



Thursday 30th January 2020

Newsletter Number 2 – spring term 2020

Dear families,

Parent communication meeting

Last week our Parent Communication meeting was held in school. It was a small turnout to represent the views of families but we managed to cover a lot and it was useful. The notes of the meeting are below.

- **Online payment system** – The admin team had looked into adding Paypal to Parent Mail. Sadly this carries a significant cost for the school and so is not cost effective. The minimum payment issue from the last meeting seems to be resolved.
- **Seesaw** – This is still going well. Mrs Brown explained that would be costly for the school for set up the system to allow families to video clips from home as a larger server capacity would need to be funded. Parents stated they would like to upload photographs e.g. of their children doing a specific homework task. Mrs Brown will look into this again.
- **ACTION** – look into the possibility of uploading photographs from home – KB to do
- **New assessment tool** – Classroom monitor. This is now running. Kate explained how the ability to produce reports was now open to staff. This will enable us to give simple reports to parents. More information will be sent about this in due course as staff need to learn this part of the system first.
- **Calendar/planner** – It was understood that an open calendar on the school website could put pupils at risk as members of the public would know where they are. It was asked if a class calendar and school calendar could be used on Seesaw or Parent Mail. Mrs Brown will look into this.
- **ACTION** – research the best calendar/planner option for families – KB to do
- **New website** – Kate informed all that the new website is under development. This is slow!
- **Twitter** – The new school Twitter account @PensbySchool is continuing to do well.
- **Reading** – Some concern shared about not getting any feedback on the reading going on in school – please can we have this? Mrs Brown explained how the whole curriculum is being redeveloped. This was an exciting discussion. Mrs Brown explained that a vast amount of reading development work had been undertaken by Miss Grant and she is now almost completed this. Information could be shared with families at the next parents evening.
- **ACTION** – KB to speak to Miss Grant and arrange for reading information to go to families
- **Governors** – KB asked if families understood the role of governors. A discussion was held. It was agreed there was a need to improve this – on reflection it was felt to allocate a governor to each class would not be effective. Instead, we could follow the model used in Stanley, that at the family breakfast, governors come along and available for conversation
- **ACTION** – to take this proposal to governors – KB to do
- **New email** – some parents are emailing in to the school office and not getting a response – KB explained school policy was to respond within 24 hours. She will raise this with the admin team.
- **ACTION** – KB to speak to office staff about parent emails and response times
- **Absence reporting on parent mail** – parents asked if it was possible to report pupil absence through Parent Mail.

- **ACTION** – KB to see if this facility could be utilized on Parent mail

This terms events and PTA meetings

A reminder that the next PTA meeting is today **Thursday 30th January at 9.00am and at 6.00pm**. The 9.00am meeting will have a crèche available for younger children. We'd really like a good turnout at both meetings so we can talk about ideas for this term and the summer term and think about the goals for the PTA as we move forwards.

If you missed the 9.00am meeting please come along to the 6pm meeting.

So far this term, the PTA and I have arranged the following events:

Friday 31 st January	year 4 cake sale
Friday 7 th February	year 3 cake sale
Friday 14 th February	year 2 cake sale
HALF TERM BREAK	
Friday 28 th February	year 1 cake sale
Friday 6 th March	year EYFS cake sale

At the meeting on Thursday, dates for further events will be discussed. These include possible children's bingo, an Easter egg hunt and other exciting events.

Cricket offer

The school has been asked to let families know of an offer from Irby Cricket Club. They have introduced a new initiative this year and are offering 3 free sessions of cricket coaching to children in school years 5 and 6. The sessions are an hour long, will start on 4th February at 6pm and are being held in the sports hall at Birkenhead School. The sessions will use a softball and mix teaching cricket skills (batting, bowling, fielding) with fun related games. Sessions will be run by DBS cleared, qualified coaches and Irby CC is Clubmark accredited by the England & Wales Cricket Board.

www.irbycricketclub.com
 Irby Cricket Club
 Mill Hill Road
 Irby
 Wirral CH61 4QX

**Try FREE
 junior cricket
 training sessions
 for children in school years 5 to 9
 with Irby CC**

Follow us on Twitter:
 @IrbyJuniors

At Birkenhead School
 Tuesday 4th, 11th & 18th Feb
 6 to 7pm

ECB Clubmark accredited
 Junior teams from under
 9s to under 17s

**NO EQUIPMENT OR
 EXPERIENCE NEEDED**

Please contact **Steve Renshaw** on **07967 167654** for details or to book

Spring term Parent/Carer meetings

Our Spring term parents/carers meetings will be held on Thursday 27th February 8.30am to 9.30am, and from 1.30pm to 5.30pm. Prior to this you are invited to a book drop in that you can attend as a family with your child, taking time to look at the work they have done in school this year on Tuesday 11th February 3.30 to 5.30pm.

At the meetings on Thursday 27th February you will receive information about the huge overhaul of the reading curriculum in school, as part of our overall curriculum improvement work. The school office will email you and let you know when you can book your appointment slot.

At the end of the term, we are hoping to send you a short report from our new assessment system, Classroom Monitor (as detailed in the parent communication minutes in this newsletter). We appreciate that many families often logged onto SPTO to look at assessment information and this new short report will give you similar information. With any new system, staff are spending time to get to know this system in order to ensure the information they produce for you is relevant,

School lottery

We have many new families, who may not know that we have a school lottery. This helps to raise much needed funds for the school. It is a great way to 'do your bit' if you can't or don't feel comfortable attending PTA meetings or helping on at events. Details of this great scheme are below:

Supporting

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Pensby Primary School

SHAPE UP YOUR FAMILY!

Buy A Lottery Ticket This Half-Term & WIN A Family FITBIT BUNDLE

- WIN a FITBIT Bundle (FITBIT Inspire HR + Ace 2 Kid's Fitness Tracker)
- Support your local school
- Play for £1 per week
- Win up to £25,000

To start supporting, visit:
yourschoollottery.co.uk
and search for: **Pensby**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Sign up before 22nd February 2020
Terms and conditions apply – see website.

Quite a few families have signed up but not completed their details. The school office will email out to those families to remind them. Please sign up!

Website

The launch of our new school website is fast approaching. Information from the old site is currently being transferred over to this new site. In the meantime, we will not be adding any information to the old website and we will email all information to you instead. We are excited!

And finally,

A reminder that the school office email has changed to schooloffice@pensbyprimaryschool.org We are in the process of getting this updated on school documents.

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

Mrs K. Brown, Headteacher