



Newsletter October 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome to our new style of newsletter, which we hope you will find friendly, informative and easy to read. We will publish one each half term on our website under the newsletter tab, and will send it out by email to all families. Please let the School Office staff know if you require a paper copy. We would like to include photographs in future, so please check that you have returned signed permission slips to school to enable us to do this.



Awards

We are very proud of our school curriculum, which is built around three core themes.

1. Health Promotion

Reason: Children need to feel and be healthy and safe in order to learn, so this is at the heart of our curriculum. Our location, close to the road, railway and open water means it is important for us to teach children how to stay safe in this environment as they become more independent.

2. Eco Awareness

Reason: Our school is situated at the heart of West Kirby, which is part of the Transition Town movement. Our local community is committed to the conservation of natural resources and to teaching our children how to care for the environment and develop sustainable lifestyles. Our location is beside the Dee Estuary, which is one of the largest and most important wetland sites in the world with the Hilbre Islands nature reserve within walking distance –when the tide is out! As a school, we recognise that we are privileged to have these resources on our doorstep and aim to ensure all of our pupils have the opportunity to experience and learn first-hand about our environment and how to care for the wildlife within it.

Clean up

the world

3. Global Awareness :

Reason: We live at the end of a small peninsula with water on three sides, which some describe as having an island mentality. In fact, our school community has international links all over the world and at least sixteen different languages are spoken within our school community in West Kirby. Our children tell us they want to learn more about events taking place now and significant events from the past around the world and to learn about different languages and cultures. We want to respond and to promote intellectual curiosity, respect and developing knowledge and awareness of our world and the people in it.

Sporting News

Well done to our Girls Football Team, who took part in the Edsential Football Festival on Monday 8th October at Mendell Primary School. The girls played really well as a team, they won all of their matches and finished in first place.



Reminder ...

Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school at all times. If possible, we do encourage trainers rather than pumps as they provide more support when playing sport.

During the summer term, our school won awards in each of these areas in 2017-2018



The Silver School Games Mark for our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport in 2017-2018



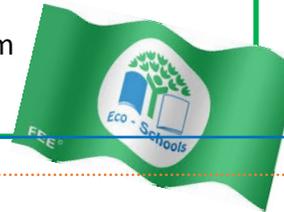
The School of Sanctuary award is in recognition of our commitment to being a safe and welcoming place for all. This includes raising awareness of what it means to be seeking sanctuary and to be a refugee.

The international Eco Schools Green Flag award for raising environmental awareness and improving our school environment, for example, we are taking packed lunches out on trips in re-usable bags and no longer disposing of 250 small milk plastic bottles and straws each day in school.

Please click [Here](#) for more information about our school curriculum

Staff News

We are looking forward to welcoming back Mrs McCann after half term. Thank you to Mrs Burrows for looking after the class



Lunches

Thank you to the children who have made suggestions for the Winter menu due to begin after half term. Our very creative School Cook, Louise, has now created a menu based on these suggestions, which meets the Government nutritional standards for schools. The new menu is on the website and can be downloaded [Here](#). Meals are free for all children from F2-Year 2 and excellent value at just £2.20 a day for older children. For families providing packed lunch, please note that we ask you to adhere to our Lunchbox Policy (click [Here](#) to download from the Policies tab on our website) - which is in line with the same Government nutritional guidelines that apply to school meals.



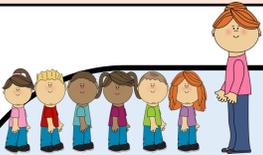
School End of Key Stage Results 2018

We are very proud to have achieved excellent results in all of the national assessments for 2018 - from the end of Foundation Stage, Year 1 Phonics, End of Key Stage 1 and End of Key Stage 2 assessments. All of our results are above the national averages and our pupils in Year 6 last year achieved results well above the national averages and amongst the highest in Wirral. We are committed to supporting all of our pupils to achieve their very best and to enjoy their time in our school. Please click [Here](#) to see our 2018 results summary (available to download under our School Data tab on our website)



Meet the Teacher Meetings

We introduced these at the beginning of term in response to parent feedback last year and hope you found these helpful. Shortly after the half term break we will be opening up our on line booking system for individual parent meetings with class teachers in November. At this meeting, you will receive an update on how your child is settling into their new class as well as on progress and attainment. You will be given a very brief summary report at this meeting which we hope you will find succinct and easy to understand.



Attendance and Punctuality

We want our pupils to enjoy coming to school and to be here on time every day that they are well enough to attend, so that they can achieve their best. School attendance across Wirral is poor in comparison to other parts of the country. An analysis of reasons given and patterns of absence across Wirral suggests that some families may keep children at home for odd days when they are not quite 100% just in case .

Although the majority of pupils at our school have excellent attendance, the overall rate of attendance at our school for 2017-2018 is below the national average.

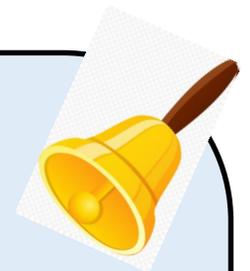
If your child becomes unwell at school, we will contact you and let you know. Sometimes there might be other reasons why a child may be reluctant to attend school, or they might be anxious about something that has happened. Please let us know if this is the case, so that we can support you to try to resolve the issues together as soon as possible.

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.

Please ensure that children arrive in the playground by 8.50am when the whistle is blown and school is open. Arriving a few minutes earlier gives children a chance to meet up with friends before school starts – or to see staff if there is a problem. Children arriving after 9am are rushed, miss the start of the day and are marked late. Arrivals after 9.30am are marked as an unauthorised absence unless there is an agreed exceptional reason. May we remind you that parents/carers have a responsibility to inform school before 9am on the first day of any absence so that we know where your child is, why they are absent and that they are safe. May we also remind you that schools are not permitted to authorise absence during term time except in exceptional circumstances agreed with the Headteacher.

We will contact you if we have concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality to discuss how we might support you to improve this. Please be aware that it is a legal requirement for parents/ cares to ensure their children attend school regularly and that legal action may be taken in cases of unauthorised absence. Please click [Here](#) to access the Local Authority Education Penalty Notice Code of Conduct , which is available to download under the Policies tab on our school website.

After half term, we will be introducing Attendance Ted who will each week visit the class with the best attendance in our school that week.



Building Works

You may be aware that we are planning to build a little more space into our building. We will be extending the school entrance to create a new office and space for visitors and we are creating a large extra room near the back of the building where groups of pupils will be able to work. This will be a great benefit to our school – you are probably aware that we are very tight on space! The bike sheds will be relocated and the playground will be slightly extended at the front of the building at the end of the project. The work was due to start over half term but has been postponed until the beginning of the Christmas holiday to allow a few more days for the builders to work whilst the school is closed. There are a few drawings available to download from our school website under our News tab which show the plans - click [Here](#)



Data/Medical Information/ Privacy Notices and Image Consent

Thank you to everyone who has returned up-to-date information and consent forms to the office. It is vital that we have a response from everyone - and the image consent is needed in order for us to include photographs in our future newsletters and on our website.



Cleaning Team Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy advertised on the Wirral website for a cleaning post at our school. Please share this information with anyone who might be interested in this post. Click [Here](#) to access the advert



Parking

Anglesey Road is very busy before and after school with school traffic including buses trying to pass in both directions. In the last few weeks we have received reports of near accidents involving children and of neighbours being unable to access their own properties. Please be sure to park safely, legally and with consideration for our children and our school neighbours.



Autumn Term Diary Dates 2018 and Holiday Information

- Friday 19th October** - School closes for half term 3.30pm
- Monday 29th October** - School opens
- Wednesday 31st October** - Deadline Year 6 applying for Secondary School
- Tuesday 6th November** - Flu Immunisations F2—Year 5
- Wednesday 7th November** - Foundation Stage Fine Motor and Handwriting Workshop 9.00am
- Monday 12th November** - Years 1 and 2 Fine Art Day
- Tuesday 13th November** - Individual Photographs
- Wednesday 14th November and Thursday 15th November** - Parents Evenings
- Thursday 15th November** - Group 1—Years 1 and 2 to Weaver Hall
- Friday 16th November** - Group 2—Years 1 and 2 to Weaver Hall
- Monday 10th December** - Years 1 and 2 to Chester Zoo
- Thursday 13th December** - Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performance 9.15 am and 2.30pm in School Hall
- Thursday 13th December** - Foundation Stage Nativity 1.30pm in School Hall
- Thursday 13th December** - Year 5 Christmas Performance 3.45pm in School Hall
- Friday 21st December** - School Closes for Christmas Holidays
- Monday 7th January** - INSET Day School Closed
- Tuesday 8th January** - School opens for Spring Term

