



PENSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs K Brown

Monday 9th May 2016

Summer Term 2016 - Newsletter - Number 2

Dear families and children,

School Uniform

Previously at this time of year, we have taken your orders for September school uniform. This is because the uniform companies become inundated at this time of year for orders, so processing and meeting orders is slower. Now that families order school uniform directly from our supplier, this falls to you. We recommend that your order to www.goodies.co.uk is made by the end of May in order to secure delivery before the summer holiday. Families who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) order their uniform through TUCASI - the office will check these orders. The same applies and these families need to order sooner than later to avoid the busy supply period. School ties and water bottles are ordered through TUCASI for everybody. If you need any help regarding uniform please contact the school office. A reminder that footwear needs to be black for all pupils please.

Pensby and Stanley

The extension at Stanley is taking shape quickly now and much of the steel work is in place. The meetings have been very positive, but the project is still about 6 to 7 weeks behind schedule. We are waiting to be shown plans of how the central playground area will be developed. That will be an exciting moment!

Defibrillator and First Aid training

You may like to know that this week, 12 of the staff received training to use the school defibrillator. All Wirral schools have a 'defib', provided by 'The Oliver King Foundation'. Details of this charity can be found at www.theoliverkingfoundation.co.uk. In addition to this, each year the staff of the school all undertaken First Aid at work training or refresher training.

Testing and SATS

There has been a lot of media coverage about the new curriculum and SATs testing for the children in year 2 and 6. Hopefully, it has not come as a surprise to you that the complaints are about the amount of testing and difficulty of the tests. As we explained in our meetings this year, the demands of the new curriculum have been raised and it is extremely challenging. All schools are 'in the same boat' and we are all working together to try our best to ensure we continue to deliver an interesting curriculum that enables our pupils not only to manage tests, but enables them to solve problems and approach whatever they do with confidence and determination. The year 6 children sit their tests this week and we wish them all the very best of luck. They are already showing us how determined they are!

2016 Race for Life and Year 6 Charity day

After the magnificent 'Race for Life' event last year, the children just won't let us miss it this year! We are doing this on Friday 27th May. The poster with full details is on the School Office page of the website. This year's event is being merged with year 6 Charity Day. The Race for Life event will take place in the morning and we hope that you will take the sponsor forms coming home this week and get lots of sponsors! In the afternoon the Charity Day event will be run by year 6 - but for free - as a thank you to



the children with their efforts in getting sponsors and raising money for Cancer Research. There will also be a stall selling Cancer Research fund raising items - pencils, bracelets, pens etc. On the poster there are details of how to donate your sponsor money if you wish to go through the 'Just Giving' website. You may notice that this 'Just Giving' page is linked to Thingwall Primary School as we are joining together (as we often do!) to run this event over the next few weeks.. It is always fantastic to work with another school in our cluster and our joint working with Thingwall is always a joy. It should be a fabulous day, full of fun and should raise a superb amount for Cancer Research.

Spelling Bee and Football!!

On Wednesday 27th April, two of our children (one from year 6 and one from year 5) travelled to Thingwall Primary School to compete in an inter schools 'Spelling Bee' competition. The children did so well and remained calm and collected in the face of much pressure. We didn't win - a tie break between Irby and Barnston saw Irby the winners! But our children represented the school and themselves exceptionally well!! The next inter schools competition is year 5 football. This will take place in June at Heswall Primary and the team will be chosen by Mrs Gilleece and Miss Grant after selection trials! Get some training in now year 5!



11+ arrangements in Wirral from September 2016

The arrangements for 11+ testing in Wirral have changed this year. Headteacher's were briefed last week on the new arrangements that the current year 5 children will be subject to. The role of primary schools is now very limited in these tests. All we are required to do is read to the children an information book. This will take no more than a hour. The tests are then administered in the school and once the test has been completed the primary schools have no more involvement in the process. Primary Schools have been told to point out that the company who develops the tests, does not produce ANY online materials so making the tests impossible to tutor to. The tests are based on the year 5 curriculum and test the child's understanding and application of knowledge and skills. The best preparation parents can give their child is to:

- Encourage your child to do their homework thoroughly
- Discuss any errors in homework and work
- Read widely with your child and discuss the content
- Ensure your child is able to work independently.

The familiarisation booklet is on the school website with this newsletter and parents can go through this with their child at any time. The current year 5 will receive some more information about the 11+ process at a meeting on Tuesday May 17th at 7pm in school.

and finally,

It is brilliant to see the children in school with sun hats, sun cream, water bottles and sun glasses this week. Even the reception children know how to apply their sun cream. Thank you for helping keep your child 'sun safe'.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Brown', written in a cursive style.

Mrs. K Brown - Headteacher