



Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## **Newsletter Number 1 – Spring Term 2023**

Dear families,

Happy New Year to all of you. The staff and I hope that the Christmas break was kind to you and that 2023 has started well!

### ***Autumn term 2022***

Last term was certainly one to remember. Our autumn term events were nothing short of magnificent-starting with the Fireworks display and finishing with an incredible selection of Christmas events that the children and their families will remember for a very long time.

Thanks must go to the PTA for organising these events. Thankfully several new members came forward to help and this really was much appreciated and made a huge difference to every event! Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm. It is an online meeting so hopefully even more people will come along and support the events planned for the children.

### ***Staff news***

Mrs Wolland is expecting a baby! We are all very excited for her – and I know you will all join us in wishing her well.

Many of you will remember the wonderful Mr Klausen. He often visits us despite being quite ill at times and the school lights up when he appears. Officially Mr Klausen is retired from his position at the school and I know that many families will want to thank him and wish him well as he did teach so many children in his 14 years with us. If you would like to send him a card or donate to a leaving gift, please drop these into the school office by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

I am still 'on the mend' with my broken ankle, although it is slow! For the next few weeks I will be back in school each day, except Wednesdays when Mrs Wright will take over for the day.

### ***Governor news***

Our Governors are a critical group in the school community and act on behalf of us all to ensure the school carries out all duties correctly. We are fortunate to have a full Governing Body and the governors have additionally put in place plans to ensure this remain the case for some time. They have done this by appointing Associate Governors. These people have the same role as a Governor but do not have the same voting rights for certain matters. The many benefits of having Associate Governors are that they bring additional skills to the board and also 'learn the ropes' of the job, meaning they can step in when the time or opportunity arise. At Pensby we have a staff Associate Governor (Mr Wright), a Community Associate Governor (Mr Boynton) and a parent Associate Governor (Mrs Walsh). You can find more details about the governing body, including the minutes of meetings on our school website.

## ***Back-to-school advice issued to North West parents amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever circulating***

The following information has been circulated to all schools;

As pupils and students return to school following the Christmas break this week, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels, but following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

**Prof Susan Hopkins, Chief medical Adviser at UKHSA, said:** *“It’s important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.*

*“Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.*

*“Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don’t visit healthcare settings unless urgent or visit vulnerable people.*

*“Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and, in some cases, can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and those they come into contact with and it’s still not too late.”*

**Dr Merav Kliner, UKHSA North West Deputy Director, said:** *“As we see more cases of flu across the North West, we can all play a part in reducing infections spreading by following simple measures. It is important to remember that catching flu or other infections for more vulnerable people can be far more serious.*

*“Taking sensible measures to stop bugs spreading is something we all can and should do. These include practicing good hygiene, taking up vaccinations when offered and not mixing with vulnerable other people when you are poorly yourself.”*

Children eligible for the vaccine include:

- Children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- All primary school-aged children
- Some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu here](#).

### ***Cleaning position***

We have a cleaning position available. This is for 10 hours a week. If you would like details of the position please email into the school office and these will be sent to you. The closing date for applications is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

### ***Cake sales***

This term we are holding cake sales! These are detailed on the dates for the term at the end of the newsletter. The idea is that when it is your child's class's turn, you send in a small donation of cakes. These will then be sold to all classes as the children leave school for 50p a cake. A nice treat on the way home at the end of the school week. We will email reminders for when these are;

EYFS - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Years 1 and 2 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Years 3 and 4 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March

years 5 and 6 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

### ***Dates for the term***

These dates for the term will be updated as the term progresses so please keep checking them each time a newsletter is released;

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	6.30pm	Online PTA meeting	Link to be sent home
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January to Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	9.30am	Year 6 to Robinwood	Details sent to year 6 families
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	3.15 to 4.15pm 4.30 to 5.30pm	EYFS and Year 1 and 2 Disco Years 3,4,5 and 6 Disco	To follow
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	3.15 to 3.40pm	EYFS cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	All day	Safer internet day	Whole school event – details to be sent home via Seesaw for each class
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 to 6.00pm	Event for families – children's work	Families invited to look at children's work
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30pm	<b>School closes for half term</b>	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	8.40am	<b>School opens for second half of spring term</b>	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	3.15 to 3.40pm	Year 1 and 2 cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	All week	Year 5 Bikeability sessions	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	3.15 to 3.40pm	Year 3 and 4 cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March to Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.30am	Y4 to Barnstondale	Details sent to year 4 families
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	3.15 to 3.40pm	Year 5 and 6 cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	3.30pm	<b>School closes for Easter break</b>	

*And finally,*

The lost property box is very full! It is located in the main entrance. Please come and claim any lost property by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. After this time it will be disposed of and/or put in our recycled uniform stock.



Mrs K Brown

Headteacher