



Spring 2019 Newsletter



Dear Families,

Building works update

As we reach the end of term, the roof is on the new Foyer and work on the interior is proceeding well. The new room at the back of the building still has further to go as the project has been subject to delay (days lost mainly due to bad weather). Consequently, the temporary arrangements currently in place at the beginning and end of the day including the visitors entrance, will continue into next term until the work is complete. We are all looking forward to the additional space this will provide.

Summer menu

This will be published on our website after the holiday and will include our very popular brunches and lasagne. New for next term will be scampi and chips. The menu is on a 3 week cycle. Just a reminder of our flexibility, which does allow you to dip in and out as long as your child informs their class teacher at the beginning of the day.



Parent Pay

The introduction of ParentPay has been very successful. We would ask that all families sign up for it even if you are not yet paying for items. Please ask at the school office if you require your login details to be sent again.

Parents Evenings

We look forward to seeing you at our Parents Evenings, which will be held in the first week we return from the Spring break - just before the Easter weekend. You will have the opportunity to look through your child's books beforehand and then to receive a brief report on the attendance, behaviour, progress and attainment of your child. Appointments are scheduled at ten minute intervals. If you need to have a longer appointment to discuss any issues in more depth, please arrange with the class teacher or via the school office for another day. If there is anything you would like to talk through with me, please let our office staff know. I am also available during Parents Evenings.

There are still some slots available for Parents Evenings if you haven't booked an appointment yet. Please follow this [link](#) to book.

Curriculum developments

Some of you may be aware of changes being imminently introduced by the Government:

1. Introduction of a compulsory Multiplication Tables Check for Year 4 pupils from next year (for pupils currently in Year 3). We will be piloting this with our current Year 4 pupils next term.



7 Times Table		
0	x 7	= 0
1	x 7	= 7
2	x 7	= 14
3	x 7	= 21
4	x 7	= 28
5	x 7	= 35
6	x 7	= 42
7	x 7	= 49
8	x 7	= 56
9	x 7	= 63
10	x 7	= 70
11	x 7	= 77
12	x 7	= 84

2. Introduction of a new baseline assessment for pupils starting school in F2 in September 2020. Our school will be piloting this assessment with our new F2 pupils in the Autumn term this year.

3. Introduction of new guidance for teaching Personal, Health, Social & Economic education (PHSE) including Sex and Relationships. The recent consultation has featured in the news. Please click on the link to read the DfE Policy statement which refers to building on existing good practice in schools and updating our approach to reflect our changing world:-

[Click Here](#)



Since 2014, PHSE has not formed part of the National Curriculum for Primary Schools. We have always included this subject and believe it is an excellent way to raise awareness and teach clear values and strategies to help our pupils navigate their way through the changing challenges they face growing up in the twenty twenties. Our half termly topic web indicate areas covered for each key stage. [Click Here](#) to download our topic webs.



4. Introduction of a new Ofsted Framework for inspecting schools. From September 2019, the focus will be broader and look at the range and quality of subjects across the curriculum as well as the rationale underpinning it - all of which we welcome. We continue to review our provision and adapt to try to meet the needs of all our pupils. Please [Click Here](#) to read more about our school curriculum. We will be using our upcoming Coast to Country Project to focus more explicitly on the choice of knowledge and vocabulary children will be taught and we will share this with you as part of our Home Learning in the second half of the Summer term.

Reading resources

We suggest that our younger children read a new text more than once (with help from you), until it becomes familiar and can be read by the child fluently and with expression and understanding. Please continue to talk to your older children about their understanding and enjoyment of what they have read. They may still need to re-read sections and may still choose to re-read an entire book they loved. As we reach the end of term, please have a good check at home and return any books belonging to school.

Thank you to all of the parents and children in F2, Year 1 and Year 2 who have trialled 'The Reading Planet' online reading resource. We really appreciate the detailed feedback you provided and taking this all into account we have decided not to go ahead with this particular resource. We will continue to explore other options.

One free online resource you can access which takes you through a short assessment with your child to find the right level of book from one particular scheme can be reached via the link below:-

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading>

You then need to register to access the free on line e-books. You are not required to purchase additional materials.

This website also has sections with e-books and games as well as video clips and hints for parents. There are also lots of ideas for activities off line for other aspects of English and for Maths. One drawback - please note that on line games all say Well done! on completion but do not correct any mistakes the children make...



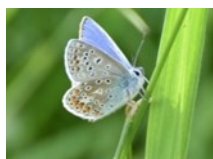
Book Fair

Thank you to 'Library Jane' for organising this and to all who supported us - we have received a record £1038.88 to spend on new library books this year. Children across the school were asked to make recommendations for new books – many of these should soon appear on the bookshelves.

Coast to Country

During the second half of the summer term, we will be taking part in a project with a group of local schools. It is designed to raise our pupils awareness of the beauty and unique features of our local area. We hope that by studying different aspects of our environment and by going out to explore and learn first hand, that our pupils will care and want to protect our heritage and wildlife for future generations to enjoy too.

Our plans are well underway for this exciting joint project with other Deeside schools...



We have our Wildlife Garden designed to grow wild and encourage more local species of wildlife to use our pond, bee hotel, bird boxes, log pile. During the second half of the summer term, we are hoping to build our own greenhouse using recycled plastic bottles to grow seedlings to plant out in our school grounds.

We have held our Eco Schools Green Flag award for a number of years and our Eco Council, made up of elected representatives of each Year Group, are constantly looking for more ways we can make a difference. Last year, some of our younger pupils noticed we asked them to bring packed lunches for trips in a plastic bag which could be thrown away after lunch. They asked us to encourage families to provide healthy lunches in re-usable lunch boxes and backpacks for all school trips instead. Thank you to everyone supporting this to reduce the use of single use plastic in this way.



instead of



Last year our Year 5 pupils raised a concern about the numbers of plastic straws used in school for milk and for juice at lunchtime. They calculated the numbers of straws used daily, weekly and annually and were shocked at the numbers. They suggested we change the way we serve drinks in school. Since September, we have stopped ordering individual cartons and now buy milk and juice in larger recyclable bottles and serve drinks in re-usable beakers.



instead of



This year, we have been looking for ways to reduce the use of single-use plastics in the school kitchen and in our classrooms. Next term, we are planning to take our Year 4 pupils out to visit a Recycling Centre to inspire us further.

As part of the Coast to Country project, we will be using recycled materials to create art representing Wirral wildlife threatened by human behaviour. Each school will select a piece to form an exhibition at the Williamson Art gallery over the summer

How you can help:

Please rinse out and save 2 litre plastic bottles – we will set up a collection point at school once the building work is complete.

Please save small metal bottle tops and any single use plastic bags for art work later in the term.

Please send all packed lunches eaten at school as well as on trips in a re-usable container and a re-usable bag. As far as possible, please try to send the food contents in re-usable containers.

Look out for requests from us or help with events and visits

Sporting News

Inter Sporting Festivals

On Monday 14th January six KS2 children represented our school playing Boccia, they played against teams from other Wirral schools. They showed great team work, and one of our Year 6 children was awarded best shot of the festival.

On Monday 28th January two KS2 teams took part in a New Aged Kurling festival against other local schools. They worked well as a team, discussing strategies and tactics to succeed.

Eight KS2 children attended a Sitting Volleyball festival, organised by the School Games Team at Leasowe Leisure centre on Wednesday 6th February. The children competed against other schools from Wirral and worked well to play as a great team.

Unfortunately, the children who should have attended the Lacrosse festival at Birkenhead School in February were unable to attend due to wet and windy weather on the day. We are hoping that the event will be rescheduled.

Premier Sports organised a Fencing and Archery festival for six KS2 children on Friday 15th February. This took place at Park Primary School, and was attended by several other Wirral Schools. Our team did really well to claim first place in the Fencing part of the festival.

On Monday 4th March six LKS2 children took part in a Dodgeball festival, with children from other Wirral Schools. There was great team work from the children, and we came in joint first position.

A new sporting event for this year was the Swimming festival on Wednesday 27th March. The children took part in a range of races and relays, and enjoyed having fun at Europa Swimming Pool.

We wish our Year 5 & Year 6 Netball team good luck today, as they take part in a festival at Birkenhead School.



Key Stage One

Key Stage One have also taken part in offsite Sporting Festivals this term. All of KS1 attended the Wirral Tennis Centre for an afternoon of Tennis, and Year 1 visited The West Kirby Concourse to take part in three different sports. The children had fun, and enjoyed trying a variety of different sports.

Bumped heads

As you are aware, staff keep records of every accident that occurs in school and always complete a note to go home if a child reports or is seen to receive any kind of injury to the head. From the start of next term, the format of our bumped head notes will be slightly different. A paediatrician working locally has designed a bumped head note for schools which will give more information needed by doctors if your child subsequently requires medical attention.

SAFEGUARDING in the holidays

We have been made aware of recent incidents of anti-social behaviour occurring in Aston Park and on Grange Hill. Today we have spoken to all of our Year 6 pupils about personal safety and behaviour out of school. We advise that children are supervised in areas known to attract older children and that you encourage your children to share any worries or concerns with you.

Summer Term 2019 Diary Dates

Please note that term dates for 2019-2020 are now available to download from our website under the School Information tab– or [Click here](#)

Monday 15th April — School Opens for Summer Term 1
Tuesday 16th April — Class Photographs
Tuesday 16th April — Part Year 5 Calday Law Experience
Tuesday 16th April — Parents Evening for Miss O'Toole and Mrs Rogers
Wednesday 17th April — Parents Evening
Thursday 18th April — Parents Evening (except Miss O'Toole and Mrs Rogers)
Friday 19th April — Good Friday School Closed
Monday 22nd April — Easter Monday School Closed
Tuesday 23rd April — LKS2 Art Day / School Nurse Year 5 Parents Meeting 3.00pm
Wednesday 24th April — **Friday 26th April** — Year 4 Residential
Thursday 25th April — Year 2 NCT Meeting 3.00pm
Monday 6th May — School Closed Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7th May — Year 5 Puberty Talks
Monday 13th—Friday 17th May — Year 6 National Assessments
Monday 13th—Friday 24th May — Year 2 National Assessments
Monday 20th—Friday 24th May — Whole School Health and Well-Being
Friday 24th May — Sports Day (KS2am and KS1pm)
Friday 24th May — School Closes for Half Term
Monday 3rd June — INSET Day School Closed
Tuesday 4th June — School Opens for Summer Term 2
Tuesday 4th June — **Friday 14th June** — Year 2 Swimming pm
Saturday 29th June — School Summer Fair 11.30am—2.00pm
Monday 1st July—Wednesday 3rd July — Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 10th July — Year 6 Induction Day / New class visits
Tuesday 23rd July — School Closes for Summer Holidays
Wednesday 24th July — INSET Day School Closed

