



Thursday 30th March 2023

Newsletter 5 - April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather this month has been quite bizarre! Snow one week and brilliant sunshine and warmth the next. I know which I prefer and I am definitely looking forward to some better weather next term so that the children can make the most of our outdoor spaces.

Enjoy your Easter break.

Consultation on the School Day

The Department for Education has set out a minimum expectation of at least 32.5 hours for the length of the school week in primary schools by 1st September 2023. This means that we currently fall short of this expectation by twenty-five minutes. I therefore plan to extend the school day by five minutes from September 2023. School finishing time will move from 3.05pm to 3.10pm.

If you have any concerns or views about this proposal then please contact the school office.

Trophies

In our weekly celebration assembly we give out trophies to children. Unfortunately, many of our trophies have not been returned and we are now missing some. I would be grateful if you could check at home whether you have any of our trophies and return them to school as soon as possible so other children can experience the delight of receiving one.

Local Authority Visit

On 6th March we had a visit from two Local Authority inspectors. They spent the day in school observing lessons, talking to staff about our curriculum and reviewing children's books. Strengths were identified and also areas for us to focus on so that we keep improving what we provide for our children. It was a good opportunity for us to evidence the progress that has been made since our last inspection especially in the development of reading/phonics and the school curriculum.

RNLI Visit

RNLI volunteers from West Kirby Lifeboat station visited school last week. They gave an engaging presentation to the children in assembly about their role and they told us how they are raising money for a new lifeboat. Each class then had the chance to see the lifeboat and they even got to climb on board the boat! It was a lovely experience for them. Who knew that the tractor is the only one used in the UK?

I cannot thank the team enough for the visit to school and for the kindness and patience they demonstrated with the children. Thank you for all of the donations received. It is not too late to donate to this extremely worthwhile cause and we will keep the ParentPay option open until the end of term.



World Book Day 2023

As always we had a fantastic day celebrating reading, books and authors on World Book day. Some of our children even featured in the Wirral Globe.

Mr Pritchard and Patra had a very difficult job choosing the winner of the unusual places reading competition. It took them a long time to decide but here are the winners from each year group. They all received a £10 book token. The photographs have been used to create a display in school. It's not too late to submit a picture for the display - we would like to keep adding to it.



Art

Art has been a focus for school improvement this term. Our staff took part in a training session after school and learnt some new teaching techniques that can be used with the children during art lessons. It was also a very therapeutic and relaxing session.



The children have been enjoying their art lessons in classes too!



The Art Exhibition that was scheduled for this month had to be cancelled. We have some new dates for the summer term. Parents/carers will be able to view all of the art in the exhibition and buy their child's art work. I will provide more details after the Easter break.

The dates will be as follows:

Wednesday 3rd May at 3.15-4.30pm

Thursday 4th May at 5-6pm

Inspirational Speakers

Even though our children are young we feel that it is important to provide them with the opportunity to hear about different careers and jobs that people have. We know that many of our school community have interesting jobs and hobbies. If you can spare half an hour to come and talk to the children then we would love to hear from you.

Statutory Assessment of Pupils in Year 1 and 2

Many of you will already know that the Government require all Year 1 children to sit a statutory phonic screening check. The screening this year will take place during the week commencing 12th June 2023.

The screening check is designed to confirm whether children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. Our children are familiar with such phonic assessments so this should not cause any distress. Parents/carers will receive the results in the end of year report.

Year 2

During May, assessment tests will be administered to Year 2 pupils. Our Year 2 teachers will share at parent/teacher meetings ways in which you can support your child to achieve the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

The test will be incorporated into normal classroom practice so we hope the children will be unaware that the assessments are taking place. We would be grateful if parents/carers also do not focus too much of their child's attention on these assessments because they form only a small part of the child's assessment profile. Once completed our teachers will use the Key Stage 1 test results to help them to reach an overall judgement of the standards children have reached in English Reading, English Writing and Mathematics. You will also receive a teacher assessment judgement for Science, but there is no formal science assessment. You will receive this information in your child's end of year report.

Information leaflets and videos have been produced for parents/carers by the Standards and Testing Agency. If you would like to watch the video or read the leaflets for parents please visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents and search for videos about SATs for Key Stage 1. If you require any further information please speak to your child's class teacher.

Annexe Rental

Our annexe is currently used for our before and after school club. This operates from 7.15-9.30am and 2.30-5.45pm. The building is, however, available for hire between these times. If you are interested in using this building then please contact our school office for rental costs and more information.

Attendance

A reminder that (school) holiday requests cannot be approved in term time. Holiday leave may be granted in exceptional circumstances. The principles for defining exceptional are: 'rare, significant, unavoidable and short', with 'unavoidable' meaning an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time and proof of these elements would need to be obtained. The circumstance of 'Covid' would not meet this criteria.

Foundation 1 Places

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020? We are currently taking applications for places in our Foundation 1 provision. Please contact the school office for an application form.

Family Toolbox

<https://familytoolbox.co.uk/>

This site provides families with a wide range of services which they can access in one place. Resources and support are available for a range of concerns or worries such as challenging behaviour, sleep, ADHD and autism.

Spare Clothes

We have a shortage of spare clothes at school, in particular underwear. Any donations would be appreciated.

Lost Property

Please label all items of your children's clothing clearly with their name, so if found then the item can be easily returned to the rightful owner. Please remind your child that they must take responsibility for their property too.

PE days for next half term

Monday - Year 2 (EA and TM)

Wednesday - F2 (SB and SL)

Friday - Year 1 (CY and DH)

March

- Friday 31st March - Non Uniform day and Easter Bonnet Parade (send in £1 to enter)
Finish for Easter Holidays

April

- Monday 17th April - Children return to school

May

- Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 3rd May 3.15-4.30pm - Art Exhibition

- Thursday 4th May 5-6pm - Art Exhibition
- Friday 5th May - King's Coronation Celebrations in school
- Monday 8th May - Additional Bank Holiday for King's Coronation day
- Year 2 Statutory Assessments
- Monday 22nd May - Yr1 Ness Gardens Visit
- Friday 26th May - Finish for half term

June

- Monday 5th June - Staff Development Day
- Tuesday 6th June - Children return to school
- Monday 12th June - Breakfast Judo club
- w/c 12th June - Year 1 Phonic Screening Check
- w/c 19th June - Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Week
- Thursday 22nd June Sports Day - (9am-10am Yr2 parents, 10am-11am Yr1 parents, 11am-12pm F2 parents)

July

- Thursday 6th July Year 2 End of year assembly (2EA parents) @2.15pm
- Friday 7th July Year 2 End of year assembly (2TM parents) @2.15pm
- Friday 7th July - Reports out to parents/carers
- Monday 10th July Mrs Lucan's class assembly @2.30pm
- Tuesday 11th July Mrs Bancroft's class assembly@2.30pm
- Wednesday 12th July Mr Hamm's class assembly@2.30pm
- Thursday 13th July Mr Young's class assembly@2.30pm
- Monday 17th- Wed 19th Remote Learning in place

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher