



St Bridget's C of E Primary School

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Together Everyone Achieves More

25-5-17

Dear Parents,

Sports Days

Half term is approaching and tomorrow Friday 26th May is an Inset Day. This week, possibly for the first year in some time, we have managed to hold all of our sports days. There have been some fine performances, great participation and good sporting behaviour shown from all of the children all week. In particular, I would like to mention year six, who have helped out with every sports day this week. Their attitude has been amazing and I am extremely proud of the way they have supported the younger children. Miss Bowler, as always, now works out all of the scores and she will announce the overall house winners in the next assembly. The children have loved the week and they have enjoyed having the support of their parents either watching, helping with scores or taking part in one of the last races. Great fun. My thanks also goes to my catering staff for providing refreshments are each day. Much appreciated.

Sad news from Manchester

This week saw some terrible news unfold from Manchester. When things like this happen all of the teachers and staff in school work hard to give the children the right support when needed. Sometimes this is through class assemblies, prayers or individual support. Today, during our Ascension Day service we held a period of silence and prayer for the victims in Manchester. We recognise that some families have been affected by this. If there are any concerns please let us know and we will do our best to support your child.

Recognition for our Maths Teaching

A few weeks ago our teaching of mathematics and the use of Singapore Maths to develop understanding for all children was reviewed by a visiting consultant. We received some very good feedback on how we have developed our practice. At a recent National Conference for Singapore Maths it was confirmed that we will now be a Lead School for the development of Singapore Maths and only one of fifteen schools nationally. This recognition reflects on the way all of the teaching staff and Governors have supported our drive to improve maths. Some of the benefits of using the Singapore approach have been obvious, but the benefits will only be fully realised within three to five years. We adopted the Singapore approach not just because it is proven to raise standards, but also because it promotes a more enjoyable way to learn and teach. We are just under two years into our journey so we are not there yet, but well on the way.

Staffing News

This term we have had a number of staffing appointments. From January, Mrs Johnson and Mr Neal, were asked to become the interim Assistant Headteachers to cover the position of Deputy Headteacher as well as cover additional leadership responsibilities across the school. This has been a successful trial period. St. Bridget's is a large school and the positive effects of an

additional key person in the leadership team have been significant. As a result, the Governors have now made these positions permanent. Mrs Johnson is the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Inclusion and Mr Neal is the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Curriculum Development.

Last week we held a number of interviews to ensure that we have the right teaching staff in place for September. I am pleased to announce that the Governors have appointed Mrs Sadler Jones, Miss Hubbard, Mrs Inglis and Mr Coughlin for class teacher positions for September. After the half term I will confirm which year groups each of the teachers will be in.

Building work

The building work is progressing well and the new classes now have a concrete floor. From now the building will grow quickly. The brick layers are in next week, walls will be going up and the steel work for the roof will be installed. In addition, Mr Marriott's class are moving to another class in school so that work for the new infant toilets can be completed. For the last six weeks of term year six will be working in between one of the classes and the computer suite. While this is enforced this may help with their transition to secondary school and help keep them organised between classes. In short, the builders are confident that the classes will be ready for September. I am keeping a close eye on this! My thanks to all of the parents and children for your patience during the building work.

Additional work on the junior playground

Over half term the patch of grass by the church centre will be developed. The plans include: a quiet area for the playground with some small plant beds, areas to sit, a small water feature, pathways and artificial grass. Most of this work will be finished by the time the children return after half term. My thanks to the Parents Association for their support and generous contribution to the new garden area. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Church who have offered to make a contribution for the quiet area too.

SATs

The Key Stage two and Key Stage one SATs have now been completed. This is always a less than exciting time in our school for the children and the staff. Unfortunately it is compulsory and I am proud of the way the children did their best and how they were encouraged and supported by their teachers. The SATs results come out later in the term. Whilst schools are judged on their academic results, our school ethos is to promote all of the potential in our children. We are very proud of our singing, our music, the sport and our approach to being a Rights Respecting School. I hope you see and feel this too.

Parents Association News

The recent PA event at Sheldrake's was a sell out and a great success. I am pleased to inform you that we raised £1650. Thank you to all of the parents, Parents Association and staff who attended. The atmosphere was great, the sunset was beautiful and the dancing was a different class.

Charity

The money from the small change that was used to decorate the fish at Easter has been counted. We raised over £250. I would like to say thanks to my small band of coin counters from Year 5 who spent their break times counting all of the money. Great job.

Sporting Success

Boccia

We have had recent success in a Boccia tournament and our team will now go through to the Merseyside finals. Boccia is an inclusive sport that is similar to both bowls and the French game of Boules.

High 5 Netball

Our netball team just missed out on making the Merseyside finals with a narrow loss 4-3 in the finals. High 5 netball includes both boys and girls in the team.

Other information

Sun safety

At this time of year I always remind parents about ensuring your child has sun protection. Please put sun cream/lotion on them before they come to school, remind them to take a hat for the sun and an extra drink. We have water taps in school and they can fill up their bottles during the day when appropriate.

Local Events

The Friends of Ashton Park have decided to have a 'Big Lunch' event in Ashton Park on 18th June to bring together our West Kirby Community. The Big Lunch has been held in the UK since 2009 where the aim is to get as many people as possible across the country to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

A few months ago on the radio, the husband of Jo Cox MP, when interviewed, explained that he would like to get 10 million people sitting down to the 'Big Lunch' in memory of his wife, saying that 'he did not want the anniversary of her death to be about mourning and everybody being depressed, but an event that captures her energy and brings communities together.' After recent events in Manchester, now more than ever it would be good to get together as a community, so please do come and join us with your picnic in the Upper Park. Mary Berry may not be there, but you could win one of our Bake-Off prizes, or just join in all the fun and games!

It will be held on Sunday 18th June from 1pm to 4pm. If the sun doesn't shine it will still go ahead at Westbourne Hall. If you want any more information about the event, or you'd like to get involved, please contact Vicky Gawith on 07779625760.

Prints of the School

Some parents have enquired about buying the artwork featured on our website featuring the journey of children coming to school through the churchyard. This is an original piece of artwork completed by well-known local artist, Ian Fennelly, who has completed commissions nationally and internationally. He has made a limited number of prints available for us to sell from school. Various size prints can be made but as a guide the price for a print on A1 is £75, A2 is £65, A3 is £55. <http://www.stbridgets.wirral.sch.uk/website>. If you would like to order a print please send your details and requirements in an envelope to the school office.

Have a good half term,

Yours sincerely,

Neil Le Feuvre

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