



Tuesday 24th January 2023

Newsletter Number 3 – Spring Term 2023

Dear families,

Use of the drop off

In the mornings, we allow site users to drop off children in the drop off area. The drop off area is used each day by about 40 to 60 vehicles and they arrive at varying times that cannot be anticipated.

If a car is parked in that area and the driver leaves the car to walk children into school, this can cause a backlog of vehicles that can trail down Greenbank Drive. Adults and children walking to the site are then forced to cross the road through parked cars and other vehicles are stuck on the road, causing issues for many residents as well as people arriving on site. This is why we need to ensure the drop off does not have any parked cars in it at any time.

Recently, it has been noted that cars are quite regularly parking in the drop off area in the morning. From tomorrow morning onwards, we will be organising additional staff to be by the drop off area to ensure cars are not left parked there. This means that the children will lose staff time in the classrooms, which is very regrettable but necessary due to the number of cars parking in the drop off zone.

Please spread the work to anyone who may drive your child/ren to school for you on occasions – grandparents etc. The drop off zone is not a parking area, and cars will be moved on by staff. Thank you.

Information Regarding proposed strike action by the NEU

As you will be aware, the National Education Union (NEU) announced on 16th January that their membership has voted in favour of industrial action. Whilst there will be several days of strikes across the country, individual schools in England will be affected by four days of action, these four dates of strikes are:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Tuesday 28th February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March:

The NEU have issued a message to families that is on the next page of this newsletter.

I believe it is really important for us to remember that the teachers in this school who may decide to strike will be doing so very reluctantly, but above all they will be doing so not for themselves but for the children.

I have been a headteacher for 18 years and have seen our school budgets cut for the children continuously. I am always delighted when the staff is rewarded with a pay rise as they really do earn every penny and much, much more. Over the years there have been so many announcements of additional funding for schools to cover costs including pay increases, and these make great headlines in the media. However, the staff, governors and I know they just mean less for your children and they don't seem to materialise in our

budgets. Years of this have taken its toll on everyone in schools and this ultimately affects what schools can provide for children.

The last 3 years have been indescribable for all school staff and I fully admire how they coped with so much. Any staff who do decide to strike will be doing so with a very heavy heart and after much consideration and soul searching.

A message to parents and carers

Why are teachers going on strike?

TEACHERS WHO ARE members of the National Education Union (NEU) will be taking national strike action on Wednesday 1st February.

We do not want to strike, but the government have given us no choice. We are striking for education and we hope you will support us, despite the inconvenience it will cause.

We are taking strike action because we are concerned that cuts to teachers' pay, and lack of funding for schools, are causing a crisis in education.

- *The value of teachers and support staff pay has fallen by 20% since 2010.*

- *This has caused a crisis in recruitment and retention.*

- *More teachers, and school leaders, than ever are leaving their jobs and*

the government cannot recruit enough teachers to replace them.

- *Funding for schools has not kept in line with rising costs.*

- *This means that:*

- *many schools face difficulties finding the teachers they need;*

- *SEND children are not getting the support they need;*

- *Schools are spending less on important equipment and resources;*

- *schools are cutting back on extra-curricular clubs and classes.*

This cannot go on, for the sake of education the government must change its policy on pay and funding.

We have tried talking to the government - we have provided evidence about this crisis to them year after year, but they have ignored our warnings.

That is why we have reluctantly made the decision to take strike action.

We are calling on the government to increase pay for teachers and support staff, but they must also increase funding for schools.

We are asking parents and carers to:

- **support** our strike action and our campaign to boost funding for education.
- **talk** to teachers at your child's school to find out more about our campaign and how you can support us.
- **contact** your MP and local councillors and tell them that you support NEU members taking strike action.



Campaigning for children and education

For more information visit www.neu.org.uk

At this point I have no confirmation of how this strike action will affect our school. You may not be aware, but the law does state that union members do not need to inform employers if they intend to strike until the day of the strike. As soon as I have any information, I will inform any families and year groups affected. I appreciate that this is very difficult for everyone and assure you I will communicate with you when and if I need to and I hope that no matter what circumstances you find yourselves in, you will act appropriately and will have a balanced understanding. Thank you.

Half term offers

This half term, we have a mixture of MSE (Military School Education) and Full of Beans offering holiday clubs. I am awaiting the information from MSE, but the flyer for Full of Beans is below;

Full of beans
CHILDREN'S FITNESS & SPORTS COACHING

Children's Activities Association
Giving Parents Peace of Mind

HOLIDAY CLUB

Cost
£20 per day
or £10 per day for children on free school meals

Location
Pensby Primary School,
Greenbank Drive,
Pensby, Wirral
CH61 5UE

Date
Thu 23 Feb
& Fri 24 Feb
9am-3pm

Thursday Sports: Football, Basketball & Gymnastics
Friday Sports: Football, Dance & Dodgeball

Bookings can be made via our website
www.fullofbeansfitness.co.uk/wirral-and-liverpool

Email: nicky@fullofbeansfitness.co.uk
Facebook: FOBWirral Twitter: FullOfBeansFit

Our coaches all hold professional qualifications and an enhanced DBS. Expert and qualified instruction in a safe, non-competitive environment. We go out of our way to ensure a personal and special day.

Reminders from Newsletters 1 and 2

These items are reminders that have been detailed in the last 2 newsletters of this term;

Mr Klausen

A reminder that If you would like to send a card or donate to a leaving gift for Mr Klausen, please drop these into the school office by Friday 27th January.

Cleaning position and Midday Assistant position

A reminder 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 27th January.

We also have a Midday position available. The days are flexible and hours per week are flexible. 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 10th February.

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 10th February

Years 1 and 2 Friday 3rd March

Years 3 and 4 Friday 17th March

years 5 and 6 Thursday 30th March

Online PTA meeting

Our online PTA meeting is next week on 24th January at 6.30pm. The link to the meeting is below and you just need to paste it into the search bar;

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/event?action=TEMPLATE&tmeid=MGxnNnNnbHE2NzZkdTF2cHFtbDZlYTFqOWQgcGVuc2J5cHJpbWFyeXNjaG9vbC5vcmdfMmdjNjFhZWpicjRraDJzbWMyN2RiMm1iaGtAZw&tm src=pensbyprimaryschool.org_2gc61aejcr4kh2smc27db2mbhk%40group.calendar.google.com

Dates for the term

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Tuesday 24 th January	6.30pm	Online PTA meeting	Link to be sent home
Monday 30 th January to Wednesday 1 st February	9.30am	Year 6 to Robinwood	Details sent to year 6 families
Wednesday 1 st February	All day	Proposed NEU strike	In this newsletter
Thursday 9 th 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 th February	3.15 to 3.40pm	EYFS cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Tuesday 14 th February	All day	Safer internet day	Whole school event – details to be sent home via Seesaw

			for each class
Wednesday 15 th February	3.30 to 6.00pm	Event for families – children’s work	Families invited to look at children’s work
Friday 17 th February	3.30pm	School closes for half term	
Monday 27 th February	8.40am	School opens for second half of spring term	
Friday 3 rd March	3.15 to 3.40pm	Year 1 and 2 cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Monday 5 th March	All week	Year 5 Bikeability sessions	
Friday 17 th March	3.15 to 3.40pm	Year 3 and 4 cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Wednesday 22 nd March to Thursday 23 rd March	9.30am	Y4 to Barnstondale	Details sent to year 4 families
Thursday 30 th March	3.15 to 3.40pm	Year 5 and 6 cake sale	See details in this newsletter
Friday 31 st March	3.30pm	School closes for Easter break	

And finally,

If you can’t attend the PTA online meeting tonight, but can help at any of the events, please email into the school office to let us know,



Mrs K Brown - Headteacher