



Monday 8th March 2021

Newsletter Number 5 – Spring Term 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to you all – it is amazing to all be together again. The buzz we have missed is back in the school!!

Arrival and departure

It was so good to see the children walking next to their adults this morning. This is what we need to see every day, so thank you for keeping them close to your side. The queue to get into the gates at 8.40am was far too long and this made it very difficult for families to keep a 2 metre gap. The 2 metre gap is very important so I urge you to arrive shortly after 8.40am – the gate will not be opened until this time!!! As I detailed in the last newsletter:

*The school gate will be unlocked at **8.40am** and locked at **9.00am**. You can arrive at any time within this time slot – but the gate will be locked promptly at 9.00am so you should factor this into your arrival time. You will walk your child to their outside classroom door and they will enter their classroom. There are signs on the playground indicating where adults must stop.*

Handy hint – do not arrive before 8.40am as this is a popular time and often there is a queue at the gate!

If you arrive after 9.00am you will need to wait at the gate until the classroom staff can arrange for someone to come and open it. This may mean you will be waiting for some time so prompt arrival at school is essential.

*At the end of the day the gates will be opened at **3.10pm** and locked at **3.30pm**. Again, you can come and collect your child at any point in that slot, walking to their classroom door to collect them. The gate will be locked promptly at 3.30pm so you should factor this into your arrival time.*

If you arrive after 3.30pm you will need to wait at the gate until the classroom staff can arrange for someone to come and open it. This may mean you will be waiting for some time so prompt arrival at school is essential.

Handy hint – do not arrive before 3.10pm as this is a popular time and often there is a queue at the gate!

Water bottles and carton drinks

Every child continues to have their own cup in the classroom and can have a drink of water when they need it. This means that there is no need to send in a water bottle with your child. Additionally this helps reduce the risks associated with bringing items into school during this phase of our COVID management.

Please ensure that lunchboxes just have food in them and no bottles or drink containers. We hope that as the national picture improves and more of our staff receive their vaccinations, that this can change.

New wider COVID symptoms

A further reminder that in our letter of the 9th February and newsletter of 25th February, we informed you of the following:

The three main symptoms of COVID-19 are a high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of smell or taste. If you experience any of these symptoms you should self-isolate and get tested. But there is also a wider set of symptoms which people have also been testing positive with.

They include:

- Diarrhoea
- A persistent headache
- Fever and chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

If you or your child have any of these wider symptoms, you should get a test at one of Wirral's symptoms-only testing sites and then self-isolate if your result is positive. If your child displays any of these symptoms in school you will be asked to collect them promptly and take them to be tested.

Walk-in slots are available at our symptoms-only testing centres in Birkenhead, Bebington, Liscard and Heswall but we recommend you book to guarantee a timeslot at www.wirral.gov.uk/test or by calling **119.**

We also have symptoms-only mobile testing by appointment only at:

- **West Kirby Concourse on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 February 10am to 3pm**
- **Europa Leisure Centre on Sunday 7, Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 February 10am to 3pm**

Book a symptoms-only test at our mobile testing centres via www.wirral.gov.uk/test

If you test positive at one of our symptoms-only testing centres you must self-isolate for 10 days. You will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to identify any close contacts who also may need to self-isolate to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Guidance and support on self-isolation can be found here:

www.wirral.gov.uk/covidpayment

Further support is also available from Wirral Infobank at: www.wirralinfobank.co.uk

School Holiday dates 2021 to 2022

The proposed school holiday dates, including training days for 2021/22, are now on the school calendar. Follow the link:

<https://pensbyprimaryschool.org/term-dates/>

Holiday Requests

A reminder that school holidays requests cannot be approved in term time. Holiday leave may be granted in exceptional 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 and proof of these elements would need to be obtained. The circumstance of 'COVID' would not meet this criteria. With many children now having lost almost a year of their education, it is more essential than ever that they are in school and given their full opportunity to learn.

Wirral SEND Snapshot update

All families of the school will have received an email informing them that this newsletter is available on the school website and the email will have also contained a document – "Wirral SEND Snapshot". This is a very detailed document and gives families a lot of information about SEND services for children and young adults in our borough. For example, the edition emailed to you gives information and contacts for the Wirral Health and Well Being Service, Autism Together Child and Family Service, CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and Crisis Support as well as many other services. This document is well worth a read!

And finally,

Please check that we have your up to date contact details. If anything has changed you can email this to the school office email address.



Mrs K Brown
Headteacher