



Thursday 1st September 2022

Newsletter Number 1 – Autumn Term 2022

Dear families,

Welcome back to school. It was so exciting to see you all this morning and get the school feeling alive again. The children look great in their uniforms – thank you for preparing them so well.

We have many new families throughout the school and welcome you all to Pensby. All the new children were very impressive this morning – being very independent!

Seesaw and Arbor

All school logins sent to you previously should still be operating. For new families, over the next few days we will send you logins for Seesaw. You can also download the Arbor app and this will guide you to set up your own login. These are the 2 systems all families need access to. Any problems please email the school office for assistance.

Staff update

Over the summer, our year 1 teacher, Miss Parry got married and is now Mrs Wolland. Congratulations to the happy couple! Our class teachers have all remained in the same year groups as last year and we have carefully assigned support staff to each class to support them based on their expertise and the needs of the class. This all means that for the first time in 3 years (hopefully no more lockdowns/bubbles!) we can really 'hit the ground running' and start the year strongly for the children.

OFSTED report

At the time of writing this newsletter, I had just received the draft OFSTED report – it is a joy to read! I will be informed by OFSTED when this is to be published publicly and can then send it to you via email. It was a very challenging time of the school year to be inspected, but we welcomed a very professional inspector to the school and enjoyed an open honest dialogue with him that was actually very enjoyable. Thank you if you provided feedback through the OFSTED questionnaire link – please be assured this was discussed and it was very humbling that feedback was so positive and supportive.

New charges from September 2022

A reminder that the new price structures are;

Price of a school meal - £2.35

Cost of Toast – 25p per day

Cost of milk – 15p per day

Price of Breakfast Club session – £5.50 per session

Price of After School Club session - £8 (one set price for the whole session)

After school club closing hours

A reminder that after school club closes at 6.00pm on Mondays to Thursdays and on Fridays it will close at 5.30pm as it has done for most of this year.

Holidays in term time and pupil absence

If your child is unwell or will not be in school for any reason, you need to let us know. You can do this by calling the school office on 0151 348 4145 and leaving a message. Alternatively you can email into the school office with this information. The admin staff will access messages from 8.30am so please let them know as soon as you can.

A reminder that holiday in term time cannot be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances. Our attendance policy is on the school website and is available to read.

Pensby Primary School adheres to the DFE guidance given in its 'School Attendance' document;

Head teachers should not grant leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. The application must be made in advance and the head teacher must be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances based on the individual facts and circumstances of the case which warrant the leave. Where a leave of absence is granted, the head teacher will determine the number of days a pupil can be away from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the head teacher's discretion.

Parents/carers must ask permission for their child to be absent during term time, and it is at the Headteacher's discretion to decide whether or not the absence will be authorised. The Headteacher may authorise leave for exceptional circumstances only. If leave is taken without permission, or no application is made, parents/carers risk being issued with an Education Penalty Notice.

Lunchbox guidance

This guidance was on Newsletter Number 4 in the summer term. In that newsletter there were some photographs of good examples of lunchboxes for each age range.

Every child is different. Some eat well, others less so. Some are very fussy! We often have children leaving a lot of food or sometimes they can still be hungry! Between us we can support the children to eat well so they are ready for an afternoon of school. So this guide to help you and us get that as close to right as we can. We ask that lunchboxes;

- *Have sandwiches/wraps/slice of pizza/pasta with nutritional fillings like ham, cheese etc.*
- *That **no nut products** are in lunchboxes – this includes peanut butter spreads. This is not just to protect the children and staff we know have allergies, but also to protect those that don't yet know they have an allergy to nuts.*
- *Think about how much is in the lunchbox – most children just need a sandwich or wrap, a piece of fruit and 1 treat (e.g. packet of crisps, biscuit, small cake)!*
- *No sweets in lunchboxes please!*
- *If sending in grapes please cut these in half lengthways– this is to prevent choking (several cases around the country prior to COVID-19 reported)*
- *The school provides water and juice for all the children at lunchtime so please do not send lunchtime drinks in lunchboxes.*

PTA Meeting

Our next PTA meeting will be on Thursday 15th September at 3.00pm in school. As the meeting will go over the hometime slot, to help you to attend we will arrange for some staff to be with your children while the

meeting goes ahead. The meeting will last o more than 1 hour. Please come along – the more support we have the more we can get done to provide amazing events and make special memories for the children. Please let us know if you will be attending so we can arrange staffing for the children!

Dates for the term

I have tried to include all known events for this term on the calendar below. This calendar will feature on every newsletter and will be updated so please check it carefully. It is always a very busy term!

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Tuesday 6 th September	All day	National read a book day	Bring your favourite book to school!
Thursday 15 th September	3.00pm	PTA meeting	One hour – please come along!
Monday 26 th September	All day	Whole School History day	Various events to be held – teachers will send a Seesaw message for their class
Friday 7 th October	All day	National Poetry day	
Monday 10 th October	All day	World Mental Health day	
Monday 17 th October Tuesday 18 th October Wednesday 19 th October	TBC	Parents Meeting phone calls appointments	Details of how to book an appointment will be sent nearer the time
Wednesday 18 th October	3.30 to 5.30pm	Parent meeting face to face appointments	
Thursday 20 th October	TBC	PTA school disco	Details to follow
Friday 21 st October	All day	School closed – INSET day	
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October	All week	Half term break	
Monday 31 st October	8.40am	School reopens for second half of autumn term	
Thursday 3 rd November	5.30pm	PTA Fireworks event	Details to follow
Week of 14 th November	All week	Anti-Bullying week and odd socks day	Come to school in odd socks!
Thursday 17 th November	am	Individual photographs	Details to follow
Thursday 17 th November	pm	Children in Need Celebration afternoon	Children bring a change of clothes and a £1 donation
Friday 18 th November	All day	School closed – INSET day	
Wednesday 23 rd November	3.30 to 5.15pm	Film night	Details to follow
Wednesday 7 th December	9.30am 1.30pm and 5.00pm	Christmas performances	Details to follow
Monday 12 th December	All day	Pupils Flu vaccinations	Details to follow
Tuesday 13 th December	TBC	Winter Wonderland	Details to follow
Wednesday 14 th December	12.00pm	Children’s’ Christmas lunch	Details to follow
Tuesday 20 th December	3.30pm	School closes for Christmas break	
Wednesday 4 th January 2023	All day	School closed – INSET day	
Thursday 5 th January	8.40am	School reopens for autumn term for all pupils	

And finally,

Thank you for using the drop off so well this morning – it really helped on such a busy first morning not to have cars parked there!



Mrs K Brown, Headteacher