



PENSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Greenbank Drive, Pensby, Wirral CH61 5UE

Telephone: 0151 348 4145 Fax: 0151 342 0240

Email: schooloffice@pensby-primary.wirral.sch.uk www.pensby-primary.wirral.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs K Brown

Tuesday 8th February 2016

Spring Term 2016 - Newsletter - Number 3

Dear families and children,

Parents Evenings and New Curriculum and Assessment meetings

Our Spring term parents evenings are today (Tuesday 9th February), and Tuesday 23rd February. If you did not make an appointment, you will need to contact the school office to make an appointment. During the parents evenings, you will be given a guide to the new online reporting system and the teacher will explain how to interpret your child's online report. In particular the teachers will explain how the more challenging new curriculum is affecting the children's progress and attainment outcomes. We are holding class maths meetings on Tuesday 1st March, to share with you the methods the New Curriculum demands of the children. At this meeting you will be given your login to the online reporting system. As the logins access personal data, we will not be able to send them home via the children, hence you will be given them when you attend the maths meetings. From 11th March you will then be able to log on to your child's online report.

Rocket Science

Many of you will know how passionate Mrs Spencer is about gardening! She spotted a competition that the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) were running and she entered our school....the competition is:

The RHS Campaign for School Gardening has partnered with the [UK Space Agency](#) to embark on an 'out of this world' educational project.

The project, Rocket Science, will give around half a million UK children the chance to learn how science in space contributes to our knowledge of life on earth, using the invaluable expertise of the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA) and RHS Science team.

Two kilograms of rocket seeds will shortly take off from Florida bound for the International Space Station as part of British ESA astronaut Tim Peake's six-month Principia mission.

After several months on board, the seeds will be sent back and will land in the Pacific Ocean in the spring of 2016. After they return to the UK, they will be packaged up with identical seeds that have stayed on earth. Participating schools will each receive two packets of 100 seeds to grow and compare, and a collection of fun and inspiring curriculum linked teaching resources and posters, tailored according to the age of your pupils.

Using these resources, we want pupils of all ages across the UK to embark on a voyage of discovery to see what growing plants in space can teach us about life on Earth and whether we can sustain human life in space through the production of our own food. Schools will be invited to input their results into a national online database so that results can be compared across all schools in the UK. The project is aimed at inspiring pupils to think scientifically and helping them to see the potential of future careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) and Horticulture.

And Mrs Spencer's competition entry paid off - we were chosen as one of the schools to have some seeds when they come back to earth! You can track our seeds (that are currently in space), on board the International Space Station (ISS) and will stay there until March. You can track the ISS online here:

<http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/#.VgLAf8tVhBc> and wave at the crew as it flies over the UK, or even your county!

Tim Peake is also now on board the ISS so do keep an eye on the news, Facebook and Twitter (@astro_timpeake) for regular updates from Tim himself.



You can watch a video of the rocket launch that delivered our seeds to the ISS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R7-gWKZZsq>

and Tim's message from space to schools across the UK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OgSJKqDRFk>

What an exciting time for our school - thank you Mrs Spencer!

PTA Valentines Disco

On Friday a text was sent to let you know about the PTA Valentines disco, this is on Thursday 11th February. Your child will need £1 entrance and some change for sweets and drinks. Reception, year 1 and year 2 need to bring their disco clothes to school and they will go straight to the disco from class. Their disco ends at 4.15pm. Years 3,4,5 and 6 have their disco at 4.30pm and it ends at 5.30pm. Children will not be allowed to walk home unless we have written permission from their parent/guardian.

Sainsburys

Sainsburys are once again running their vouchers for schools initiative and we are collecting these vouchers. We can use the vouchers to buy a variety of equipment for school, so please send yours in!

PTA meeting and purchase

The next PTA meeting is in school on Thursday 25th February. Final preparations are being made for their next event - Quizingo! This is a combination of a quiz and bingo. The event takes place on a Friday night - Friday 11th March. The event is a 'bring your own drink' event and the entrance cost will include entrance to the event, participation in the Quizingo and a meal of fish and chips or pie and chips! Further details will be sent home after half term - so put the date in your diary!

The PTA have a substantial amount of money that they want to use to buy playground equipment for the children. The children were asked in their online questionnaire, what they wanted and the PTA are now meeting with the children to make sure they fully understand what they want and buy the correct equipment. Over the coming months we will let you know how this is going and what to expect!

Stanley School Building Work

You may have noticed the dramatic changes on the field as the work on extending Stanley School has begun in earnest. The work is not affecting our school but it is interesting to watch. I will keep you updated on the progress of the build.

After schools clubs - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Details of next terms after school clubs delivered by our sports coaches (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays), can be found on the Newsletters page of the school website.

and finally,

School closes for the half term break this Friday 12th February and opens again on Monday 22nd February. Have a lovely half term break.

Thank you,



Mrs. K Brown
Headteacher