



Newsletter 2 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you had a good half term. The children have now well and truly settled into their classes and we have been impressed with how enthusiastically they are approaching their learning. I hope that you find our weekly homework sheet useful in starting conversations with your child about what learning has taken place during the week. Talking about their learning at home will help embed the key knowledge from lessons.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who attended our Curriculum Evenings a couple of weeks ago. The meetings were well attended and we have received lots of positive feedback about the information presented.

One of the key messages in all of our curriculum evenings was the importance of reading and how our reading system has altered slightly. In line with advice from our Literacy Consultant, the phonics book (Big Cat) that your child brings home will be the book that they have read already in school three or four times with a trained adult. Your child should be confident and fluent reading this book. Just a reminder that every time your child reads at home with a grown-up they can write their name on a raffle ticket in school. Each half term a winner will be chosen in Celebration Assembly to receive a lovely new book.

Please use this link to complete a questionnaire for our school: <https://forms.gle/je4T471Gu4tiKds69>
The aim of this is to find out what other information/workshops that you need to support your child at home and the best time for us to run these sessions.

External Review of Governance

In my last newsletter, I described that we were having an external review of leadership and governance by the National Governors' Association. This review was commissioned by Wirral Local Authority. Here is a summary of the key findings from the report:

This is a board which cares deeply for the school and the community it serves. Governors have a very good understanding of their school, their role, and how the school can support the pupils and the community. They appear to know the school, its strength and weaknesses very well.

Meetings are well planned, clearly structured, and well chaired by a chair who is skilled, experienced, and professional. Relationships are constructive, positive, and professional and the clerk effectively supports the board and enables excellent governance at the school.

Governors have worked in partnership with the headteacher to make rapid and sustained improvements to governance, and the leadership of the board by the chair and headteacher has driven this improvement whilst strengthening already positive relationships within the board and with the school staff.

.....there are no significant recommendations to be acted upon.

If you would like to read the full report, it is available on the school website under the governors section. I am so pleased that this report reflects the hard work and commitment that our governors and clerk (Mrs Harris) make to our school.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

As part of our curriculum (computing and PSHE) we teach the children about safety online. The children learn at an age-appropriate level about what they should and should not do when using technology. In assembly recently, we have raised children's awareness of bullying including cyber bullying.

The NSPCC provides lots of great advice for parents on lots of topics including online safety. The leaflet attached with this newsletter is particularly helpful to help parents understand how to keep their child safe online.

"Talking to your child – openly and regularly – is the best way to help keep them safe online." (NSPCC WEBSITE)

Special Educational Needs

A new website publicising the 'local offer' of support options for young people with special educational needs has launched on the Wirral.

The 'SENDLO' website (standing for SEND Local Offer) will share the most relevant, up-to-date and easily accessible information with families across the borough.



Co-produced with parents, young people and a range of partners the new website has been developed to raise awareness of the SEND local offer in Wirral and signpost families to the support and services they need.

Parents/carers can access the website here: <https://www.sendlowirral.co.uk/>

Mrs McLeod, as many of you know, is our school Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. Mrs McLeod has written the following information for parents/carers.

If your child has been referred to Speech and Language, the 0-19 service or the Neurodiversity Team, here is a brief update on waiting times. The waiting lists for children to be seen by a speech and language therapist are currently very long. The waiting list for children under 5 for speech and language is up to two years.

For those children being referred to the ADHD, ASD and DCD pathway, again the waiting lists are long to see a paediatrician. There are currently over 2000 children on these pathways across Wirral.

Once your child's referral has been triaged by the 0-19 team or the neurodiversity team you should receive a letter to say if they have/haven't been accepted on the pathway. If accepted on the pathway then the letter will outline the next steps for your child.

NHS Leaflet

Attached to this newsletter is a summary from the NHS which outlines when you should keep your child off school and for how long. Please note that we have seen a rise in school of skin infections and I would advise parents/carers to get any open sores on the skin checked out before sending your child to school.

Royal British Legion

Poppies and other merchandise such as snap bands will be on sale in the school playground at 8.30am on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November.



Children in Need

Children in Need this year takes place on **Friday 17th November**. We ask that children come to school dressed in spotty/colourful clothes and that a donation for the charity is made on ParentPay using this link:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=12251>

The children will learn about the charity in school and take part in Pudsey related activities in their classes.

PE days for the next half term

Tuesday - Yr2 PE day

Thursday - F2 PE day

Friday - Yr1 PE day

As Thursday 2nd November is school photograph day, please can all children come to school that day in their school uniform and not their PE kit.

Diary Dates

November

- Thursday 2nd November Photographer in school for Individual photographs
- Friday 3rd November Fun Food Chef in for Year 2
- Wednesday 15th November Flu Vaccinations F2-Yr2
- Friday 10th November (Mad Hair Day for FOBHHS)
- Friday 17th November Children In Need event (Non-Uniform wear spotty/colourful clothes)
- Thursday 23rd November Full Governing Body Meeting
- Monday 27th November Open Classroom – F2-Yr2 parents invited to see children's work 2.30pm
- Saturday 25th November Christmas Fair 1-3pm at BHHIS

December

- Wednesday 13th December @2.15pm Rock Steady Concert (invited guests only)
- Monday 18th December @9.15-10.15am F1 Christmas Craft and Sing-a-long (parents invited)
- Monday 18th December @2.15pm Yr2 Concert (parents invited)
- Tuesday 19th December @2.15pm Yr1 Christmas play (parents invited)
- Wednesday 20th December @2.15pm F2 Christmas Play (parents invited)
- Thursday 21st December Christmas Party Day (children wear party clothes)
- Friday 22nd December School closes for Christmas Holidays

January

- Monday 8th January Staff Development day (Teachers only)
- Tuesday 9th January Children return to school (after the holiday)

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher