



17th June 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week our F2 children enjoyed their Sports Festival at The Concourse and demonstrated excellent sporting skills, including badminton! Year 4 showed determination and resilience when completing the statutory Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check – Well Done Year 4! Our Year 1 children have impressed us with their phonics skills over the last couple of weeks and have completed the statutory Phonics Screening Check – Well Done Year 1! We have had a few warm days this week, and all of the children across the whole school have continued to work well and do their best.

Important Dates...

Monday 20th June – Friday 25th June	Year 2 Swimming at The Concourse
Monday 20th June	Class 3/4 Science Workshop at West Kirby Grammar School
Monday 27th June	Class 3 Science Workshop at West Kirby Grammar School New (from September 2022) F1 and F2 Parent Meeting (via Teams) at 6pm
Friday 29th June	EYFS – Trip to the Beach
Monday 27th June – Friday 1st July	Class 6 Swimming at The Concourse
Monday 4th July – Friday 8th July	Class 5/6 Swimming at The Concourse
Monday 4th July	Classroom Open Afternoon 3:30pm – 5:00pm An opportunity for you to come and look around our school, with your child. Look in their classrooms, look at their books and familiarise yourself with our whole school. *More details to follow – no booking required, just turn up any time between 3:20pm and 5:00pm
Tuesday 5th July	Whole School French Day - Children to come dressed in red, white and/or blue, if they wish to.
Wednesday 6th July	Key Stage One – Trip to the Beach Children will find out which class they are in for next academic year
Thursday 7th July	Children to have a short visit to new class teachers so they can put a face to the name
Friday 8th July	Reports to parents – paper copies at the end of the day Year 3 & Year 4 Educational Visit - *more details to follow soon Non-Uniform day in exchange for a bottle of any kind for the Tombola Stall

Saturday 9th July	Summer Fair 11:30 – 2:00pm
Wednesday 13th July	Year 6 Leaving Assembly – Year 6 Parents Welcome *More details to follow soon
Friday 15th July	Year 3 and Year 4 Sing for Ukraine *More details to follow soon
Monday 18th July	Year 2 Barnstondale Educational Visit
Tuesday 19th July	All Children to visit their new classes for the day
Wednesday 20th July	Children break up at 3:20pm for the Summer Holidays Please note that there will be no Roast Dinner on this day
Thursday 21st July	Inset Day – Staff Only

Staffing News...

In my last letter to you, I shared the news with you that Mrs Kate Ryan will be leaving WKPS at the end of this academic year to enjoy retirement.

In addition to this, I have some further staffing updates that I would like to share with you. Miss Debbie Woods has secured a new job closer to home in Liverpool. Miss Woods will take up her new position at Knotty Ash Primary School from September working with the children in their Deaf Resource Base. Miss Woods has been at WKPS since 2013 and has worked across the school. She has a particular eye for Art and Design and has supported our school to take part in many creative projects and always has Art ideas to share with colleagues.

Miss Jessica Bird, who has been teaching Class 5/6 is also moving on to a new school. However, not quite as close as she is heading to an International School in Dubai. Miss Bird started with us In January 2021 under very difficult circumstances as schools were closed and in a National Lockdown. Miss Bird was teaching online to children she didn't know. Miss Bird settled into this well and finally got to meet her class in person when schools reopened in March. During her time at WKPS, Miss Bird has been leading the Teaching and Learning of Maths. She has been really passionate about developing the fluency of Maths for all of our children.

I am sure you will join me in wishing both Miss Woods and Miss Bird **Good Luck** with the next steps in their professional careers.

Transition...

We understand and appreciate that for many children transition can be an unsettling time. We are in the process of talking to the children about friendships, so that we can do our best to accommodate as much as possible. However, this isn't always possible. We ask that you support us with the transition process and that we work together to support any children who may be finding it difficult.

The children will find out which class they are going into on Wednesday 6th July - we will also email you this information. On Thursday 7th July the children will have a short visit to their new class teacher to put a face to the name. In some cases, where classes will have class teachers who are currently working in other schools, we may be unable to have all class teachers available. However, there will be an opportunity for your child to meet them at some point. On Tuesday 19th July, the children are going to spend the whole day with new class teachers so that relationships can begin to grow before the summer break.



Classroom Open Afternoon...

Due to the pandemic, many of you have not been able to visit our school as much as we would like and as much as the children would like. Parents' Evenings have been online so you have not seen their classrooms, books or different parts of our school. Therefore, we would like to warmly welcome as many of you as possible to visit our school on Monday 4th July. You do not need to book; you can arrive at any time between 3:20pm and 5:00pm. It would be lovely if you come with your child and they can show you around our school. We will have refreshments in the hall, along with our PTA, a local uniform shop and our IT support for you to ask any online safety questions in relation to keeping children safe online.

Stranger Things...

Some of you may have heard of Stranger Things, which is available through Netflix and is currently on Season 4. We have heard some of the children talking about it and some children have been upset by the content that they have recently viewed. Please can I draw your attention to this having a rating of 15. It has sex references, violence, injury detail and threat. The fourth season in particular features a number of very gruesome scenes.



Parking...

A polite reminder to park sensibly and carefully around our school. We need to park safely and respect the local residents. Please do not stop/pull up on the yellow lines outside our school at any point, even if it is only for a couple of seconds to drop off. It is illegal.

Wirral has launched a new campaign that we full endorse at WKPS. 'Park elsewhere, show you care.'

Link Governors...

In recent letters we have been hearing about the roles of our Link Governors. This week, our Finance Link Governor, John Creswell, who is also our Chair of Governors has taken the opportunity to explain his role to you.

School Governors have a collective responsibility for overseeing school finance decisions to ensure that money is being effectively spent. More specifically this includes setting the school budget, making sure that budget allocations are consistent with school priorities, monitoring expenditure and satisfying themselves that financial procedures are being followed.

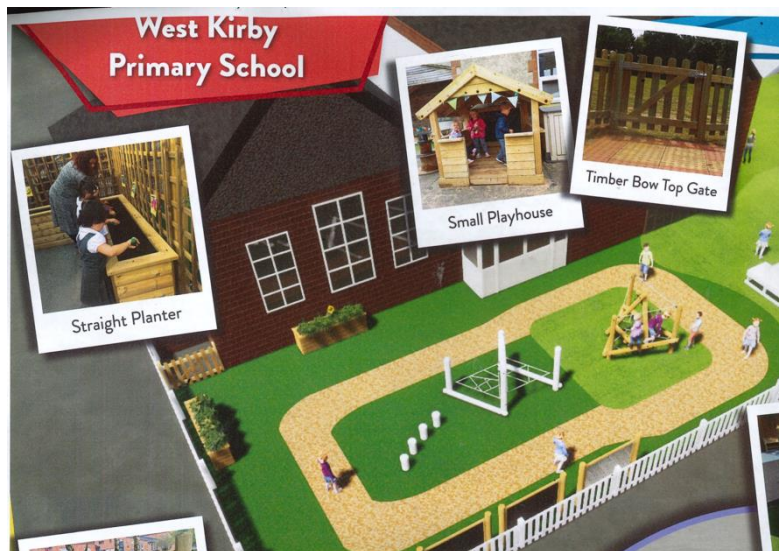
As Link Governor for Finance and Chair of the Finance Committee I attend the termly budget planning and monitoring sessions with the Headteacher, Office Managers and Wirral Borough Council bursar. These meetings give us the opportunity to assess the financial consequences of strategic decisions such as staffing and major project expenditure, to make sure that we are not over-committed and at risk of going into deficit. Conversely, we also need to ensure that we do not underspend – the principle is that money provided to schools should be used for the education of current pupils and not salted away in excessive amounts for a rainy day.

Another aspect of the Link Governor role is to check the submission made to show our compliance with the Schools Financial Value Standard. This is a set of self-assessment questions designed to judge the effectiveness of the school's financial management and demonstrate that resources are well used. West Kirby Primary has been fortunate for many years to have Kate Ryan as Office Manager, her knowledge has meant that we always achieve good ratings on both SFVS and Wirral internal audits.

Budgeting at small schools like West Kirby Primary is always a challenge due to pupil numbers fluctuating year by year, which affects the amount of income received from taxpayers. By good financial management and bidding for additional funding the school has been able to deliver significant improvements to the premises in recent years – including the new front office, skylight room and playground enhancement. The next project is the EYFS outdoor area and, with pupil numbers now showing an upward trend, we hope to deliver further improvements in years to come.



New EYFS Outdoor Area...



We are very excited to be able to share the plans with you for our new EYFS Outdoor Area, which will be installed over the summer holidays.

After much discussion with our EYFS team and different companies we have generated the outdoor area that we want and one that will support the children's learning in EYFS in all aspects.

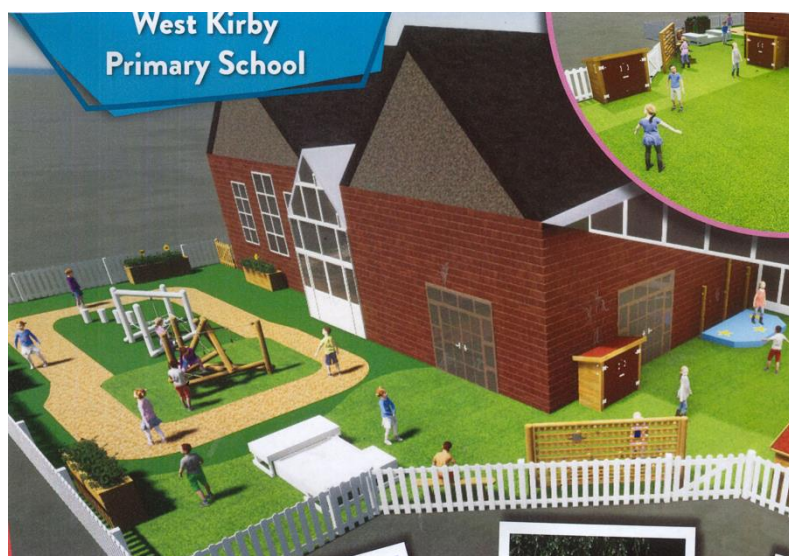
The new area will consist of a new stage, a playhouse, large mirrors, planters, a bike track, new surfacing, a water wall for problem solving and much more!



The installation is due to commence on Monday 25th July. However, before that, we need to dismantle and remove quite a few structures from the area.

If any parents/carers, friends or relatives are available on **Thursday 21st July** to support our Caretaker with this task, we would be really grateful. Even if you can offer a few hours, it would make a huge difference to us.

If you are available, please mail the school office to let us know. Thank you in advance.



Attendance...

As you know attendance really does matter at all times of the year – 97% or higher is always our aim. Leave of absence will only be approved in **exceptional circumstances**. Below are our attendance figures for this week – Well Done to Year 4.

	Attendance
F2	95.1%
Year 1	93.8%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	98.9%
Year 5	96.4%
Year 6	91.4%

PTA...

Thank you to our PTA team who provided a lovely opportunity for the children to purchase gifts for special people yesterday and today. There was a wide range of gifts available and the children were very excited to go shopping and select what they wanted to buy.

Our PTA also held their final coffee morning of this academic year this morning, with delicious cakes and a lovely atmosphere to sit and chat with others.

They are currently planning for the Summer Fair and hope to see many of you there on Saturday 9th July (11:30am – 2:00pm). I am sure it will be another excellent event.

Our PTA amaze me all the time, their passion, interest, support and enthusiasm for our school is brilliant – thank you to all of you who occupy many different roles to make it work so well.

Marvellous Me...

Thank you to the 90% of you who have signed up to Marvellous Me.

The app is totally free and allows class teachers to send you badges, messages, postcards and reminders. We are using it to send out the children's weekly spellings with the aim that they are more accessible for you each week.

If you need any support in setting Marvellous Me up, please ask our School Office Staff, who will be happy to help.

Warm Weather...

During this warm weather, please can we remind you to send your child in with a sun hat and water bottle. In addition, please apply sun cream before they come to school.

New School Website...

We have been redesigning our school website over the last few months to improve the information that is available and the accessibility of it. Our website showcases our new branding and logo, which Kim Waters, one of our Parent Governors has supported us with. We still have elements to add on, but in the mean time please take a look. The Teaching and Learning tab gives you information about each area of our school curriculum.

[Click here to see the new West Kirby Primary School Website](#)



Social Media...

If you are not already following us on Twitter please do @WKPSWirral

Our PTA also have a Facebook Group, please give them a like and follow them.

We also have an Instagram account – please log on and find us westkirby_primaryschool

Please remember that we are here if you need to talk to us. You can either phone us (0151 625 5561), email us (schooloffice@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk) or pop in and see us.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support, enjoy the weekend.

Mrs E Bailey
Headteacher

