

Heswall Primary School

'Better Never Stops'



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Dear Parents,

24.1.21

School Crossing Patrol

For those children that are currently attending school, you may have noticed that the School Crossing Patrol Service is not currently operating. We have contacted the service but at the moment, it is suspended due to the pandemic and because schools are officially 'closed'. Please be extra careful when crossing the roads and be aware that if some of our older children are walking to school, the lollipop man will not be there.

Wirral Council Budget

You may have seen in the local news the budget situation being faced by Wirral Council. The situation is largely a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has prevented the council from implementing the savings which were agreed last March. The Government has provided financial aid during the pandemic, but this has not covered all of the budgetary impact of continuing to provide services and support residents and businesses over the last nine months. In addition, there has been a significant loss of income to the council as a result of the lockdown and restrictions put in place.

Over the last few months, the council has been reviewing all the services it delivers. Some services are statutory – the council is legally obliged to provide them – while others are not but are provided because it is believed they are valuable to the local community. However, because of the budget gap, the council must find ways to cut costs and where possible raise additional income - including considering options which under any other circumstances they would not otherwise choose to consider to ensure the council remains sustainable into the future. The council has used many local forums to ascertain the views and comments of Wirral residents. The consultation does end today but you can still currently have your say by going to <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/council-budget>.

Places in School

As you aware, the service currently being offered in school is for the children of Key Workers and for Vulnerable children. This is an attempt to get the Covid-19 cases down by reducing mixing of households. All Key Workers are being asked by the council, not to send their children into school if there is somebody at home. We appreciate that this is difficult for parents who are also trying to work from home at the same time as supporting your children. Many of our staff and their own children are in similar positions so we really do understand the challenge on you all. Places offered so far have been full time and have been educational. We are not providing child-care in school other than Wrap Around Care before and after school.

The teachers are working consistently to ensure that Google Classroom lessons are of a very high standard and will match what is happening inside the actual classroom. If children at home can keep on top of the daily work then when schools are considered safe enough for the increased numbers of children to return, they will be up to date with their learning. We are much further on than when we first started using Google Classroom in April 2020. All teachers have been holding 'Google Meet' ups and are recording lots of videos to help the children and to keep them feeling connected to school.

Laptops

There has been a lot of information in the news regarding the provision of government laptops for children to use at home. We are asked by parents on a daily basis, if we have been provided with these laptops to give to the children. So far, we not been provided with any new laptops and we are still waiting to be able to access a small allocation from the Department of Education. There was a very small number that were received from the council last year which were all allocated at that time. One generous neighbour was lovely enough to donate their old laptop to the school and we will try to set it up for home learning.

Most of the school's laptops are used by the teaching staff in the classrooms and we do not have a supply. If you do not have a way for your child to access Google Classroom, please email the school office and we will see if we can come up with a solution for you.

Thanks again for your support during this challenging time. From everyone here at Heswall, we hope you enjoy your weekend and some time away from the computer screens!

Mr J Lawrenson, Headteacher