

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! We trust you had a restful break and welcome back to a brand new term. We have loved hearing everyone's news from over the festive period and we are sure that 2018 will be a fantastic year for us all. The following information may be of use to you...

POTS Information:

The next POTS meetings will take place on Monday 15.01.18 (today) at 7pm at the Basset Hound and Friday 19.01.18 in the School Canteen at 2.30pm. Please come along and support the team as they plan the Spring Term events. Everyone is welcomed and all ideas are valued.

2018 Annual Parents' Questionnaire:

The month of January sees us launch our 2018 on-line questionnaire for parents and carers. Later on this week your child will bring home a username and password and we would urge you to log on and make your views known. We really do appreciate reading everyone's views and plan to analyse our findings at the end of the month. We will, as usual, collate and feedback your views in the February newsletters. Please do take advantage of this school self-evaluation tool as it is an invaluable way to celebrate all the good aspects of our provision and consider ways to further refine our practices. Last year we had over 80 responses and it would be brilliant if we could top this for 2018!

Goodbye Mrs Abdul:

This Friday we will say goodbye to Mrs Abdul as she is leaving her role as a Midday Assistant to move to pastures new. We are sure you will join us in wishing her all the best and would like to thank her for all her hard work.

Science Under the Stars:

Thursday 25.01.18 will see our soft federation of schools host our 2nd fabulous Wirral Science Under the Stars event. The event is organised by Heswall Primary School's Deputy Head Teacher and all families are invited to attend to enjoy a plethora of fun scientific adventures. This year there will be an inflatable planetarium, telescopes, snakes, craft stalls to name just a few. Also taking place is the film premiere of "Wirral Saves The Planet" which is a 3D film made by the 6 schools in our federation - Thingwall, Barnston, Gayton, Heswall, Irby and Pensby Primary. Thingwall has been chosen to sing on the film this year so we are very excited that every single one of our KS2 pupils will be represented on the silver screen! Filming takes place for this on Tuesday 16.01.18. There is also a lantern making workshop at Heswall Primary on Tuesday 23rd January at 3.15pm. If you would like to take part in this with your child please return your slip together with £2.00 to cover materials.

Please note parking will be restricted for this event. Walking to the venue is recommended or a Park and Ride is operating at Pensby High.

Contact Details:

Some of you may have been lucky enough to receive new mobile phones from Father Christmas this year. If this is the case, and your contact details have changed, please contact the School Office with your new details and we will update our systems. Likewise, please inform us if your email, emergency contact details or address has changed. Many thanks.

Spider-Ede Appeal:

The above appeal is raising vital funds for a little girl called Edie who is just 3 years old and lives on the Wirral. Edie has been diagnosed with an extremely rare form of childhood cancer known as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). Treatment for this life altering disease is not available here in the U.K. however it is available at a hospital in Mexico but this treatment costs £300,000 to give her the full round of treatment she needs.

Edie's family and friends are collecting funds to help her cause. If you would like to donate please do so via their Facebook page.

House of Commons Letter:

You may remember shortly before Christmas we managed to provide 40 gift bags for children in the Birkenhead area. This was a great achievement and it was all down to your generosity with your contributions to our Christmas Collections. We were delighted to receive a letter from Frank Fields thanking us for our generous work and congratulating our school for such a thoughtful and considerate gesture. Many thanks to all of you who donated and, of course, many thanks to our fantastic School Council who purchased the gifts.

Parents' Pack for PANTS message:

You may be aware that we remind the children each year about the NSPCC's PANTS initiative as part of our safeguarding procedures to raise awareness of abuse at a child centred level. The NSPCC website directs parents to the PANTS campaign and there is now a pack for parents to use at home with their children, to encourage them to have a conversation that many might feel uncomfortable about having. The link to the parents' PANTS pack is here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule>

Spring Term Diary Dates:

25.01.18	10am Year Three Class Assembly
06.02.18	Safer Internet Day - please ask your children what they have found out
08.02.18	KS1 and KS2 Discos **tbc following the POTS meetings this week**
w/c 12.02.18 - Themed Week "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds" An emotional health and physical activity week.	Monday - Year 1-6 Self Esteem Rap Workshops Tuesday - 10am Year 2 Class Assembly, Rugby taster sessions and Kayte Walsh Self Esteem workshops for Years 3-6 Wednesday - Freddy Fit for FS2-Year 6 and Deeside Music Festival for Years 3 + 4 Thursday - Whole School Visit to Chester Zoo Friday - Pop Project for FS2-Year 6 "Feel Good, Sound Good"
07.03.18	Year Three Visit to Philharmonic and Liverpool Museum
22.03.18	10am Easter Festival 1.30 Deeside Soft Federation Spelling Bee
27.03.18 28.03.18	9.30am FS2/KS1 Sports Day 9.30am KS2 Sports Day **Please note these dates are dependent on good weather**
29.03.18	School closes for the Spring Break

Celebration Corner:

Charlotte Year Four - Congratulations to Charlotte who was awarded 3rd place out of 25 in the That's Showbiz Dance Competition. What an achievement Charlotte, well done! ☺

Amber Year Three - Amber was delighted to win Best Under 8 Judoka of the Year at her Judo End of Year ceremony. Well done Amber! ☺

Aimee Year Two - Congratulations to Aimee who won Woman of the Match at her football club last weekend, well done! ☺

With Best Wishes
Miss D L Cronin