



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### **Newsletter July 2021**

Well, it has certainly been another challenging year for us all, with constantly changing rules and regulations relating to Covid. We have, however, pulled together as a school community to overcome the issues and barriers that we have faced, to ensure our children continue to feel happy, safe and confident to learn. Thank you for supporting us and being tolerant and patient as we have found our way with lockdown two, remote learning, self-isolation, bubbles popping, staggered starts etc.

It seems an opportune moment to express my gratitude to our school staff for their hard work over the year. The teaching and support staff have worked relentlessly, often having to find different ways of working to keep disruption to a minimum and reduce the impact of Covid on the children's learning. I feel very lucky to work with such a committed and conscientious staff.

Working behind the scenes our governing body have also faced different challenges perhaps the most significant is meeting virtually! They have been invaluable over the past year providing sound advice and reassurance. I would like to express my gratitude to them.

Apologies for making the newsletter sound like a speech from the Oscars but it has been a difficult time for us all and I want all our school community stakeholders to understand that their work and partnership is valued.

### **September 2021**

At the time of writing there has been some further guidance from the government which sets out a range of measures so I will now communicate what this means for our school for September.

There is hope that with Step 4 of the government guidance school life will be able to return to some normality in September and we will be able to have whole school assemblies, school trips and lunchtime in the hall for all classes. Thankfully, the bubble system will end too.

It appears that the wearing of face masks will be optional later this month and this is the advice that we will be giving to parents/carers/grandparents when they drop off and collect children from school in September. In addition, the one way system will end.

However, I am proposing that for the first few weeks that the staggered start and finish times for each class remain in place whilst we adjust to the new school year. We will review this after the first four weeks.

The times for each class are outlined below:

<b><u>Current Class</u></b>	<b><u>New class in September</u></b>	<b><u>School start time</u></b>	<b><u>School finish time</u></b>
Mrs Bancroft F2BE	<b>Mr Young 1CY</b>	8.40am (Yr1 door)	3pm (Yr1 door)
Mrs Lucan F2SL	<b>Mr Hamm 1DH</b>	8.50am (Yr1 door)	3.10pm (Yr1 door)

Mr Young 1CY	<b>Miss Murphy 2TM</b>	8.40am (Yr2 door)	3pm (Yr2 door)
Mr Hamm 1DH	<b>Mrs Astbury</b>	8.50am (Yr2 door)	3.10pm (Yr2 door)

Children in F1 and F2 have already received information about the first few weeks in September and their transition into school. We will communicate to them in September about the permanent starting times for their class.

The first day of the new academic year is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Staffing for 2020/21**

This is the staffing structure for September. Mrs McLeod will continue to work across the school to provide support for children not working at age-related expectations in core subjects.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
<b>Foundation 1</b>	Mrs Honeybourne	Mrs Boardman Ms S Barnes
<b>Foundation 2</b>	Mrs Lucan	Miss M Barnes/Miss Darcy
	Mrs Bancroft	Mr Dagnall
<b>Year 1</b>	Mr Young	Mrs Myers
	Mr Hamm	Mrs Gill
<b>Year 2</b>	Miss Murphy	Mrs Underwood
	Mrs Astbury	Mrs Underwood

The children have all had the opportunity to meet their new teacher in school this week and also visit their classroom.

### **Events this term**

The weather was perfect for Sports Day this year and the children thoroughly enjoyed participating in lots of different physical challenges. A big thank you to Tom's Dad (Year 2) for loaning us his inflatable obstacle course for the day and not charging us! Needless to say it was the highlight of the day! Check out the school website for more Sports Day photographs.



In addition to Sports Day, each class has had the opportunity to try out some different sports. By far the most popular was Taekwondo which was taught by Dylan Milne, a 5 times World Taekwondo Champion and 2 times European champion.



Many of you may not be aware but the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> June was Refugee Week and in our weekly assembly (via zoom) the children learned about what a refugee is, the reasons they have to leave their home and the difficulties they face.

Over the past couple of weeks, as part of the Deeside Coast to Country project, the children have been learning all about plastic pollution and how to look after the local area and our environment. Following a launch assembly each class has used a book to stimulate discussion and ideas about what we can do to help.

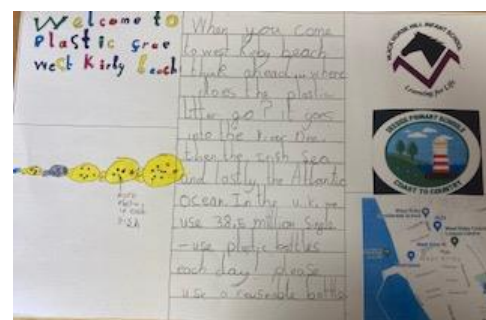
As part of our commitment to our local area Mrs Astbury organised a beach clean after school on two consecutive Fridays. It was extremely well attended and we were astounded by the range of items that we found. Thank you to Tanskeys in West Kirby for providing a well-deserved ice cream for all those who participated in the clean-up mission. Thanks must also go to Amy Evans for coming to talk about the work of the “Wirral Wombles” group.



Many of our children have been inspired to litter pick on the way to school too!

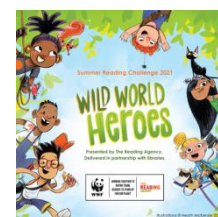


The children have also produced some fabulous leaflets which local businesses have agreed to display. Look out for them!



### Summer Reading Challenge

Please try to continue to read with your child over the summer holidays. Reading for 5-10 minutes every day will make a huge difference. Perhaps you could look at some of your child's favourite books in their school Bug Club account or you might like to join the summer reading challenge which is run by local libraries. This year the reading challenge is called Wild World Heroes. In September, the children who have read six or more books during the holidays are awarded a certificate and medal. For more information pop into the library or visit [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk). It is completely free!



### **School Uniform**

Often, parents/carers buy new uniform ready for the start of the academic year. Please remember to label your children's clothing so any lost items can be returned easily to their owner. Due to a shortage of space on children's pegs we would be grateful if you would not buy large school bags. Our purple school bags or similar are ideal; they fit into trays in the classroom and are easily accessible for reading books etc. during the day.

Furthermore, please remember that children should not wear earrings to school.

### **PE**

One of the things that we will retain after Covid is that children come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days. Once our timetables are sorted, I will send you the days that your child will have PE. However, the only kit that will be allowed is our regulation school PE kit which is a white, plain t-shirt, navy or black shorts/joggers/leggings and a dark coloured hoody/zip up or school sweatshirt.

### **Attendance Matters!**

Please do not book holidays during term time— term dates for 2021-2022 are on the school website. Attendance at school is important for ensuring your child makes good progress across the year. Holidays will only be authorised under exceptional circumstances.

### **Staff Development Days**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

There is an **additional day's holiday** for schools next year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. **This will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

A special mention must go to Mrs Lucan's class who sadly had to miss the end of term in school because their bubble popped. We have missed you this week Mrs Lucan's class.

Finally, I would like to wish all our wonderful Year 2 children and their families the very best of luck as they move to the Junior School. They have been a fabulous year group and we will miss them very much.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris