



Monday 5th October 2020

Newsletter 2: October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

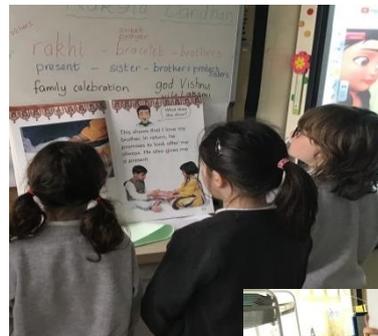
We now have all our children in school full-time. Our Foundation Stage children have settled into the new school routines quickly and are enjoying having their lunch in school. There is a lovely “buzz” around school as children engage with the exciting learning opportunities in their classes. Pleasingly, I have already presented several Headteacher’s Awards to children who have made sustained efforts with their learning. Please find some pictures below from around school.



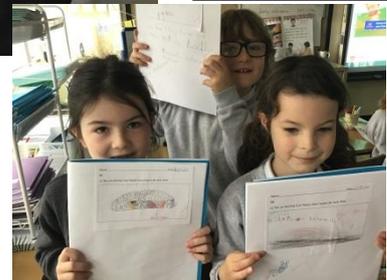
As part of their art unit of work the children created portraits in the style of the artist Picasso.



Here are the children in Year 1 performing a Pirate dance.



Our Year 2 children have been learning about the Hindu Festival Raksha Bandhan in RE.



Governor news

It is with much sadness that I have to report that one of our long-standing school governors has passed away after a short illness. Geoffrey Watt has been a member of our governing body for over 21 years. He was a highly-regarded member of the board, not only in his role as Vice-Chair and as Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee, but also as a considerate, encouraging and supportive

governor. Geoffrey did a great deal for our school and indeed the local community. We would like to extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Geoffrey's family and friends.

After 19 years of service to our Governing Body our Chair, Mrs Jenny Horner, has decided to stand down as Chair of Governors. Jenny always planned to step down from her position in Summer 2020 and succession plans were in place for her successor. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the many challenges that the school faced at this time she selflessly agreed to continue in her role as Chair for the Autumn Term. I am delighted to report that Jenny's successor is Abbie Cowan, who has a child (Ruby) in Year 2. Abbie will work alongside Jenny for this term. Furthermore, we also have a new Vice Chair of Governors, Corrie Brierley, who has children (Sophie and Olivia) at Black Horse Hill Junior School. I am very much looking forward to working in partnership with Abbie and Corrie this academic year to move our wonderful school forward and address our Ofsted targets.

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to all of those parents/carers who responded to our remote learning survey. The survey was very encouraging and we really appreciated the positive comments that we received. Many of the improvements that school staff and governors had identified for our action plan were also replicated in your survey comments. Here is a summary of the main improvements that the parent/survey revealed:

- ❖ Face-to-face contact with the teacher via a video link/Zoom platform
- ❖ Learning presented weekly rather than fortnightly
- ❖ A facility to submit work/learning so teachers can monitor progress

In our staff meetings this half-term, we have explored alternative remote learning platforms for example Google Classroom, Class Dojo, Tapestry and See-Saw which can provide the facilities as described above.

We have decided to use a platform called See-Saw for KS1 (Yr1 and 2) and to use Tapestry for EYFS pupils (F1 and F2). To enable you to become familiar with these platforms we will be posting our weekly homework tasks on Tapestry and See-Saw so in the event of a class having to isolate the platform is familiar.

Collaboration with other schools has been important to share best practice in this area. Wirral are also in the process of developing a Digital Learning platform for Wirral children too. I will keep you updated on this.

Our remote learning has been approved by our Governors and this will be uploaded onto the school website.

Ofsted Action Plan

Following our school Ofsted inspection in February I would like to reassure parents that although education was disrupted due to the Covid -19 pandemic we have been working incredibly hard to address the targets identified for the school. I have attached a summary of our School Improvement Priorities to this newsletter.

Since our inspection we have:

- ❖ Reviewed the school curriculum and we are now using a programme called the Cornerstones Maestro Curriculum which supports the planning of the knowledge, skills and vocabulary for each year group from F1-Yr2 in each subject.
Our Long Term Curriculum plans (available on the school website) will show what is to be taught in each year group across the year. In addition, you will also find the medium term plans for the Autumn Term on our school website which provides specific detail on what will be taught in each area of the curriculum
- ❖ Engaged with the English Hub. English Hub schools take a leading role in supporting primary schools to improve the teaching of early language, love of reading and phonics. We are really excited about the opportunity to be working with the Hub. They conducted an audit in July 2020 and there is a monitoring visit planned on 20th October.
- ❖ All classrooms have an attractive, inviting reading area.
- ❖ Updated our school book collections to ensure that there are high-quality texts which reflect the different communities in modern Britain.
- ❖ Purchased a resource called Read to Write which develops progressively children's reading and writing skills.
- ❖ Engaged with the Wirral and Cheshire Maths Hub to provide staff training and support on teaching the maths mastery curriculum.
- ❖ Accessed a resource called "Picture News" which highlights a current affairs issue to the children each week whilst developing their understanding of the fundamental British Values and different communities across Britain.
- ❖ Governors have re-visited their statutory duties found in the Equality Act at Full Governing Body Meetings.
- ❖ Updated and reviewed our Equality and Diversity Policy. The action plan for this policy has also been re-written. You will find a copy of this policy and action plan on the school website.



Parent/Teacher meetings

Our Parent/Teacher meetings will take place during the week beginning 19th October 2020. These meetings will be conducted over the telephone. As is our usual procedure, the appointments will be released via the eSchools website on Tuesday 6th October 2020.

You will be allocated a ten-fifteen minute slot to talk with the class teacher about how your child has settled into the class, their strengths/areas for development and how you can further support them at home.

School Parliament

Over the coming weeks I will be talking to the children about democracy, our parliamentary system and about setting up our school parliament to help make important decisions for our school. If you have the opportunity talk to your child about whether they would like to represent their class in our school parliament I would be grateful. Voting will then take place in the children's classrooms.

Leave Of Absence

Please be aware that the law around compulsory school attendance is now back in force since the start of the Autumn Term. This includes the regulations around leave of absence during term time. There continues to be no entitlement for parents to take their child out of school during term-time, unless this is completely unavoidable. Children have already lost so much teaching and learning time due to the Coronavirus, and the priority now is for us to work together in the best interests of all children's education.

All schools within Wirral work closely with the Council on school attendance matters. The Council is fully committed to making sure that all children attend school and make the best possible progress. Unauthorised holidays taken during term time can result in Penalty Notices being issued by the Council. As a school, this is something that we would wish to avoid and ask that any holidays be planned for school holiday periods.

Before and after school

Please can I remind parents/carers of the following guidelines for the main school playground:

- Face masks are now compulsory in the playground.
- There **is a one way system** in place at the beginning and end of the school day. Parents come into the school playground via the gate on Frankby Road and leave the playground by the exit near the Year 2 classes. These measures are put in place for your safety. Please adhere to them.
- If you are running late please contact the school office 625-5238 and we will instruct you on which access door to use.
- Children should not play on the play equipment either before or after school for safety reasons and also because this equipment is for use of a designated class (bubble).
- Scooters and bikes should not be used in the playground. They can be left in the scooter/bike rack or pushed into the playground.
- Children should not open the sheds in the playground and access the sports equipment.
- Leave the playground as soon as possible after you have dropped off/collected your child.

Jewellery, including earrings, should not be worn

School staff will not be able to tape children's earrings. Parents/carers will be contacted if their child is wearing earrings and they will be asked to come into school to remove or cover their child's earrings.

Coats, Hats and Gloves

As the weather gets colder all children need to have a coat in school. If children are bringing hats, gloves and scarves to school please make sure that they all have names on them. We would be grateful if you could model to your child at home how to look after their cold weather clothes by bundling them together and placing them in the sleeve or hood of their coat.

Diary dates**October**

- W/c 19th October Parent/Teacher meetings
- Friday 23rd October- School finishes for half-term.

November

- w/c 2nd November Curriculum presentations available to parents/carers**
- Monday 2nd November – Children return to school after half-term
- Thursday 5th November -Special Bonfire Lunch
- Friday 6th November- Photographer in school for Individual photographs
- Tuesday 17th November- Flu Immunisations F2, Yr1,Yr2
- Thursday 19th November Full Governing Body Meeting

*****As we are unable to invite parents/carers into school each year group will provide a presentation to parents/carers about their curriculum after the half term holiday. The presentations will be available on the school website. You will also receive an overview which outlines the topics and themes the children will cover during the year.***

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher