



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

Thursday 27th April 2017

Summer Term 2017 - Newsletter - Number 1

Dear families and children,

It seems like such a long time since I've written a newsletter, due to the Easter break. I would normally write one in the week we return to school, but I wanted to wait until the OFSTED report was released publically. That has taken some time, but today I have been given permission from OFSTED to share it with you. It is under this newsletter on the website.

Primary schools are delivering the hardest, most challenging curriculum ever to their children and OFSTED inspections are also the most challenging they have ever been - this shows in the number of schools nationally that are 'downgraded' at inspection. Inspection reports have also changed with an even stricter quality assurance process from OFSTED than ensures reporting is kept to specific language and pattern / description approved. Highlights from the report include:

- *Senior leaders have created a friendly and well-ordered environment, where pupils feel safe and welcome. There is a real sense that staff are keen to do their best for their pupils. In conversations with inspectors, pupils indicated that staff look after them well and make them feel safe, typically making comments such as, 'The teachers protect us.'*
- *Senior leaders have thorough systems in place for checking on the suitability of staff. There are strong security systems in place that ensure that visitors are checked before they enter the premises and understand the expectations around safeguarding while they are on the site.*
- *There is a strong culture of safeguarding in the school. Pupils know how to keep themselves safe and understand the risks associated with, for instance, the internet. Staff are knowledgeable about signs of abuse and are thoroughly familiar with the school's reporting procedures.*
- *Teachers establish positive relationships with their pupils and expect good behaviour. Pupils respond well to their teachers, and their good attitudes to learning contribute strongly to the good progress they make, especially in English and mathematics.*
- *Parents are very supportive of the school and have a positive view of the work of staff and leaders. They appreciate the range of extra-curricular activities available and regard staff as friendly and approachable. They say that leaders manage transition between different year groups well, so that their children know what to expect and are able to begin each new year in a good frame of mind. They typically describe the school as 'fantastic' and 'excellent', and know that their children are safe and teachers look after them well.*
- *In the large majority of cases, teachers plan lessons well and make sure that pupils acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need. They ensure that pupils remain on task and they retain their interest well. For example, in mathematics, teachers regularly challenge pupils,*



including the most able and those who are disadvantageded, by asking questions in written feedback that encourage pupils to explain their reasoning.

- *Teachers deploy teaching assistants effectively. Teaching assistants work with pupils who have identified needs or they support groups of pupils who are less able. They ask apt questions, challenging appropriately and allowing pupils to formulate their own responses.*
- *Pupils are confident and articulate. They showed a willingness to share their thoughts and their work with inspectors.*
- *They know about different types of bullying, including homophobic and racist. They say that bullying rarely happens, but that teachers tackle any problems effectively.*
- *The large majority of current pupils make good progress from their starting points in a variety of subjects, including mathematics and English, and pupils effectively acquire the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills. In writing in Year 6, for example, pupils show good development of more advanced sentence structure and adopt an engaging style, using phrasing such as, 'an incident that happened some five years ago, so terrifying I still remember it today'.*

As with all schools we have areas to address but it is reassuring that we were already aware of these and working on them! Indeed, no school (or home!) is perfect but the best strive to improve what needs improving and celebrate what needs celebrating!! We are certainly delighted that we remain a 'GOOD' school and we will continue to do what we have always done - our very best for the children!

1st aid course for parents/carers

A reminder that we are very lucky to have secured free first aid training for parents/carers in our school. This takes place on Thursday 18th May. The course is aimed at any parents wanting to gain a basic understanding of paediatric first aid. The eligibility for our course is a Wirral resident aged 19 or over and currently unemployed, ***although apparently if you are not working full time we can consider you*** for a place. The course lasts about 3 hours. There are only 12 places so they will be offered on a first come first served basis. Please contact the school office to request a place.

Online reports - logins

It is wonderful to see most families now logging on SPTO to get information about how their child is doing in school. This is a system that we will constantly update and work to improve to get more and more information to you. A reminder that any new login requests now incur a small charge to cover costs. If you have any trouble logging in, please contact the school office for help.

PTA meeting

Our next PTA meeting next week on Thursday 4th May at 7.00pm in the school. The main agenda item is the summer fair so please come along as we need lots of help for this event.

Polling station

The school is used by the Local Authority as a polling station. There are two elections this year when this will be required - Thursday 4th May (local councillor elections) and the school will operate as usual on this day. The general election on Thursday 8th June is confirmed and as we anticipate a very large turnout the school will be closed to pupils that day.

Sainsbury's School vouchers

Thank you for your school vouchers so far. The school voucher giveaway ends at the end of June. We use these to play playground equipment for the children so they are very useful.

Summer at last?

Despite the chilly mornings, it is lovely see the summer uniform the children are wearing. Summer dresses/skirts/tops can be yellow or red in any pattern - stripes, checks etc. I have noticed some very bright shoes and trainers - footwear should be black for all children. Please bear in mind the strengthening sun and it would be great to see the children applying their own sun cream (on those rare days it is needed!). All children should have sun cream in the bag, labelled with their name and they need to apply it themselves so home practice would be a good move!

School Uniform Orders

It's the time of year when people think about ordering school uniform for September. The supplier gets very busy from May onwards and delivery can take up to 6 weeks. 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 to ensure they are made for those pupils entitled the discount only. 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.

Nursery places/ 30 hours

Our Nursery is exceptionally full and we only have a few afternoon places at the moment. Nursery numbers appear to be similar for next year so places will quickly be filled. If you have a child who is due to start Nursery or know someone who does, I urge you to apply for a place as soon as possible as places cannot be guaranteed. The governors are meeting to discuss what 30 hour provision we may offer from September - more information will be sent home as soon as decisions are made.

Events this half term

Bank Holiday	Monday 1 st May	School closed
PTA meeting	Thursday 4 th May	7.00pm in Staff room
School used as polling station	Thursday 4 th May	OPEN TO PUPILS ALL DAY
Year 6 SATs week	Week of 8 th May	All week
Parent/carer first aid training	Thursday 18 th May	9.00am to lunchtime
End of year school photographs - wash hair!	Tuesday 23 rd May	Morning
School closes for half term	Friday 26 th May	3.30pm

Holidays in term time

Following the recent end to the Isle of Wight case, Wirral have confirmed that following this, headteachers should continue to only authorise holidays in term time for extenuating circumstances. If families take children on holiday in term time without school authorisation, the following may occur:

Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate if:

- Attendance is below 90% with at least 10 days lost due to unauthorised absence. These do not need to be consecutive.
- 5 days or more unauthorised absence due to holidays in term time.

- Pupils stopped on Police Truancy Sweeps in some circumstances, for example, if this is repeated.
- The presence of an excluded child in a public place at any time during school hours in that child's first five days of a school exclusion without good reason.
- A pupil arrives late after the registers are closed (using a code U) on 10 or more separate occasions."

This means that if a child is taken on holiday without permission for 5 days or more headteachers should trigger the issue of Warning Letter or a Fixed Penalty Notice regardless of the child's overall attendance. In this school, late arrival after the registers have closed is 9.10am.

Use of the school Drop off zone

You may have noticed me and other staff patrolling the drop off zone - this is because some families are choosing to park in this zone. This is not acceptable and causes a backup of traffic, which blocks the road and makes it very difficult for other children and their families to cross the road into the site safely. If you are using the drop off your vehicle should be there for a very short time and the driver should not leave the vehicle to walk any children into school. If you wish to walk your child into school, you need to park your vehicle off the school site.

and finally,

Thank you for your support, not just during our inspection but over the past 8 years we have been open! Pensby Primary is a wonderful school and to be here is such a joy.

Thank you,



Mrs. K Brown - Headteacher