



Tuesday 16th June 2020

Newsletter Number 2 – Summer Term 2020

Dear families,

Pandemic Effect Update

As this pandemic continues and we all adjust to the ever changing messages and guidelines, I think it's important to update you as to how this affects school as well as home.

It is very difficult for families to have their children at home and home school them. The benefits of face to face teaching are now understood more than ever, as is the need for social interaction for our young children. The days when we are all back in school cannot come quickly enough. We know that many children and staff are struggling with not being in school. Our natural teaching instinct is to help, but then we have the barriers of this pandemic that resist that so much.

We are incredibly lucky to have Seesaw as an online tool and this has proved to be invaluable for staff and families. It has been lovely to keep in touch via this platform as well as try to provide the best home learning opportunities we can. The downside has been that for teachers to operate this effectively has meant they have been working for at least 6 days a week, as well as long into the evenings, since lockdown began. They chose to do this – it was not required of them. They are totally exhausted and I do worry about them taking on so much for such a long time. How lucky our children are to have these staff.

Our classrooms have 3 doorways and to meet social distancing requirements we have to keep a path clear of 2m to each doorway. Each class has 2 members of staff assigned to it and those staff must adhere to the 2m social distancing requirements as well. This means that, although our classrooms are very generous, we can only fit a maximum of 12 pupils in each class alongside the staff. This is frustrating as it limits us to wider opening of the school. We have 76 children currently back at school (and it is utterly joyful to hear them again) with at least 10 due back next week. This is taking us very close to our capacity with the social distancing measures. Each time new children come back we want to help them settle into the new routines as quickly as possible and as easily as possible, which is why we do not admit new pupils daily.

Over the past 2 weeks, the teachers have continued with the full online support of Seesaw. Nationally schools were recommended to move to BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy lessons to enable staff to teach those children returning to school and allow families to still do some home learning. This would have totally split the experiences of those pupils in school and those still at home. The staff here wanted to try to keep all their pupils together, by continuing with our Seesaw lessons wherever possible. They also wanted to keep in touch with families and not lose that connection. Although their decision was right and I applauded it, the reality is it has created them additional work again. This is because in school, they are quite rightly reacting to the children's needs in class and naturally additional teaching opportunities arise, that they seize, but they are still delivering online lessons to the children at home. They have an impossible

task. Thankfully the vast majority of our families realise this and their kind words and understanding have been very much appreciated by the staff.

I will have to monitor my staff well-being carefully, as I am concerned at the impact their workload is having. We forget that they are keyworkers too, with their own families. They are doing their best in totally unprecedented circumstances beyond their control. I will be making more of an effort to thank them!

September!

How I wish I could see into the future! I am very hopeful that September may see a 'normal' school experience for the children. But the reality is I just don't know!

This uncertainty will be in your thoughts as well. You may be concerned about ordering new school uniform from the suppliers and I totally understand that. If schools reopen in September and your child does not have full uniform, we would support you with that, knowing it may take a few days to arrive. Please try not to worry too much about this if it happens.

What I do know is that in the academic year 2020/21, classroom teachers will remain in the classes they are in now. Support staffing will largely remain in the same classes with some movement where required. This information may help you support your child with transition:

Year 6 – Mrs Gilleece

Year 5 – Mrs Wright

Year 4 – Mrs Toal

Year 3 – Miss Grant

Year 2 – Mr Klausen

Year 1 – Mrs Beggs (4 days) Mrs Williams (1 day)

Reception – Mrs Embery

Nursery – Mrs Sibthorp (4 days) Mrs Williams (1 day)

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading challenge will be available online this year at www.silysquad.org.uk, With the challenge being online, books read do not necessarily need to be physical library books.

The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays, providing lots of fun as well as preventing the summer reading 'dip'. This year, the Summer Reading Challenge's Silly Squad will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into all sorts of funny books!

The Summer Reading Challenge website is free to access and features games, quizzes and downloadable activities that incentivise and encourage children to take part in reading related activities. Although public library buildings are closed, libraries will continue to deliver the Challenge through virtual services and e-learning platforms.

Wirral libraries social media channels are;

www.facebook.com/WirralLibraries and <https://twitter.com/WirralLibraries>

Wirral Young Snappers

Another library event is the 'Wirral Young Snappers'. This is a request for photographs during the Covid-19 situation from under 19's. The photographs have been posted on the libraries social media and will continue to be posted. Hopefully when the libraries reopen and it is safe they will be part of an exhibition in one of Wirral's libraries. The response so far has been fantastic and entries are still open. Wirral libraries facebook and twitter pages (see links above) have some of the images already entered.

If you would like to submit a photograph please email it to; makeitinlibraries@wirral.gov.uk

Holiday dates 2020/21

A reminder the holiday dates for the academic year 2020 to 2021 are now on our website.

And finally,

Thank you for avoiding visiting the school office at this time. A reminder that you can contact the admin team via the school email or call them. The office is currently usually staffed from 8.30am to 3.40pm. However, due to social distancing less admin staff are permitted in the office and will be elsewhere in the school from time to time, so please be patient if your call goes to voicemail.

Keep safe, keep well,



Mrs. K Brown
Headteacher