



PENSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs K Brown

Wednesday 20th January 2016

Spring Term 2016 - Newsletter - Number 2

Dear families and children,

New Curriculum and Assessment meetings

Thank you to the 50 families who managed to come along to one of our 3 New Curriculum and Assessment meetings last week. Many parents commented on the hugely increased standards the New Curriculum places on the children from Reception up to year 6. This is something that all schools are expected to aim for and reach. The presentation and parents guide can be found on the school website on the 'School Office' and 'Curriculum' pages.

As part of the New Curriculum, our Mathematics Calculations policy has been updated. Staff are doing a final check of this updated policy and we will place it on the website for you to view on the 'Additional Policies' page. The staff will be holding class meetings next half term, to go through the maths expectations for their year group and take you through how we teach the methods in the Calculations Policy. Details of these meetings will be forwarded to you as soon as they are finalised.

Spring Term parents evenings

At the New Curriculum meetings, I explained that during the Spring term parents evenings you would be given a sample report, like the one you will be able to access for your child in March. It is really important that we share this sample report with you so that we can discuss the contents and help you through it. Parents evening appointments will be set up through the online TUCASI system again, early next week. As soon as they are set up, we will text you and ask you to make your appointments as soon as possible. The Spring term parents evenings are on Tuesday 9th February and Tuesday 23rd February.

Uniform Orders

A reminder that most uniform orders are made directly with the suppliers, Goodies. A link to Goodies can be found on the school website (go to 'Our School', then 'School Uniform'. If your child is registered for Free School Meals, their uniform is order made through the schools online payment system - TUCASI. For all pupils, ties and water bottles are ordered through TUCASI. - thank you.

Car park use

I must thank the vast majority of families who have kindly followed our system of not parking in the car park in the mornings, and use the drop off to do exactly that. These families are helping to keep all children safe and their thoughtfulness has not gone unnoticed. We are aware of less than a handful of families who are choosing not to do this and are placing the children at risk. Please be assured that this has not gone unnoticed and this will be addressed by both Pensby and Stanley staff and governors.

Improved Cycle facilities

The improvements to the cycle storage area have now been completed and the area can accommodate many more bicycles. At this time of year we have fewer children bringing bikes to school, but the summer months can see the area very full and congested. Hopefully this improvement will enable cycles to be stored more easily.



School Attendance and late arrival

Despite a few months of high levels of illness in the school, attendance has been excellent. Congratulations for getting your children to school so promptly and so often. We review pupil attendance every 3 weeks and we look for pupils who have attendance of 90% or less. Often there are good reasons for low attendance or a family may need a little support through a difficult time. Our aim is to keep families informed of attendance regularly and help them get their children in school so they can progress well. So, if Mrs Law or I contact you about your child's attendance, please let us help you to help your child.

Soup!

This Thursday (21st January), the kitchen are offering a small cup of soup and ice cream (not in the same cup!) to all the pupils in Pensby and Stanley for no charge. With this cold weather that will be a welcome offer I'm sure.

Basic Skills Quality Mark

Last week, the school was assessed against the Basic Skills Quality Mark for the third time since we opened. The assessment was carried out by an assessor who is also an OFSTED inspector. Once again we were successful and the full report can be found on the website on the 'Curriculum' page. The main points we really like are:

- *Pensby Primary is a happy and welcoming school which has at its heart the children in its care. There is a positive ethos which permeates the school and where all staff strive to ensure that all children achieve to the best of their potential in all areas of learning.*
- *The Headteacher, deputy headteacher and senior leaders provide a very clear focus and direction for all involved in the school, which is firmly based on all children achieving their potential in all areas of the curriculum.*
- *Intervention is carefully planned to meet individual needs and to equip children with the skills to confidently move forward. There are a wide range of interventions utilised to effectively support basic skills. The support of an outreach service and specifically trained staff supports children with particular barriers to learning as a result of dyslexia and dyscalculia.*
- *Governors have a self-evaluation and development committee which has a sharp focus on continuing to improve the teaching and learning across school. Governors are involved in monitoring and undertake activities such as learning walks, lesson observations, pupil voice and book scrutiny. As a result they have a good knowledge of the school and are able to check how well teaching is impacting positively on children's basic skills.*
- *The school has created an environment in which children take a pride. High quality displays both support children's learning with working walls and also celebrates their work in reading, writing and mathematics.*
- *Children are very positive about their school. They talked positively about the challenges they get in maths and the opportunities to learn about different ways of doing things. . They know that they can ask staff for help and support. The children know their targets and that they need to check their work to see what the teacher has said they need to do to improve. They talk with pride about their responsibilities as members of the School Council and are able to make decisions to improve their school, including improving the outside environment.*

All members of the school should feel very proud of its achievements and success which is based firmly on a collaborative and single minded determination to ensure that every child achieves their best.

and finally,

do check our website regularly for useful information - www.pensbyprimaryschool.org

Thank you,



Mrs. K Brown - Headteacher