



# St Bridget's C of E Primary School

St Bridget's Lane,  
West Kirby,  
Wirral CH48 3JT  
Tel: 0151 625 7652

Headteacher: Mr Neil Le Feuvre  
Email: [schooloffice@stbridgets.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@stbridgets.wirral.sch.uk)  
Website: <https://st-bridgets.eschools.co.uk/site>



*Together Everyone Achieves More*

**29-3-18**

Dear Parents,

## Happy Easter

Today year three led our Easter Service. We were reminded of the special message that Easter. It restores our faith, gives us hope and celebrates God's love. The Charles Thompson Mission also expressed their appreciation and thanks to all of the children who have supported our giving during Lent.

## SIAMS report

We have now received the final copy of our SIAMS report. We received the "Outstanding" grade for all the work we do in school with children, with the church and with our community. There is a copy of the report on the website, in the news section and I have recently emailed a copy of the report to you as well.

## Litter Pick

A big thank you to Isabel in year 5, for participating in a Litter Pick at West Kirby beach last Sunday. The High Tidiers sent the following message "Isobel is a credit to her school and we would be very grateful if you could congratulate her on behalf of The High Tidiers!"

## Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair raised over £1200, meaning we will have over £600 to spend on new books for our classrooms. Thank you for your support.

## Sporting Achievements

Seven pupils from St Bridget's were selected to represent their county in the National Primary Cross Country finals at Loughborough last weekend. St Bridget's Primary school had more children in the county team than any other primary school on the Wirral! It was a massive achievement for all 7 pupils to be picked to represent their county in a national competition. 48 counties from all over England entered teams of their best 6 runners in each age/gender category. There were over 260 children on the start line of each race and the whole event was televised. It was a terrifying and amazing experience for all 7 of our runners. They all did extremely well to finish the course even though a couple of them got knocked over during their races (it was rough!). They all demonstrated courage and perseverance. One of our runners, Sophie in year 6, came 31st out of 260 in the year

6 girl's race. This is an amazing result considering she was competing against the best runners from the whole of England.

### **Musical Show for Charity**

Well done to the girls who created a wonderful musical show to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. They raised £371.91 and had lots of fun along the way.



### **Easter Activities**

#### **MASTERS SPORTS COACHING 2018 Easter Sports Camps:**

##### **Date: 3rd - 5th April**

Rugby Camp @ Caldy RUFC

Hockey Camp @ Calday Grange Grammar School (glasspool astro turf)

##### **Date: 10th - 12th April**

Rugby Camp @ Chester RUFC

Start: 8:30am

Finish: 3:00pm

Ages: 7-16 yrs

Cost: £75 (£125 for two children) DAILY RATES ARE AVAILABLE!

Coaching is provided from current full time PE staff employed by Calday Grange Grammar School.

Application is open to boys aged 8 years and upwards.

### **Free School Meals – Important Message**

If you are eligible apply now. If you are not eligible now please check again as you may become eligible from April 2018.



Free School Meals ACT NOW - RULES CHANGE APRIL 2018

Students in receipt of Free School Meals receive a daily credit. This provides adequate funding to purchase a hot meal and a drink at lunchtime.

Free school meals are available for children if their parent or carer receives certain benefits. In addition, the school receives Pupil Premium funding each year of £1320 per student who is entitled to free school meals; this funding continues for up to six years after the free school meals claim ends. This means that even if you only expect to claim for a short period the Pupil Premium funding will continue to support your child's education for the long term.

**The criteria used to assess eligibility will change in April 2018** – this change has been made by the Government to reflect the roll-out of Universal Credit and their guidance suggests that 50,000 more students may be eligible after the change.

**It is likely that there will be winners and losers as part of these changes.** Students with an existing Free School Meal entitlement will be unaffected, however new applicants may be affected. This may mean a new application that would have been successful under the old criteria may be unsuccessful under the new criteria and vice-versa.

**If in doubt about your eligibility please apply before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. If refused, you may be eligible from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 under the new rules. Not acting now may lead to your child losing up to £646 p.a. free school meal credit.**

If you think that you might be eligible please complete your claim online at:

## **Wirral Council Free School Meals Application**

### **Current Eligibility Criteria**

The current criteria that will apply to applications made up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 are as below:

*In England, pupils in maintained schools, academies and free schools are currently entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians are in receipt of any of the benefits below:*

- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *The guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit (regardless of income amount, as a temporary measure during the early stages of rollout).*

### **Proposed New Eligibility Criteria**

Information from the Government's consultation is repeated below:

*We will introduce an annual net earnings threshold of £7,400, which will typically equate to an overall household income of between £18,000 and £24,000 once benefits income is taken into account, depending on individual circumstances. Eligibility will be verified by using an equivalent monthly check verified from the household's most recent Universal Credit assessment periods.*

*The protection arrangements will work as follows:*

- *From April 2018, all existing claimants will continue to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if their earnings rise above the new threshold during that time.*
- *In addition, any child gaining eligibility for free school meals after the threshold has been introduced will be protected against losing free school meals during the Universal Credit rollout period.*
- *No further eligibility checks will be required for protected families during this period; schools would simply leave these pupils flagged as protected pupils in their management information systems.*
- *Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold) will continue to receive protection until the end of their current phase of education (e.g. primary, secondary).*
- *New claimants earning above the threshold after April 2018 will not be eligible for free school meals.*

The School apologises that this is complicated; the reality is that it is very complicated and it is likely that there will be issues and differences of interpretation as part of the roll-out. We can only share what we know with you at this point in time and we will provide further information as things become clearer.

Happy Easter,

*Neil Le Feuvre*

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