



PENSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 10th January 2017

Spring Term 2017 - Newsletter - Number 1

Dear families and children,

Welcome back!

Welcome back to the new school term. I hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas break. We have come back to school raring to go but the season of illness is upon us with lots of illness. A reminder that if your child vomits or has diarrhoea, they must stay off school for 48 hours to ensure the illness is contained. If your child is given antibiotics or other prescribed medication, we can administer one dose per day to them. Please fill in a [permission-for-medicines-administration-form](#).

Christmas Events

The last few weeks of the Autumn term were very busy, but wonderful too. Many events were packed into this time, that made Christmas thoroughly enjoyable and special to the children. I know that you would want me to thank the PTA and staff of the school, for all their hard work in putting on these events. I also know that the staff and PTA would like to thank all of you for your support, your lovely Christmas messages and for joining in the fun!

Swimming - wow!

We have been running our curriculum swimming lessons through Keith Arnold Swim schools, for 3 years now. Each year, every class is given the opportunity to swim in very small groups with instructors in the pool. As well as wanting the children to swim by the time they leave us in year 6, we believe another most important aspect is to dispel any fears of swimming, that children may have, and to ensure enthusiastic and confident participation.

National data shows that on average the target of year 6 children swimming 25 metres unaided is 75%. In our school, so far this year 90% of year children reached this target and 97% of year 5 children reached it. This is a phenomenal achievement and shows that we have a good programme in place. This is something we are all very, very proud of.

Science Under the Stars

On Thursday 26th January, a very special event is taking place - 'Science Under the Stars'. This is an event for the 6 collaboration schools of who we are part (Gayton, Heswall, Irby, Barnston and Thingwall). It takes place from 4pm to 6pm on Thursday 26th January and there are many, many workshops and exciting things for the children and their families to do. So far there are 30 companies and organisations that will be there are. Just a few of them are:

Chester Zoo, Martin Mere, Sphere Science, Wirral Rangers, Stardome Planetarium, Lingham Books, Wirral Fire Service, Daresbury Labs, Zoolab, Raptop Aid, Cheshire and Wirral Wildlife Trust, Planet Heswall, Techniquet, Impossible Arts, Lumin8, Liverpool Astronomical Society, Inspiring Science, Eco Explorer, Edge Hill University and ... The European Space Agency!!!!



Visitors to the event will be able to take part in hands on activities provided by these exhibitors and see many interesting things including exotic animals and birds.

All 6 schools are also creating a very special film that will be shown throughout the event - our year 1 children are going to be astronauts!

Two days before the event, a lantern making event is being held at Heswall Primary, to prepare lanterns for the Eco- Alleyway, which all children from the six cluster schools are invited to attend with an accompanying parent. The flyer with instructions of how to attend this can be downloaded under this newsletter.

This is an event not to be missed and I certainly don't think it will be repeated for very, very many years. It is quite a feat to organise and to get the caliber of exhibitors in the list is incredible! So do go along after school on 26th and enjoy it!

Snow and ice!!

We have been told that snow may hit Wirral later in the week. If this affects school in any way, we will text you. Hopefully it will just be a very pretty flurry and not an avalanche! Icy weather can also cause many issues for schools. When ice occurs the site staff will salt within the school site. They are not allowed to salt the pavements and roads outside the site, so please be very cautious when travelling to school on foot or in vehicles if it is icy.

Spring term Clubs

These were detailed in the Pensby Post at the end of last term. Most start next week so please get your club request forms into the school office by Thursday 12th January. Some staff led clubs have limited places and in this case, we will text you to let you know if your child has a place.

Attendance

Our attendance officer, Mrs Law, sadly leaves us on Friday 13th January. She has worked in Pensby Primary for 8 years and before that in Pensby Infant school for many years. We are very sad to say goodbye but wish her all the best in this new phase in her life. Miss Lloyd-Jones will be taking over the role of Attendance officer as well as remaining manager of Children's Club. Miss Lloyd-Jones is a well-established member of staff and I am sure she will continue to be very successful in this role.

and finally,

Today and tomorrow, the benches that were purchased by the PTA for the children are being fixed into place. They will finally have seating on the top playground so they can watch team games being played. They will also have a new 'buddy' bench in the central playground. Thank you to the PTA!

Thank you,



Mrs. K Brown - Headteacher