



Barnston Primary School

'a health promoting school'

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Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Half term 20th – 24th

27th – Staff and children back in

March

6th Parent council 6pm

8th Spelling and Grammar parent workshop

9th Competitive Sports day – children come in sportswear

21st – Open Assembly 9.10am

W/C 20th – Scholastics all week

22nd and 23rd Parents' Evening 4-7pm to look at your child's progress - crèche in the hall

April

3rd - 17th Easter holiday

Tuesday 18th school starts after Easter due to bank holiday on the Monday

20th – Open Assembly

20th – Conway Meeting 6.pm for Y4 parents and children

21st – Art Day – wear suitable clothing

27th - April drama production 6.30 pm (drama students' parents only)

28th Competitive Sports Day – come in sportswear

May

1st - bank holiday

4th - INSET – no children in (school a polling station)

3rd - Manor meeting Y6 at 6pm

8th – 12th Y6 SATs week (all children must be in all week)

12th Year 3 Sleepover – more information and e-mails nearer the time

15th Parent Council 6pm

18th Open Assembly 9.10 am

22nd - 26th Y6 Manor residential

29th -2nd June half term

FUNDRAISING FOR THE BENNETT FAMILY

I am sure that many of you saw the news last night regarding this Wirral family's very sad news regarding the 3 children losing both their parents to cancer. **Most Wirral schools are holding a non-uniform day this Friday in order to raise funds for the children.** Many of us will have experienced the



loss of a relative to cancer, but to think of 2 parents being taken in the same time period is just heart breaking. If you feel that you can contribute to this on Friday, it would be very much appreciated by the family at such a sad time.

INSTAGRAM WARNING FROM THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

The Children's Commissioner recently published a report on 'Growing Up Digital'. There were some interesting aspects that we should share with parents:

Around half of 8 - 15 year olds use Instagram. The 'Growing Up Digital' report authors asked the legal firm, Schillings, to look over the 17 pages of Instagram's Terms and Conditions and the lawyers simplified the TaC to help children understand what they mean. Here are two of the reader-friendly clauses:

"Officially you own any original pictures and videos you post, but we are allowed to use them, and we can let others use them as well, anywhere around the world. Other people might pay us to use them and we will not pay you for that" (or put more simply, we can sell the items you upload without asking you or paying you).

"We might send you adverts connected to your interests which we are monitoring. You cannot stop us doing this and it will not always be obvious that it is an advert" (or put more simply, we can send you things and you won't know it's an advert).

Although there are many positives connected with social media and the digital age, it is important for all parents to be aware of the negatives. The full report can be found via this link <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publications/growing-digital> and thanks to Andrew Hall, Safeguarding consultant, Success in Schools Ltd, for bringing this to our attention.

COLLABORATION AMONGST SCHOOLS

As you will know from previous newsletters, we continue to enjoy very strong links with the primary schools in our locality. Many thanks to all those who got involved in the 'Science Under the Stars' project hosted at Heswall Primary School, which was a great success. All the Science subject leads across our group of schools contributed to this event – Gayton, Irby, Thingwall, Pensby, Heswall and ourselves (thanks to Mr Pipe). As a group of schools, we have many collaborative projects planned in order to provide great opportunities and standards for all our children and we share ideas/planning/monitoring/resources/staffing/bulk buying/ service level costs and training costs in order to protect and navigate our schools successfully through a climate where school funding from government is decreasing rapidly, particularly over the next 3 years. Please continue to support this collaboration as all Barnston pupils will benefit.

HI-IMPACT SCIENCE WEEK

Catch the tweets on the website of the exciting ICT/Science work that has been going on this week in school. In addition, Barnston will be joining with Thingwall Primary to participate in a Google Expeditions experience, where the children use ICT to be transported through a visual experience to places around the world – how exciting technology has become!



PM COMPREHENSION CARDS

Thank you for supporting the last Scholastics book week. The money raised was spent on differentiated comprehension question cards for every year group, which enhance other resources used and these are proving a very popular and challenging resource for the children.

TEACHER APPOINTMENTS

Just a reminder that if matters arise regarding your child, the correct procedure is to first and foremost make an appointment with the class teacher, through the school office. If parents wish to see someone senior to the teacher, they should involve the manager of the teacher's phase, or the SENCO, Mrs Hill if it is a special needs matter/query. Matters should only be brought to the attention of the deputy or head teacher, if parents feel that their requests/queries have not been met by the teacher and the manager. **The managers of each phase are F2 Mrs Lewis, Y1/2 Mr Dixon, Y3/4 Mrs While and Y5/6 Mrs Birch.**

SPELLING AND GRAMMAR PARENT WORKSHOP – 8th MARCH 9.15-10.30am

Come and work with your child to participate in their English grammar lessons and see what challenges children face and how you can learn alongside and support your child.

Mrs Pearson
Head teacher

