



PENSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs K Brown

Friday 6th November 2015

Autumn Term 2015 - Newsletter - Number 5

Dear families and children,

PTA Events

The Halloween disco was another great event. Yet again the children's costumes were incredible. Take a look at the year 6 children on their class page on the website - amazing!

The PTA firework display is next week on Thursday 12th November. Arrival at school will be from 5.45pm and you can buy hotdogs, chips, juice, tea and coffee - once we sell out...we sell out! The firework display will begin at 6.30pm. It lasts for 15 minutes. It is £1 entry for children and £2 for adults. There will also be a small fun fair in the car park area - small rides.

Fashion show tickets go on sale in the week of 16th November. The event takes place on Tuesday 1st December. The fashion show sells clothes from the high street at hugely discounted prices - ideal for Christmas presents. Tickets cost £4 (including a drink) and will be on sale via the school office and at the gate in the mornings - please pay with the correct amount of money through the school office.

Details of the children's Film Night event will follow shortly - that is always a magical evening!

Parents evening

Thank you for attending the recent parents evenings. If you could not attend the office staff will contact you and you can make another appointment to see your child's teacher.

Parents Survey

The results (so far) of our recent online parent survey are on the school website with the copy of this newsletter. The link takes you directly to the results. I have taken out any names! If you haven't had an opportunity to do your survey, you can come to the school office and they will arrange this for you. I will add the latest updates to the site over the next week or two. Thank you for your feedback - it is really helpful and gives us clear detail on what we need to do.

Mrs Beggs/Mrs Brindley

Many of you have noticed that Mrs Beggs is not at work at the moment. She has been quite ill and we were terribly worried about her at one stage. Thankfully she is now at home but will need a few weeks to recover and get her strength back. Mrs Brindley, our assistant cook is also not in school after an accident at home resulting in a broken wrist! We wish both members of staff a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back in the saddle!

School lunches/Food tasting

During the two parents evenings, the kitchen held a food tasting event - it was lovely! In talking to families it became apparent that not all realised how flexible you can be with school lunches. Once you pay online for school lunches, you can then opt for which days your child is having a school lunch. In Reception, year 1 and year 2, any child who arrives at school without a lunchbox, has a school lunch and this is free under the Universal Free School Meals (UFSM scheme). In years 3 to 6, each morning the teacher will ask the class to check who has a lunchbox and who wants a school lunch (the payment should be put online in advance although we do allow a couple of days if your child has a sudden change of heart in the morning or the fridge is empty! - we check TUCASI daily so we will help you to maintain up to date payments). The TUCASI payment is only deducted from your child's account if your child has had their school lunch on that day. This means you can alternate between school lunches and packed



lunches if you wish. In years 3 to 6, lunches are only free if your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) - this is different from UFSM! I realise that this sounds very confusing so please contact the school office and they will be happy to help clarify this for you.

Free School Meal (FSM) Entitlement

Many families have noticed the school and family benefits that being entitled and claiming FSM can bring. The school office can help you claim FSM and this information is confidential. Your child may be entitled to FSM if you claim:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Individual photographs

The photograph proofs arrived in school this week and should be with you at home. Payment details were included with the photograph.

Operation Christmas Child

We have supported the Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal for several years now. This year it has changed once again, but we can still support it. We will follow the organisation of the last 2 years in asking for each class to donate certain items, that will then be put together to create the shoe boxes. We would be very grateful for the following donations:

School staff - hat / scarf / gloves

Year 6 - colouring pencils/packet of crayons / small toy

Year 5 - small packets of wrapped sweets / small notebooks

Year 4 - toothbrush / soap

Year 3 - toothpaste/ comb

Year 2 - wash sponge / small cuddly toy

Year 1 - small cuddly toy/packet of felt tip pens

Reception - Hairbrush / small toy

Nursery - chocolate bar/ comb

Plus any empty shoe boxes you can spare!

and finally,

This will be the last paper copy of the bi weekly newsletter. From this point, you will receive a text informing you that the next newsletter is available for you to read and/or download on the school website, with the link to access it. This will make it much easier and quicker to get newsletters out to families. Also, please check the 'School Office' page and the calendar on the website regularly as plenty of information is put on there for you. The school website address is: www.pensbyprimary.org

Thank you,



Mrs. K Brown - Headteacher