the Wirral website. Please contact the School Office for any further information.

## Volunteers

We really appreciate the many and varied contributions made by all of our volunteers to the life of our school. Please look out for the Volunteers Letter going out next week and return it to the Office if you can offer any help.

## Data Sheets

We will shortly be sending home Data Checking Sheets to every child. Please ensure all contact details and medical information is up to date. Please sign and return them even if there are no changes. We are happy to administer medicines in school providing they are in the original packaging and prescription medicines should have the child's name on. A consent form must be signed at the office before we are able to administer any medication. Forms are also available from the website under Policies and Procedures or click [HERE](#)

## Lucy's Pineapple Fund

Lucy age 9, from Heswall is known to some of our school community and was recently diagnosed with a terminal, inoperable brain tumour. Her family are trying to raise £300,000 to fund alternative therapies alongside the NHS to prolong her life and she is currently in Mexico beginning this treatment. This evening (Friday 8th Sept) there will be a fundraising event at The Shippons, Irby. 7:30 start. Free entry, music and nibbles provided. Everyone is welcome to attend and support Lucy. There will be a raffle with fabulous prizes on offer. For further information on events please look @LucysPineappleFund on Facebook or donate through JustGiving.com

Our school is holding a non-uniform day next Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September to support the fundraising effort. We are asking children to wear something green and/or yellow (pineapple colours) and to contribute £1 if you can.

## PTA

A huge THANK YOU to everyone, who contributed to our fund-raising efforts which enabled us to purchase a new blue chair for every child from Years 1-6 for the start of this term. New members from across the school would be very welcome to attend the meetings – dates to follow.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Takashima, Headteacher

## Autumn term diary dates 2017 and holiday information

*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 [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 11<sup>th</sup> September** - Upton Exam

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** – Class 3/4 and Class 4 swimming every afternoon

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September** – Open Evening at Hilbre High School 6.00 – 9.00pm

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September** – Non uniform Day- wear green and yellow for Lucy's Pineapple fund

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September** – 11+ Test Papers 1 & 2

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September** – Year 6 Activity Day

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September** – Open Evening at St Anselm's 6.00 – 8.00pm

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September** – Open Evening at Calday Grange Grammar School 6.00 – 8.00pm

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Open Evening at Calday Grange Grammar School 6.00 – 8.00pm

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Open Evening at Upton Hall 5.30 – 8.00pm

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** – St Anselms exam

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October** – Class 5/6 & Class 6 swimming every afternoon

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September** - Open Evening at West Kirby Grammar School 6.00 – 8.00pm

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** – Years 1 & 2 to Liverpool Museum

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** – Open Evening at Birkenhead High School Academy 6.00 – 8.30pm

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** – Years 3 & 4 to Speke Hall

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October** – Open Evening Pensby High School 6.00 – 8.30pm

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October** – Last Day for old £1 coins

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** – Individual photographs

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October** – Half Term ends 3.30pm

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** – Half Term

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Term starts