



Monday 8th November 2021

Newsletter Number 5 – Autumn Term 2021

PTA Fireworks!

What a great evening last week. There were many lovely comments on the night and they have continued since being overwhelmingly positive but above all have alerted us to the terrible time children and families have had over the pandemic, missing out on so many things – with many children in awe of the Fireworks having never experienced them before! I am thrilled we were able to begin to provide such an important event as this after so long! Thank you to the PTA, family helpers and staff helpers who all came together to raise over £2500 for all the children!



The voice of families and children

Thank you if you have managed to give your responses to our school survey. The link has been emailed out to you. If you require this email again please contact the school office. The children are busy doing their surveys in class. We will share all the data in the next newsletter

Lunch boxes and school lunches

Our catering staff prepare the home cooked lunches to meet the standards expected for good health and nutrition. We want to support families who choose the lunch box option for their child, so that all the children enjoy the most nutritious lunch possible. Over the years we have sent guidance home to support you, the last being in October 2020;

Packed lunches are also an option for your child. We ask that there be only 1 item in the lunchbox that is a treat and that this is either a packet of crisps or one small biscuit/ chocolate bar. We ask the children to eat

the most nutritional part of their lunch first and leave the treat till last. This is because if we don't they usually eat that treat first and get a false sense of being full.

Additionally, we have tried to be a plastic free school as much as we can and so we provide juice or water for all the children at lunchtime, whether they have a hot lunch or a packed lunch. This means that no juice cartons or bottles should be sent into school.

Please help us to help your child by understanding why our marvellous Midday team has been asked to act on this – it is to help the children and support them.

Mental Health Newsletter

Schools have received an email newsletter from the mental health teams. Some items you may be interested in are below;

Wellness and Nutrition

Next Chapter Wirral are promoting health and wellbeing with a Wellness and Nutrition course for parents wanting to make small changes to their eating habits. The aim is to provide an understanding of how food impacts physical and mental health, how to understand nutrition labels on food and how to start implementing positive changes. The course entails four 1.5 hour sessions all done on Zoom. To be eligible for a place you must be earning under £18,135 or in receipt of benefits.

Please contact louise@nextchapternwcic.co.uk or contact through Facebook - Next Chapter.

Resilience Based Approach to Children's Mental Health

A collaboration of researchers, adoptive parents, counsellors and children's mental health workers have produced some guides on how to increase resilience in children. Together with Blackpool Council and the University of Brighton, 'A guide for schools using a resilience based approach' and the supplementary 'supporting children and young people's mental health during covid-19 pandemic' use the resilience framework as the basis for providing mental health support in school.

The main guide and the supplement can be downloaded

<https://www.boingboing.org.uk/supporting-young-peoples-mental-health/>

Midday Assistant Post

I am so fortunate to have the most amazing Midday Team in school. Having worked with Midday teams for over 17 years, I can honestly say that this one is the most dedicated and forward thinking I have ever had the pleasure to work with. They have worked with the children through the pandemic and continue to do so. They stay in school far longer than they should to ensure the children get what they need and to care for them.

We are very fortunate to have funding for an additional Midday Assistant post. If you are interested in joining our Midday School team, please contact the school office for an application form and job information.

Poppy Appeal 2021

Poppies for the annual Poppy Appeal will be available in school from tomorrow (Tuesday) for a small donation. As with previous years, alongside the poppies, the Royal British Legion have provided school with various items such as wristbands, snap bands, clip on bag reflectors and zip pulls that can also be purchased for a donation of between £1-2 per item.



Class reps meetings

Our new class reps have been meeting every few weeks. To give you a flavour of their discussions, here are the notes from their last meeting, which was supported by Mrs Spencer – some amazing points raised!!

Class Reps Meeting - 5th November 2021

Present - Children representing each class in school from Reception to Year 6. Mrs Spencer

AGENDA

- **Poppy Sales**
- **Anti bullying week (one kind word)**
- **Rewards/prizes for winning teams**

The meeting opened at 9.30am

Discussion of how poppies will be sold led to suggestions of;

Year 6 children taking the poppies around classes, teachers having a box of poppies on their desk to sell, Mrs Brown taking the poppies around, having a table outside to sell poppies to adults too. It was decided Mrs Brown would be too busy to sell the poppies. The most popular suggestion was for year 6 children to take the poppies to each class to sell. Year 6 were very keen to have a table in the playground to sell poppies to others.

Anti bullying week

The children were not convinced that everyone knows the true meaning of the word "bullying". Reception children thought it would be nice to make sock puppets out of the unworn odd socks and play with them being kind to each other. A suggestion was made that the whole school spend a day learning about bullying and how to stop it and then during a special assembly or during the day they can share their ideas in whatever format (a play, a song, a video, a talk, a poster) with the whole school and a winning class chosen. The children would like special "kindness tokens" given out that week by staff if they hear a kind word/see an act of kindness. They would like a board permanently in the atrium about bullying - giving advice. They would like to make posters focusing on stopping bullying.

Prizes for the Team/house reward

Many suggestions were made by all the year groups. These included; non uniform, wear your funky shoes day, bring a cuddly toy day, film afternoon, Stacey all day, movie afternoon, shopping voucher, inflatables with Steve, board games afternoon, construction kit afternoon, extra swimming session, extra equipment at playtime, a day off, sports morning or afternoon with Steve, pick a pud selection at lunchtime, extra playtime, treats at lunchtime. Discussion took place about vouchers and where would the money come from to buy them, the cost of hiring inflatables and also the legal rules about being in school. These three ideas were then ruled out.

A.O.B. Year 6 felt it would be unfair if individual rewards for attendance were to be given. They felt class rewards for attendance should be given in Celebration Assembly with the reward being that the class are allowed to select which playground they play on that day. The children wanted to know what the money from Bonfire night was being spent on, Mrs Spencer told them it was for new playground equipment for everybody. The children thought that the money raised was amazing ! Year 6 asked would they be allowed new football goals.

A year 2 representative asked why can't Year 2 have deli at lunchtime? they are only ever allowed hot lunch or packed lunch. The talk of lunchtime led to other discussion and questions. Year 4 children wanted to know if anything extra is going to be added or changed on lunch menus ? They would like items such as chicken pies. Year 5 said that chicken and turkey have been taken off the deli menu and they would like them back as they are healthy meats. Year 6 were disappointed that Fancy Friday wasn't taking place today but understood how busy the kitchen staff had been at Bonfire night. They volunteered to help lay tables, make juice etc if Sue was busy again. Year 5 and 6 were very unhappy with the new lunchtime arrangement of all of KS2 having lunch in the dining room. They said it is too busy, too noisy and there is not enough seating. This has led to children being separated from friends and one year 6 child on a table with another class. They would like to return to Y5/6 together in dining room and Y3/4 on another day.

Meeting closed at 10.10am

Dates for the term

The updated events for the remainder of this term are;

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Friday 12 th November	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY		
Wednesday 24 th November	3.30 to 5.30pm	Christmas art exhibition	A great Christmas present – come and enjoy the event and buy the artwork!
Wednesday 8 th December	4.00 to 8.30pm	Pensby Winter Wonderland	Making last year's Lanterns event look small – a great family evening. Details to be sent nearer the time.
Friday 10 th December	All day	Christmas Jumper day – Save the Children	Wear your xmas jumper all day!
Wednesday 14 th December	12.00pm	Children's Christmas lunch	Details of how to book to be sent home nearer the time
Thursday 15 th December	Afternoon	Fun and film afternoon	Details of how to book to be sent home nearer the time
Friday 17 th December	1.30pm	Carol Concert	End the term with some festive cheer - Details of how to book to be sent home nearer the time
Friday 17 th December	SCHOOL CLOSES FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK		

And finally,

A reminder that school is closed on Friday 12th November for our third INSET day of the academic year.



Mrs K Brown

Headteacher