

Heswall Primary School

'Better Never Stops'



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Dear Parents and Carers,

15.09.23

Toast - A reminder that toast is now payable on ParentPay. You can purchase the whole half term for £6. This will ensure that the school can be cash free and that the service can continue each playtime.

Leave of Absence Requests - Please be aware that we cannot authorise holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances and no leave can be given during periods of statutory National Examinations or assessments. The statutory dates this year are:

Reception – A Reception Baseline Assessment is completed for each child during the first 6 weeks of the academic year after they enter. We are currently in this period.

Year One – Phonics Screening Checks will take place from Monday 10th June 2024. Year 2 children that did not meet the standard during Year One will also complete the Phonics Screening Check.

Year Two - Key Stage One SATs have always been completed throughout May. Although not mandatory this year, we may be required to complete the assessments on an optional basis throughout the month of May.

Year Four – A Multiplication Tables Check has to be administered in the 2 week period from Monday 3rd June. The teachers will administer the tests at the time the children are most ready in that period.

Year Six – End of Key Stage 2 Assessments SATS- Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May 2024. If a child misses because of a holiday, they cannot sit the test at another time.

We know it is much cheaper to take holidays in term time, however they cannot be authorised without an exceptional reason. Wirral's Attendance Team are clear that parents are to expect a fixed penalty notice for holidays taken in term time (currently £60 per child per parent). This is consistent with all other schools. We know that parents will be disappointed to receive a fixed penalty and we do not want this for our families. Please note, the school does not receive any of the finances from fixed penalty notices. Last year's school attendance was impacted by families taking unauthorised holidays and we now need to improve the overall attendance so we can also improve standards. Whilst most families advised us that were going on holiday, others did not resulting in safeguarding work for our staff. Significant catch up for the children was also required on their return whilst increasing the workload for the teaching and learning staff. We therefore politely ask that, unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed by school, please avoid taking holidays during school time.

Free School Meals

Many families are entitled to Free School Meals and may not be aware of it. If eligible, your child not only receives a healthy school meal and school receives Pupil Premium funding that we will use to provide better opportunities and additional staffing in the school. Your child does not have to take the free meal if they choose not to but it will be helpful if all families register their details on this website

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral> . If you are not eligible, should your circumstances change in the future, the system will detect the eligibility. Alternatively, please call in to the school office with your National Insurance number and we will help you do this.

Kind regards,

Mr J Lawrenson
Headteacher

