

Heswall Primary School



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Dear Parents,

7.9.18

Welcome Back

Welcome back for the start of the 2018/19 school year. We hope you've all had a lovely Summer and enjoyed lots of family time. A very special Heswall welcome to all our new families with children starting in Foundation 2 and other classes across the school. We hope you quickly feel part of the Heswall Primary community and we will do our very best to make sure that your child is happy, learning and reaching their potential. You can follow the school on Facebook and Twitter or just keep an eye on the website. We will be sending all future newsletters via email so please ensure we have your email addresses. You can email the school using the address shown above to make sure we have yours correctly.

New Staff

We welcome a few new faces to the school this September. Miss Kylie Neil joins Mrs Spofforth in the school office and Miss Dodwell joins the teaching staff as our new Year Four teacher. Miss Noorani and Miss Pierce also join Heswall Primary for the year as associate teachers.

Growth Mindset

Growth Mindset will be at the front of all the things we do this year and we will be constantly discussing it with the children. We will build on our 'Better Never Stops' ethos with inspirational assemblies and the power of positivity in the classroom. When children hear somebody say they can't do something, they will respond with, "Yet!" We are trying to encourage children to become resilient when tasks become challenging and to have a go. With determination, effort and practice; our children will be capable of doing better than they ever thought was possible. We will balance this with our nurturing approach to school as we believe that it is happy children that achieve excellent things.

Wirral Borough Council- Fines/Fixed Penalties for holidays in term time.

Wirral Borough Council has clarified, with all of its schools, the position on children being taken out of school during term time. Leave of absence requests will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances such as a medical appointments, religious festival or an authorised educational off-site activity e.g. a music exam. Holidays in school time will not be authorised without an exceptional circumstance. Wirral Borough Council currently fines each parent £60 each per child. For example, if there are three children in the family then each parent would receive a £60 fine for each child. In this case, the family would receive a fine of £360 that must be paid within 21 days and can double if not paid in this time. We do not want any of our families to receive fines like this nor do we want to stop families giving their children the wonderful experiences that holidays bring. The fines/fixed penalty notices are issued by, and paid to the local authority. No money comes to the school when a fixed penalty notice is issued. There will now be greater consistency between schools across the Wirral. Last year, the average whole school attendance was 95.16% and I am tasked with improving that figure. I need you to help support the school to improve this figure so we politely request that you only consider booking during the school holidays

Cross-Curricular Teaching

One of the biggest changes this year will be with regards to how we teach writing across the school. Teachers will, whenever possible, link work completed in a range of different subjects to a theme. For example, if we are teaching the Mayans in history, then we will write about Mayans in Literacy too. Research has shown cross-curricular methods can enthuse children differently and help them to make more progress. We are following a 'Talk for Writing' style of teaching.

School Dinners

School dinners have remained at £2.20 per pupil. Please use ParentPay to pay for your child's meals. Children in F2 (Reception), Y1 and Y2 do not pay for their school dinners as this is covered by the Universal Infant Free School Meal grant.

11+

The 11+ test will take place at 9.20am on Monday 17th September for children currently in Year 6 that are considering applying for a grammar school place in Year 7.

Reception (F2) Places

If your child has younger siblings that are due to start school in September 2019 then you need to apply using the Wirral Borough Council Website. The application window is now open but will close on the 15th January 2019.

Absence

It is vital that you let us know as soon as possible on the first day of any absence from school. We would appreciate it if you can call the school office on 0151 342 7491 and let the office staff know before school starts at 08:50am.

Use of the field

As long as the children are well supervised by their parents, we are happy for you to use the school fields after school whilst it is still light. We politely ask if children can avoid going on the field or the forest areas before school to ensure that mud is not brought into the classrooms.

Nearly 110

In 2019 it will be the school's 110th anniversary! We will be hoping to plan some big events across the year to celebrate but we would also like any past pupils of either of our two sites (Puddydale and Whitfield Lane) or members of staff to write their memories of the school for a big display inside the school. You can email them to the school office email as shown at the top of the page or use Facebook or Twitter. We currently have children whose parents, grandparents and in some cases great-grandparents attended this school. We'd love to read your stories.

PE Kits

Please can you ensure that PE kits are now in school so that all children can participate properly in PE lessons. We ask for the PE kits to only go home to be washed at the end of each half term.

PTA

The annual general meeting for the PTA (formerly the HSA) takes place at school at 7pm on Tuesday 25th September. Please come along and see what we do and see how you can join us to raise vital funds for Heswall Primary School's children. We always need new people to carry on the good work. All money raised goes into enriching the school lives of our children here at Heswall and every family will benefit from the work of the PTA.

Flu Vaccinations

This year, the planned date for the Nasal Flu Immunisation programme is the morning of Tuesday 20th November. This year, children from Foundation 2 (Reception) right up to and including Year 5 will be offered the flu vaccination. Last year, our school had an uptake of 69.5% which was slightly lower than the Wirral average. Further details will be sent in a separate letter soon.

Term Dates

All term dates can be found under the 'Useful Information' tab of the school website. We will keep the calendar updated so you can see in advance the arrangements for school events across the year.

Best Wishes,



Mr J Lawrenson, Headteacher

