



Wednesday 12th February 2020

Newsletter Number 3 – spring term 2020

Dear families,

PTA meeting

Our PTA meetings last week went very well and many ideas were discussed and agreed. They include:

- A donation to help the school purchase matting for underneath the new fire pit gazebo, so that the area is mud free and can be easily used all year round by the children. This will cost about £2000.
- A donation to the school of £1500, to purchase 'Big Maths' which every child in the school can then access.
- A donation of £2000 to the school so that new library books can be purchased
- That Nursery children are given a free visit in the summer term, as they did not go the zoo.
- A Spring term disco is organised. It will not be possible to hold this before half term. The disco is to be held on Thursday 12th March – 3.30 to 4.15 for EYFS and KS1 and 4.30 to 5.30 for KS2. Cost to be confirmed.
- Wednesday 18th March will be Children's Bingo Night. The children can stay in school and enjoy bingo games. The cost will include food and will be confirmed nearer the time.
- Monday 30th March – Commando Joe/PTA Easter Egg hunt – an egg for all children, plus lots of fun! Cost to be confirmed.
- Friday 27th March – PTA Easter Colouring competition to be sent home. There will be a prize per class with winners announced on 3rd April.
- Friday 3rd April – final treat of the term, PTA dount/biscuit decorating. Cost to be confirmed.

An email will be sent to you after half term to confirm costs and how you book a place for your child.

Also planned is a Pensby/Stanley Summer Festival for families – "STANBY FEST"!!! The provisional date is Saturday 4th July, with Saturday 11th July as a back up date if the weather is poor! Families will be able to either come for the evening or stay and camp on the school field overnight. There will be all sorts of entertainment planned. More details to follow. Also planned for Christmas is a joint Stanley/Pensby Christmas Craft fair aimed at families to enjoy.

To organise these last two events we will need more of you to come to the next meeting. Sharing small jobs (that can often be done at home) will be the key to getting these amazing events up and running. Please, come to one of the two meetings on the 12th March – **WE NEED MORE HELP!!!**

The next PTA meeting is at 9.00am and 6.00pm on 12th March in school.

Spring term Parent/Carer meetings

A reminder that 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. The book drop in was yesterday. If you were not able to attend the book drop in, please let the school office know and this can be arranged for you during your parents evening appointment.

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.

Seesaw

We are delighted with the success of Seesaw and how much families are using it, to see what their children are doing in school. The purpose of Seesaw is to share what is going on in school and allow for whole class messages. With 30 children (often more) in each class, teachers have been instructed that it is not possible to respond to individual messages from parents about day to day class events. If you have any questions about class events, or wish to share any general messages about your child, please do so through the usual channels of either contacting the school office, or chatting to the staff on the gate in the morning, or requesting a meeting or phone call after school. Please be aware, that staff will not pick up messages on Seesaw quickly due to their teaching commitments.

Car bumper sticker competition

As a group of schools we have been lucky enough to secure funds from 'Wirral Together', courtesy of Mike Collins (local councillor for the Thingwall/Pensby ward).

We are holding a car bumper sticker competition where we will invite children from all identified schools to design a car bumper sticker asking grown-ups to remember to park sensibly, in particular around our schools. Each school will identify winning entries from each year group and all finalists will then be judged by Councillor Collins, PCSO Alison Inman and representatives from Wirral's School Crossing Patrol Team. Following the judging, a first, second and third prize will be awarded. Prizes and certificates will be given to those lucky winners and the overall first prize will be made into a car bumper sticker for every family in the identified schools.

Key Dates:

- Closing Date for competition entries – **Friday 28th February**
- **Wednesday 4th March** – Winning year group entries will be dropped off at Thingwall Primary
- **Friday 6th March** – Judging process
- **Friday 13th March** – Overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners will be announced

The entry form (below) is embedded in this document and a paper copy will also be sent home – this would be a good half term activity!



car bumper sticker
parking competition (:

Big Reading Week!

We are holding a 'Big Reading' week in school throughout the week of 2nd March. Many activities are planned for the children across the school to enjoy reading. On Friday 6th March we celebrate world book day by having a 'slippers and books day'. Children can bring a teddy and their slippers on the Friday and enjoy reading. The staff will be bringing their favourite books to share with the children too.

Attendance

Wirral has been working hard to improve the clarity of the attendance policy schools should follow. The policy is for **ALL** Wirral schools and states:

Holidays in Term Time

In line with Government guidance, leave of absence in term time will only be considered in the most exceptional of circumstances. The principles for defining exceptional are: rare, significant, unavoidable and short, with unavoidable meaning an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

*Taking holidays in term time will affect your child's education and parents are discouraged from withdrawing their child from school during term time and we ask all parents to consider that **that any savings you may make by taking a holiday in school time are offset by the cost to your child's education.***

There is no automatic entitlement in law to a leave of absence in school time to go on holiday.

All applications for leave of absence must be made in advance on the leave of absence request form which can be obtained from the school office or found in the appendices of this policy.

Any period of leave taken without the agreement of the school, or in excess of that agreed, will be classed as unauthorised and may attract sanctions such as an Education Penalty Notice.

The new Attendance Officers in Wirral are regularly checking that all schools follow the new policy to the letter and in particular any holidays taken in term time without permission, must be referred to them. If you request a holiday in term time, you will receive a phone from the school office to inform you as to whether it is to be approved or not and what will happen as a result of that decision. Please be clear, that staff making the phone call are following Wirral procedures. A copy of the attendance policy is available from school and will be on our new school website shortly.

Lost property

The lost property box is overflowing with lovely items abandoned by children! We will be sorted through the box and displaying any unnamed items on a table in the hall during the parents meetings on 27th February. After this date, any remaining items will be discarded.

Blue Planet Aquarium

Our Coast 2 Country artwork is currently on display at the Blue Planet Aquarium in Cheshire Oaks. They have sent this message to our Federation schools:

As a thank you to every school who have given us the artwork which has been exhibited throughout December and until now, we'd like to give all of the pupils of all of the schools an exclusive offer.

Throughout half term week any pupil and siblings, from Heswall, Barnston, Irby, Pensby, Thingwall and Gayton schools will be admitted for just £1 per child. They must be accompanied by an adult who will pay at the door. This will give the chance for many of the children to see the artwork they have created, prior to us taking it down before our next exhibition in that space from the 24th.

This is a fantastic offer – just mention the school when you arrive!

And finally,

School closes for the half term break on Friday 14th February. We reopen on Monday 24th February. Have a lovely break!



Mrs K. Brown, Headteacher