



16th July 2021

Newsletter Number 7 – Summer Term 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few months. We can only hope that September will be more in line with what we would call 'normal' school! For now, this update takes you through what things should look like over the coming weeks in school.

Advice for keeping Safe over the summer

Wirral have produced this leaflet with lots of helpful advice;

Summer starts here...

Testing, testing...
Don't forget to keep up your twice weekly COVID-19 testing, if you're aged 11+. Collect test kits from wirral.gov.uk/mobiletesting

Holiday Activity Fund
Find out more about holiday activities available this summer. edsential.com/holidayactivityfund2021

Life's a beach
We all love a trip to the beach but remember to check tide times, don't go out too far in the water, and keep away from sinking mud. If you see someone in trouble at the coast, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Road safety 101
Take extra care when roads are busy - always use crossing points where they are available to help you cross safely. If you're getting about on two wheels, don't forget your helmet and safety checks!

Keep talking, keep connected
No matter what you're going through, you don't have to struggle with your worries on your own. There are trusted teams ready to help:
Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services 0800 145 6485
Response 0151 666 4123
Childline.org.uk or 0800 1111
Kooth.com
 Many families have had a tough time recently. If you are struggling with money matters visit wirralinfobank.co.uk for information about the support available across Wirral.

In an emergency always call 999
Remember let's enjoy summer safely

Keep Wirral Safe

Icons: HANDS, FACE, SPACE, FRESH AIR

Will things be changing in school next week – what will Monday and Tuesday look like?

For the last 2 days of the academic year we will be keeping all our safety measures exactly the same. This is due to the current very high infection rates in Wirral and we want to avoid an outbreak that could affect us all over the beginning of the summer. Please support us by keeping everything the same for just 2 more days – thank you!

In September what time should my child arrive at school and what time will they leave school?

In September we will be keeping our ‘filter in’ and ‘filter out’ system for dropping off the children and collecting them. The times will be changing slightly to be more in line with what they were before the lockdown situation hit school:

Drop off time: 8.40am to 8.55am

Collection time: 3.15 to 3.30pm

As ever please bear in mind that the gates will be locked at 8.55am and 3.30pm so please arrive a couple of minutes before!

Use of the drop off area

This area remains for drop off only. You MUST NOT leave your car in the drop off to walk children into school. A member of staff will be on duty in that area and will monitor its usage and they will move vehicles on. As always there will be a member of staff at the gate during drop off and collection times to supervise children.

What will the class staffing be in September?

As detailed in Newsletter number 6, our class structure in September is:

Mrs Gilleece – year 6

Mrs Wright – year 5

Mrs Toal – year 4

Miss Grant – year 3

Mrs Beggs – year 2 (Tues to Fri)

Mrs Spencer (Monday)

Mrs Johnston – year 1

Mrs Embery – Reception

Mrs Williams – Nursery

We warmly welcome Mrs Johnston to our Pensby home as year 1 teacher. Mr Klausen will hopefully return to school at some point during the academic year and I will update you on that as the year progresses. In the meantime it has been lovely to have Mr Klausen visit and say hello to us all. I know he is very grateful for the many lovely messages he has received from the school community.

From September (all being well with bubbles and COVID restrictions!) our classroom support staff will be working slightly differently for some of the class sessions. Each class still has a very high level of general support, but all support staff will be working on delivering intervention programmes and pre teaching sessions to ensure all children are able to access learning successfully and make accelerated progress. We want every child in our school to get the best teaching and support so we are very excited to be able to offer this new structure.

Face Masks and coverings – do I have to wear them?

At the point of writing this newsletter, from September visitors to site will not be required to wear face coverings or masks. However, many staff and visitors will still wish to do so and this is perfectly fine.

I'm looking forward to chatting to other parents at the school gates again!

You can chat at the beginning and end of the day – we have all missed that. Please bear in mind though that the pedestrian gates are to be looked at 8.55am and 3.30pm so choose where you chat with this in mind!

Can I chat to the staff at the gates?

Yes you can!

The school office will be back to usual

The admin team is smaller than it used to be with 16 hours less staffing. We hope to have our office back to its usual format, but the team will be very stretched. During lockdown, we have found that emailing in questions and requests has not only enabled the office team to work more efficiently but it has also given us a very clear trail of what needs to be done. If you can support us by reducing your visits to the office as much as possible, this would be much appreciated in the circumstances.

What will my child's classroom look like? Can they bring things to school and take them home?

Classes will be able to mix with other classes. Due to the design of our school and playgrounds that has historically worked in 'pairs' with years 5 and 6 together, 3 and 4 together, 1 and 2 together and Early Years together.

Tables in the classroom will be organised to suit the age and needs of the classes once again. More equipment will be available for the children to use so that the full curriculum can be unrestricted daily.

The children can bring their book bags and water bottles to school once again. They shouldn't bring in any toys anyway – this was not allowed before unless on an agreed day for an event.

PE kits should be brought into school again.

There will continue to be enhanced hand washing in place and desks will be sanitised several times a day. Each class will have a male and female toilet allocated to it. Coats will be placed on each child's chair.

Will staff and pupils be wearing PPE?

There is no requirement for anyone to wear PPE, but in some circumstances staff may do so if dealing with bodily fluids – it's just good health and safety practice.

When are parents evenings and when can we see our child's work?

Hopefully we can have a mixture of face to face and telephone calls for parent's evenings in October. We want to invite you in to look at your child's work and books too.

What will happen at lunchtime?

The kitchen will be fully open and you can send your child to school with a packed lunch or they can have a school lunch. When the children arrive in class each day they will order what they want to eat at lunchtime.

We are starting a new lunchtime system as much of our COVID practice worked very well. We will have a rota for classes to use the dining room so that it is calmer and safer for them. Each class will have one day a week eating in the main dining room. Fridays will be a very special dining room day – we will reveal that in the autumn term. The rest of the week, lunch will be taken to the classrooms. Each class will continue to have its own Midday Assistant to care for them. Classes will share playground areas once again, with 2 classes in each area.

What should my child wear for school?

We expect all children to be wearing full school uniform. This comprises:

White polo shirt (polo shirts with school emblems are available from our supplier www.gooddies.co.uk).

Plain polo shirts can also be worn and are available from many retail outlets)

School tie (optional)

Black trousers, shorts or skirts

Burgundy Sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo- these are available from our supplier www.gooddies.co.uk.

Black footwear this can be trainers but they must be totally black. No exceptions!

Will breakfast club and after school club be open?

We will be operating both Breakfast and After School club. You can book places online and pay for them through Parent Mail. The club will operate from the Children's club room (follow the red footsteps on the path). Places are very limited in club so please book your spaces well in advance.

Will families still be able to use Seesaw like they do now?

We will continue to use Seesaw as much as possible.

What you can expect from us:

- Staff will capture as much of the wonderful curriculum and school activities your child experiences each day. They will post as much as they can on Seesaw for you to see.
- Face to face teaching is the priority but staff will check Seesaw daily so that they can approve and allow your home comments to be posted.

What we expect from you:

- Seesaw gives you instant access into your child's day and their learning opportunities. Through the like and comment options, you are able to share in the successes and achievements of your child through their online journals,
- Seesaw is a tool to share your child's learning and should not be used for complaints or even the slightest niggles. All complaints should follow the school's complaints procedure and should be referred to the school office or Mrs Brown or Mrs Wright who are on the gate each morning.

My child is really worried about coming back to school. What can I do?

We understand that some children will be worried about coming back to school after the long summer break and the many starts and stops we have had over the last few months. Please email the school office if this is the case and we will arrange for your child's new teacher to contact you to discuss how we can help.

And finally,

On behalf of all the staff, I wish Mrs Sibthorp and Mrs Brett a very happy retirement and I wish all our Pensby families a happy, restful and enjoyable summer break.

We will see you back in school on **Thursday 2nd September** at 8.40am.



Mrs K Brown
Headteacher