

Dear Parents

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017 - Happy New Year! We trust you all had a lovely Christmas and that you managed to relax and spend some quality time with family. Apologies for the slight delay in getting this newsletter to you - the internet is working once again.

The following information may be of interest to you...

Building Works - IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please note that we have some building jobs taking place this week...

- We are removing the Sue Lee memorial garden on the KS1 playground and relocating it to behind the fence at the front of school.
- The above area and the grass verge to next to the hawthorn hedge will then be resurfaced with tarmac to prepare the ground for the Adventure Trim Trail (this will be installed once the weather begins to improve).
- The new reading area will be installed on the grassed area behind the fence at the front of school.
- The school hall will be out of use from 9.00-3.30 next Tuesday to enable the electricians to finish the lighting in the new ceiling which was installed over the holidays.

Obviously the safety of all involved with Thingwall is of paramount importance to us and we have put the following measures in place to ensure everyone is kept safe...

- The wooden gate and the KS1 side gate (next to the hawthorn hedge) will be locked and out of action to parents, staff and children all next week. You will not have access to the front playground via the wooden gate next to Year Two's classroom. Please use the side gate which is located next to the electric gates instead when accessing the front playground for dropping off and picking up.
- The workmen's area will be blocked off from the rest of the front playground with block and mesh fencing. The workmen will use the side gate to access the road, will have their own washroom facilities and will not have access to the school building.
- The KS1 playground will not be used next week, except for dropping off and picking up at either end of the school day. KS1 playtime will take place on the KS2 back playground (10.15am - 10.30am and 2.15pm - 2.30pm). KS1 and KS2 children will use the back playground for the lunch break. We will also endeavour to provide board games in Mr Bettridge's classroom and a DVD in Miss Arden's classroom in case any of the KS1 pupils feel this playground is too busy for them.

Target Setting:

Please keep an eye out for your child's set of curriculum targets which they will be bringing home to you tonight. Mr Bettridge has also written a covering letter which will also be attached which aims to fully explain the process to parents. If you have any questions about the process or the actual targets please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

***** Wirral Science Under the Stars *** FREE EVENT TO ALL PUPILS:**

Our Year Four class have been very busy making a collaborative science film which will be previewed at a free of charge science festival called 'Wirral Under the Stars'. This is part of a special collaborative project between staff and pupils from Barnston, Gayton, Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thingwall Primary Schools as part of our established joint federation of schools.

The event will be held at Heswall Primary on Thursday 26th January from 4pm-6pm on the school yard. This is a great opportunity and the event will have over thirty science and eco organisations in attendance and they will be running hands on activities and challenges for the children.

The event is open to all parents and pupils (not just those in Year Four). We anticipate that parking will be an issue so the Harvest Mouse have allowed us to park on their premises and there will also be a shuttle bus operating from the Pensby High School car park.

Edsential Chinese New Year Meal:

Sheila, our fantastic School Cook has planned an exciting themed menu for this Thursday 19.01.17 to coincide with Chinese New Year, priced at KS2 £2.30 and KS1 no payment needed. The menu is as follows...

Vegetable Spring Rolls and Prawn Crackers
Chicken Chow Mein or Vegetable Stir Fry with Egg Fried Rice
Raspberry Bun or Fruit Kebab

Please note that there will be no jacket potato or deli option on this day.

Round Table Santa Wagon:

We collected a whopping £462 for taking part in the Santa Wagon shortly before Christmas. Thank you to all who took part, thanks to Miss McCormick for co-ordinating the event and thank you to all of you who came out to support us. We had great fun!

Parent Governor Vacancy:

Mrs Hamel will be handing out the Parent Governor voting information this week. There will be two ballot papers, one for each parent. We urge you to vote and return your slips as soon as possible. The ballot box will be in the Entrance Hall. Many thanks for your support.

Term Dates for 2017-2018:

See attached sheet with next year's term dates. Please be aware that we still need to add five teacher training additional INSET days and we will advise you of those in the near future.

Staff Car Park:

As you will be aware from previous communication, our electric gates were vandalised over the Christmas period. The Police have asked if any of our local parents are able to help us pinpoint exactly when this happened. If you have any information please contact the School Office or have a word with the Community Police Officer, Sue Fowles as she is on her beat.

Can we politely remind you that the staff car park is only to be used by staff and parents who have a blue disabled badge. The gates are currently open as we are waiting for them to be repaired and we have had several complaints that parents are using it as a drop off/pick up facility which puts our children in danger. Obviously parents who are dropping off/picking up for extra-curricular clubs are welcome to use the car park as usual. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Celebration Corner:

Harry (Year Three) - Congratulations to Harry who has achieved his next kata in Judo, now giving him a red belt with a white stripe! Well done Harry, this shows real dedication and determination. ☺

Harry, Jacob and Connor (Year Three) - Well done to all three boys who have gained their bronze award in Beavers over the Christmas holidays. Congratulations boys! ☺

With Best Wishes

Miss D L Cronin