

Heswall Primary School



Whitfield Lane
Heswall
Wirral
CH60 7SD

Tel: 0151 342 7491

Fax: 0151 342 7492

Email - schooloffice@heswall-primary.wirral.sch.uk

25.4.18

Dear Parents

SATs

We are in one of the busiest periods of the school year as children in Y2 and Y6 will undertake mandatory Standard Assessment Tests (Sats). For Year Two, this is done across the month of May and for Year Six this is all done in the week beginning 14th May. Children in other years will be assessed across the term. It is absolutely essential to avoid unnecessary days away from school in this busy period.

Attendance

There are still 22 children who have 100% attendance so far this year. This is a fabulous achievement and there are many more children in the high 90s. Good attendance is 96%+ and outstanding attendance is 98%+. The school attendance target is around 96% and hopefully with very good summer attendance we can reach this. We appreciate from that children become ill and may miss school however it is vital they attend at every other opportunity. A child with an attendance of 90% will have missed almost 100 lessons over the school year and this has a huge impact on their education. Attendance from all pupils is analysed each half term by an Educational Social Worker (ESW). Parents regularly receive letters when attendance is lower than it should be and panel meetings are arranged to agree an action plan to improve attendance. Wirral Borough Council do warn or fine parents £60 or £120 for unauthorised absences.

Holidays

Please be aware that holidays must not be taken in term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances are described by the National Association of Head Teachers as 'rare, significant, unavoidable and short'. A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance. We receive many requests for children to attend weddings abroad. Authorisation will only be considered for a person very close to the immediate family. The entire period of absence requested may not be granted and evidence of the wedding will be required. The child's current attendance will also be reviewed before any leave of absence is authorised.

Barnstondale

Year Four will be visiting Barnstondale for their two-night residential on Wednesday 2nd May. Children should arrive at school as per normal on Wednesday and they should be back by the normal home time on Friday at 3.15pm.

Balance Bikes/Bikes

At Heswall, we are keen to get our youngest children cycling for the huge benefits it brings to their health, co-ordination and strength. Recently, we've had to dispose of some of our balance bikes due to their condition. If anybody has any old bikes or balance bikes that are in working order and no longer needed then we will gladly utilise them here at school. They are used mostly by the children in Reception so ideally the bikes should be suitable for a 4 or 5 year old child. Please bring them to school and our Reception staff will be delighted.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 27th April

We are proud of our fundraising activities here at Heswall and we thank you for supporting what we do. We are trying to have just one, or occasionally two, non-uniform days per half term. Supported charities often link to the needs of our local community and this Friday we will be raising funds for The Rainbow Room at Arrowe Park hospital.

Finally, Parking

There are less people parking on the pavements on the Whitfield Lane side of school. We have been working with Merseyside police to address this. Thanks also to the parents and children that have helped put 'Pavements are for People' post-cards on vehicles that have been causing unnecessary obstruction to our children on the way to and from school.

Best Wishes to you all and I'm sure it will be a hard-working, productive and very happy Summer term.

Mr J Lawrenson, Headteacher

