



WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcoming - Kind - Polite - Successful

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of our spring term. EYFS have started their learning about Minibeasts. Year 1 and Year 2 have re-written the story of Little Red Riding Hood from their own perspective. Year 3 spent Wednesday morning at the field taking part in a variety of sports. Year 4 have been enjoying their residential at Robinwood, Wrexham. Year 5 and Year 6 have been preparing their own story book to share with younger children next week. Year 5 and 6 also have Ukrainian Workshops taking place next week.

I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce Mr McCrum who is teaching in Class 5 while Mrs Burrows is absent for a period of time.

World Book Day

The children can choose which book character they would like to dress up as. As always, if your child does not wish to dress up, that is ok and they can come to school in their school uniform.

Yesterday (2/3/23) was officially World Book Day. However, we had quite a few children and staff out of school. As you know, reading is really important to our school, so we wanted to ensure that everyone could take part. This is why we are celebrating on **Tuesday 7th March**. The Official World Book Day didn't go unnoticed.

- Library Jane has created an attractive World Book Day display in the library.
- KS1 and KS2 had a World Book assembly on Monday where we read 'Last Stop At Market Street' by Matt de la Pena, which has won several awards.
- Lou, our Catering Manager, has put together a World Book Day menu for our children on the 7th March. Lou says: 'All Hansels and Gretals are welcome for lunch at the witch's house in the woods'. There will be: "Three little Pigs – wearing diamonds and toads" (sausages in Yorkshire puddings), "The Potato Supper" (mashed potato or baked potato), "The Princess and the Pea" (peas), "Jack and the Beanstalk" (baked beans), along with Gingerbread Men and Anansie's Melon Boats!

Dates for your Dairy

- Tuesday 7th March: WKPS World Book Day.
- Friday 10th March: PTA Coffee morning (8:40am onwards)
- Friday 10th March: Fundraising Day for Turkey and Syria
- Monday 13th Friday 17th March: Scholastic Book Fair, more details to follow soon
- Monday 13th March: UKS2 trip to Royal Liverpool Philharmonic
- Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th March: PTA Mothers' Day Table
- Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March: Proposed Strike Day
- Friday 17th March: Red Nose Day- Comic Relief
- Friday 31st March: Fairtrade Tea/Coffee Morning
- Friday 31st March: School closes for Easter Holidays (3:20pm)

Strike

Thank you for your patience and understanding in relation to the recent strike days. Taking strike action is not a decision that any teacher makes easily. All of the teachers at WKPS work incredibly hard and want the best for the children. As a leader of a school, there is information to consider from the Local Authority, DfE, NEU (Union taking strike action) and the other unions that staff at WKPS are a part of. All of this information contributes to the information that I share with you about which children can attend school on the strike days. Every school is in their own unique situation and is mainly influenced by how many NEU members they have and how many teachers are, or are not, striking.

Please note that the next proposed strike days are Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. Please find below information from The NEU about the strike.



A message to parents, carers and grandparents from the National Education Union (NEU).

Our members – teachers, support staff and leaders – have voted to take strike action.

You might not know why we have taken this decision.

But what you do know is that we try to do our best for your children.

To give them a good education and make school a warm and welcoming community, where staff know and understand them and you.

Where we give them continuity and stability, with enough specialist teachers, who know their subjects. And the proper resources to help them learn and grow.

But we are struggling to do that right now.

In July, the Government offered most teachers a pay rise of just 5 per cent – with inflation soaring, that adds up to a 7 per cent pay cut.

The 5 per cent offered isn't fully funded – that means Government expects your school to pay for it out of its already dwindling budget.

Because our pay is not keeping up with the cost of living, teachers and support staff are leaving for jobs with comparable salaries but without the stress and workload generated by targets and paperwork that exist in schools right now.

One in three teachers leave education within five years. And last September, almost a third fewer trainees began teacher training than are needed.

Schools have too many vacancies. Heads tell us of vital subjects – maths, science, computing, languages – with unfilled posts

and existing staff delivering lessons outside their subject every single day.

Managing with fewer staff also means we can't give enough personal support if your children need extra help.

And it means they have reduced access to sports, drama, music and other activities that make the week for a lot of pupils.

We don't want to be on strike.

We'd rather be in the classroom, getting on with what we do best – teaching and supporting your children.

But we can't stand by and see our colleagues experience hardship with yet another real-terms pay cut.

And we can't stand back and watch the exodus from teaching and the resulting decline in the quality of education for your children.

Our action for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise isn't just about making sure that teachers and support staff make ends meet. It's about the future of education.

This Government is failing children and young people and those who teach and support them. And, like our NHS staff, we are being forced into taking action for our members, our pupils and their future. Please show your support by writing to your MP and take the time to tell your child's teacher and support staff that you are with them.

Thank you.



Scan this QR code to find out what you can do to support us.



PE Kits

A polite reminder to ensure that all of the children come to school in the correct PE kits.

- Navy blue shorts or dark joggers/leggings
- Light blue PE T shirt
- School jumper/school cardigan or navy blue PE jumper
- Trainers

There is no expectation that any of the items have to be branded with the school logo. However, these are available from ID Uniforms (Hoylake) if this is your preference.

We have seen an increase in children wearing other branded items and brightly coloured clothing. Please can these be avoided on PE days.

Fundraising

Supporting the children to be aware of news events around the world is important. Our Key Stage Two classes watch the daily Newsround update and follow up discussions often take place. Recently, the children were talking about the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. A couple of children spoke to me about fundraising in school; therefore, we have combined a few ideas so that we can raise funds to send to The British Red Cross to support the people in Turkey and Syria. Friday 10th March will be a non-uniform day for the children and we are asking that they donate a £1 for wearing non-uniform. At the end of the school day there will be a treats sale. Doughnuts and Muffins will be available to purchase (50p each). These have kindly been donated by one of our families. Please note, we will only be able to take cash at the treats sale and the correct change will be appreciated.



TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

We are raising funds to support the British Red Cross with their work in Turkey and Syria following the recent Earthquakes

Friday 10th March

Non-uniform day; £1 to take part

Treats on sale at 3:20pm on the playground
muffins and doughnuts - 50p each

Donated by Baker and Baker

All proceeds will go to the British Red Cross

THANK YOU



As always please talk to us if you feel your child may need further support or there is any information that we need to be aware of.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Bailey
Headteacher