

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 3rd 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after an unexpectedly extended half term break. We arrived at school first thing on Monday morning to find there was no electricity. The only information we could ascertain was that it was hoped it would be resolved by 2pm. On this basis, we could not open school. In fact, the power came back on much earlier than this, but we were unable to receive confirmation that it would not go off again. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. Staff were in school and made the most of the opportunity for a thorough clear out at the start of a busy and event- filled half term.

Science Day

Thank you to Mrs Rogers, who organised this exciting day of experiments across the school on Tuesday. It got off to a bang with a whole school demonstration from The Mad Science Company, who deliver our Science club. Each class then moved around different classrooms taking part in investigations into a range of science topics from water droplets to birds' beaks, chromatography to Pangaea, properties of solids and liquids to engineering. Have a look at the photographs on our website.

World Book Day

Thank you to Mrs McCann for organising the fun and story themed activities across the school yesterday. It was great to see so many characters from fairy tales filling our school. All of the staff took on roles from Snow White- in case you couldn't guess!

Thank you to Jane Hitchin, our Librarian, who organised the Book Fair and made time for every child to enjoy browsing. Thank you also to the parents who helped run the Fair itself. We will be able to purchase lots of new books for our library using the commission raised.

We know that research (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development 2002- and lots since) shows that a love of reading is a strong predictor of future success which is why we invest so much in engendering a love of books in all of our children – including those who struggle with the mechanics!

Jane's top tips for parents include daily bedtime stories (even once children can read fluently); using our local Library (whilst we still have one); and the website she uses for her own research on the latest books our children might enjoy. This includes sections for different age groups, reviews and extracts:

www.lovereading4kids.co.uk

Can we also encourage parents/ grandparents/ aunts and uncles to share memories of your favourite fairy tales with your children this weekend- let's keep the oral tradition alive too!

Fairtrade Fortnight

We have a series of events taking place during this fortnight which began on Monday and will end with a Fairtrade Tea Party next Friday 10th March at 3pm.

Spring term Curriculum and Home learning

Information about our Spring term 2 topics and what will be covered in each curriculum area is available to download under the Curriculum tab on our school website or by clicking on the link below. Just select your child's key stage from the menu on the left, then click on Spring 2 2017. [Curriculum](#)

Home Learning for this half term is also ready to view under the Home Learning tab or by clicking on the link below and then selecting your child's key stage from the menu on the left and clicking on Spring 2 2017.

[Home Learning](#)

This information is also on display in the school foyer and paper copies are available on request from the school office. Staff are available after school each Friday in the ICT suite for families who wish to ask questions or complete tasks in school.

Keeping children safe

We have been encouraging children to talk to a trusted adult about any worries or concerns they have. Sometimes they talk to their friends instead. Whilst friends usually want to be helpful they do not always have the life experiences or maturity and sometimes misunderstand. Please help your child to recognise that their first port of call for worries should be an adult.

NSPCC Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported the sponsored Skipathon. The NSPCC were delighted to receive £1146.37 raised by this event.

Red Nose Day - Friday 24th March

The theme this year is for the children to dress as their favourite red nose or dress in red. Donations for dressing up minimum £1. We will also be selling Red Noses in the School Office.

Parent Survey

Thank you to parents and children who have made suggestions about ways in which we could become more involved with our local community.

As a result, this half term, our Y5 and Y6 pupils are inviting their grandparents to come into school and join them for a 'Sew-in'.

One of our parents has volunteered to support us with litter picking locally on a Friday morning and suggested we involve children in trying to improve parking habits close to school. Please contact the School Office if you could help us with either of these initiatives, which we hope to run during the Summer term.

The next question from the Parent Survey we would like to ask about relates to homework. We know there are wide ranging views on this subject but 27% of respondents said they did not feel it was appropriate- which is over a quarter. One parent commented that internet research tasks were too hard for KS1 pupils. Staff have responded by changing these tasks. One parent asked for homework to be marked, which is not our policy. We have posted the rationale behind our approach to Home Learning, which explains this, on our website- under the Home Learning tab.

[Home Learning Rationale](#)

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If you have any specific comments about anything else you consider not appropriate for a particular key stage, or anything that you particularly like then please let us know. We will take note of all views expressed although we ask for an acceptance that not all parents share the same views!

Please message us via the school website/email or use the Comments Box in the school foyer. We will leave out response slips during Parents Evening which can be posted into the Comments Box as you leave.

New Parent Governors

Our thanks to the parents, who put themselves forward for nomination. The result of the election is that Ms Boo Stone and Dr Bethan Halpenny received the most votes and will therefore be joining our Governing Body this month.

Menu Change

Please note the menu swap next week:

Monday 6th March – Chilli

Tuesday 7th March - Brunch

PTA

Thank you again to the PTA for organising the recent School Discos. £400 was raised which will pay for new maths resources to be used in classrooms across the school. All parents are welcome to join and to come along to any of the meetings. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th March at The Dee Hotel at 8.00pm.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Takashima
Headteacher

Spring term diary dates 2017 and holiday information

Monday 27th February – School reopens 8.55am

Start of Fairtrade Fortnight

Monday 6th March – Class 1/2 to Inter-schools Sports Festival

Tuesday 7th March – Bike it Breakfast 8.15am

Tuesday 7th March – KS1 to Williamson Art Gallery pm

Tuesday 7th March – Mrs Bailey Parents Evening

Wednesday 8th March – Years 5 and 6 to Chester Grosvenor Museum

Wednesday 8th March – Parents Evening

Thursday 9th March – Parents Evening

Friday 10th March – Fairtrade Tea and Coffee afternoon 3.00pm

Tuesday 14th March – Year 5 Bikeability

Wednesday 15th March – Years 5 and 6 to Liverpool Philharmonic pm

Wednesday 15th March - PTA Meeting 8.00pm

Monday 20th March – start of Waste Week

Tuesday 21st March – Year 5 Bikeability

Thursday 23rd March – Mother's Day Table

Friday 24th March – Mother's Day Table

Tuesday 28th March – Year 5 Bikeability

Friday 31st March – School closes for Half Term 3.30pm

Tuesday 18th April – School reopens for Summer Term 8.55am

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 [Term Dates](#)

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. Our Attendance procedure and leave of absence form can be downloaded from our website

http://www.westkirbyprimaryschool.co.uk/website/attendance_and_term_dates/17375