



Newsletter

Issue 83
September
2018

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Looking ahead to an exciting year

The children all seem to have had a really enjoyable summer and are happy to be back at school. It's always an exciting time, welcoming the new Year 3 children into the school and watching them grow in confidence, as well as seeing how the rest of the children cope with the demands of their new year group. We have many exciting things planned for 2018/19 and are really looking forward to another successful year. Please remember to contact us if you have any concerns or things which you are unsure of - we would much rather sort things out before they become a worry for either you or your child. Speak to teachers face to face at home time, phone 6771837 or email 'schooloffice@greasby-junior.wirral.sch.uk' if you have any issues.

Standards and Expectations

Like you, we want every child to enjoy school and to be the very best they can and we believe that through our principles of 'Care, Courtesy and Consideration', we have a very happy and successful school. Whilst we embrace technology, we also have high regard for traditional values; we expect the children to take pride in their appearance and to treat each other with respect. We don't tolerate disrespect or prejudice of any kind and we make these expectations very clear to the children. Although the children love our non-uniform days, they tell us that they like the uniform because it takes away the pressure of having to wear certain brands of clothing. We discourage hair gel, 'tram lines' in hair etc, accessories such as flowery hair bands, large bows, nail varnish and jewellery (all of which are fine on non-uniform days and school discos). The children have the option of wearing the summer uniform until half term, as the weather can still be warm. A reminder that children should use a rucksack to carry their things in (a growing trend amongst the older girls was to use a fashion handbag which is not appropriate for school. Rucksacks can either be Greasby Junior School ones (available on the school website - click the 'For Parents' link), or any other type. We really appreciate your support in these matters.

Accelerated Reader

The children will soon be receiving their Accelerated Reading books. The school's average reading age increased by double the expected amount last year as a result of this initiative. However, there was a vast difference in the amount of reading some of the children did, with 20 children achieving their 'Black Ninja' certificates for 225 reads from November to July, whilst some had read just 25 times in the same period. The progress these children made was reflected in the amount of reading they did. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible - the long term effects are well worth the effort.

House Cup/Excellence Award

Congratulations to Lottie, who won the Excellence Award in July, as a result of receiving the most team points in that calendar month. She received her badge and gift voucher in assembly at the end of term. Lottie is 8 years old and has just started in 4M, her favourite subject is art and at home she loves dancing and playing tennis. She is a member of Hoylake School of Dance and wants to be a dance teacher when she grows up. Lottie's favourite food is roast dinner but she hasn't yet developed a taste for sprouts!



Mobile phones and social media

We had a number of issues last year with children not sleeping well because they were using their mobile phones in their bedrooms at night. One parent, who doesn't allow her daughter to have her phone in her bedroom, informed us that when she turned her daughter's phone on in the morning, there were over 50 messages that had been posted throughout the night. More and more research suggests use of technology, particularly social media use at night time, is the cause of broken sleep and anxiety in children. You can access some of these articles on our website (click 'For Parents', then 'Information for Parents about Child Wellbeing'). Our advice would be not to allow children to have access to social media in the evenings and through the night. Children in Year 6 last year told us that when they left their phones downstairs at night, they felt less anxious and had much better quality sleep. We certainly noticed a difference in their ability to focus in the classroom.

Attendance

Children who are absent from school develop gaps in their learning and we therefore actively discourage parents from arranging holidays during term time. Fines will be issued when a child has ten or more sessions of unauthorised absence in a term, if leave has been taken without parents requesting authorisation or if a child is late on ten or more separate occasions.



Parents' Association

The PA are a fantastic group of people whose efforts have transformed the playground areas for the children over the years as well as boosting resources in school such as reading books. The first meeting of the year is at 6.00pm on Monday 24th September at school - all are welcome to come along and any help you can offer, no matter how small, will be much appreciated.

Procedure when children are not picked up

On some occasions last year, parents were unable to be at the meeting point on time and, instead of making their way back to school, the child waited, inevitably becoming upset. Each time this happened at the 'Fox's Den'. Please reiterate the message we give the children in school - that if you are not there to pick up your child, they must come straight back to school where we will then contact you to arrange pick-up.

Important Dates (Dates for the rest of the academic year are on the school website)

Year 3 and 4 Curriculum Meetings: Wednesday 12th September (6.00pm)

Barnstondale meeting for Year 4 parents: Monday 17th September (6.00pm)

Year 5 and 6 Curriculum Meetings: Tuesday 18th September (6.00pm)

PA Meeting: Monday 24th September (6.00pm)

Year 3 swimming fortnight: week beginning Monday 1st October

Year 4 children visit Greasby Methodist Church: Thursday 4th October (9.30am)

Parents' Evenings: Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th October

Reading Festival: Tuesday 16th October (1.30pm)

Disco: Thursday 18th October (6.30 - 8.00pm)

School closes for half term: Friday 19th October (optional non-uniform day)

School re-opens for 'Autumn 2': Monday 29th October

