

LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING TOGETHER, WORKING TOGETHER

Higher Bebington Junior School



Mill Road, Higher Bebington, Wirral, CH63 8QE.
E-mail: schooloffice@higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk

Tel/Fax: 0151 608 1011
www.higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk

Acting Headteacher: Mrs S. Calveley B.Ed.(Hons)

10th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had a lovely summer break. We are all delighted with the way the children have settled in to their new classes and routines and it has been a real pleasure to greet you all at the gate in the morning. Thank you so much for ensuring your children are so well prepared for the new term, they look really smart! May I also extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and families joining us this term- both in Year 3 and across the school. We have many exciting things planned for 2018/19 and are really looking forward to another successful year.

We also have some new members of staff to welcome to our team; Mr Rudd and Miss McMahon have joined our Year 3 and Year 5 teaching teams whilst we also welcome Miss Simmons to our team of Teaching Assistants. Mrs Boulton is our new Administrative Assistant and will be your main point of contact in the School Office. Finally, we welcome Mr Hughes, from S4YC, and he will be teaching some of the PE sessions in years 3 to 5 this year. I am sure that everyone will make them feel very welcome and I hope everyone will be very happy at Higher Bebington Juniors.

School Building Update



As I am sure you have noticed, there have been some significant changes to the school site over the holidays. The building works are well underway with the new boy's toilets, school office and entrance foyer nearing completion. The other parts of the build have also begun and I will keep you updated as the work progresses. The Year 6 children have settled in well to their temporary classrooms and all the children have adapted well to slight changes in playtimes and lunchtime routines. Thank you for your patience whilst we are in the midst of the work!

Mr Roberts and the cleaners always work incredibly hard during the summer break but this year has been especially challenging for them. They have worked tirelessly through the holiday to



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ensure that the school was ready for our return. We would like to say a *massive* thank you to them from all of the staff and children.

Behaviour Policy



Earlier in the week you should have received a letter, either by email or a paper copy, outlining the changes to our behaviour policy. The children have responded brilliantly to our new recognition system and many classes have earned extra playtimes and rewards already. The children are making every effort to follow our 'Ready, Respectful, Safe' rules and there is a calm, positive atmosphere around school. The teachers have already made a few phone calls home to celebrate your children's successes in the first week.

There is a praise postcard design competition underway and next week we will hold our first Celebration assembly where we will be handing out the first Merit, Character and Lunchtime awards. We will also be announcing our new House Captains and School Council members. Again, the school staff and I would like to thank you for your support with this and for the feedback that we have received so far.

House System

Higher Bebington Junior School has had a long established house system with children earning House Points each week and a winning house being announced in our Celebration Assemblies. However, this year we are keen to develop this further by organising more inter-house competitions and events. For example, this may be sporting events or opportunities to undertake art and music activities. The School Council will also be looking at further ideas for such events. We are hoping that this will give greater emphasis to our house system, helping children to build a sense of belonging within their house and allow children to form friendships with children from other classes and year groups.

Twitter

Last year we set up a Higher Bebington Juniors 'Twitter' account but with the introduction of the new GDPR guidelines decided to delay the launch until the start of the new academic year. You will shortly be receiving permission letters relating to this and we would ask that you return these to us as soon as possible. We will let you know as soon as our Twitter page is live and ready to view!





Email System



This year we will continue to send all our newsletters and information by email unless there is a reply slip to be returned (in which case we will send a paper copy home also). As this is the first newsletter this year I am sending a paper copy but you should also get it by email. Please check you have received the email and if you haven't, let the School Office know as we need to ensure we have correct email addresses for everyone. Year 3 parents will only receive a paper copy as we are still transferring email addresses onto our system.

Parent/Carer Volunteers

We are always grateful for the support of our Parents and Carers with volunteering in the school. This help means that we can offer extra opportunities and support to our children. If you are able to offer to help school in any way, please do pop into our school office or send us an email to let us know. We will then collect information from you about how you would like to help and complete a safeguarding check. Our staff will always make sure you are fully aware of what your role will be if you do come to help. If you were a helper last year, and would like to continue to offer your support, again please do let us know as I have to complete an annual Safeguarding update before you can begin again.

School Office Hours

Just a reminder that the School Office is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day.

Planned Absences

We actively discourage children's absence during school sessions, particularly for family holidays. We ask that wherever possible, health appointments are made outside the school day to minimise disruption to your child's education. Under Government and Wirral Local Authority guidelines, we are only allowed to give permission for term-time absences in **exceptional** circumstances. In order for any request to be considered, it must be submitted in writing, using the Leave of Absence forms available from the School Office, along with any additional written evidence attached. Please never book travel or accommodation until the absence is formally authorised. I must make you aware that fines will be issued when a child has ten or more sessions of unauthorised absence in a term, if leave has been taken without parents requesting authorisation or if a child is late on ten or more separate occasions.



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Dates

Here are some key dates for the year ahead. The school website will be updated with these and further dates shortly.

- Monday 17th September: 11+ Examination
- Monday 22nd October-Friday 26th October - Half Term holiday
- Tuesday 30th October & Thursday 1st November- Parents Evening

- **INSET** Days (school will be closed to children)
 - Friday 19th October 2018
 - Monday 7th January 2019
 - Thursday 2nd May 2019
 - Wednesday 24th July 2019

Please remember to contact us if you have any concerns or things which you are unsure of - we would much rather sort things out before they become a worry for either you or your child.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Warmest wishes,

S Calveley
Acting Headteacher

