



# Newsletter September 2016

## Welcome Back Everybody

I hope you all had a fantastic summer break. It was great to see all the children return to school last week. They all looked very smart in their new uniforms and black shoes! For some, the first few days in Nursery and Reception Class can be exhausting and their new classes can seem daunting but I know our staff will settle them all in successfully. I appreciate your continued support during these transition weeks. Please make sure you are familiar with your child's weekly routine so you can ensure they are correctly equipped with PE kit, reading books and homework.

## Names in Clothing

It didn't take very long for our lost property to start filling up! On the first day alone, I had two cardigans, a jumper (all brand new) and a coat. Only the jumper had a name in it so it immediately got reunited. I urge you all to write your child's name clearly on the label of every item of clothing to maximise the chances of it being returned should it go astray.

## KiVa Launch

As you saw in the previous letter, Westwood is now a KiVa school. KiVa is a successful school initiative that promotes wellbeing, happiness, respect for each other and prevents bullying. 90% of schools in Finland have adopted the KiVa approach successfully and evidence shows that it really does make a difference. To find out more about KiVa and how it will affect your child, please join us in the hall at 6:00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

## Staff Car Park

I know the main pedestrian gate is far from easy to navigate during peak times, but I must insist that you do not use the staff car park as an alternative route to avoid the gate. In short, this area of school is not safe for pedestrians as cars come and go at all times of the day. The Governors and I are working on a future plan to improve the main pedestrian entrance.

## Bikes and Scooters

I have nothing against children riding bikes and scooters to and from school but it must be done safely and with consideration for other people on the school site. It is not safe to ride on the school site especially at the front of school (outside my office) where the path narrows. Children seen to be causing a risk, could end up being banned from bringing their vehicle to school. I advise all children riding a bike to wear a cycle helmet. Cycle helmets save lives!

## School Website

Please make sure you log in to our school website to keep you up to date with news and events. Eventually, I want the school to go paper-less by placing all correspondence on our website. Log on to [www.westwoodprimary.co.uk](http://www.westwoodprimary.co.uk)

## Climbing!

Climbing is great fun and it is an essential physical skill. However, please stop your children from climbing on the school walls and gates at home time! All too often, I have to tell some of my pupils to get down from the walls outside my office and car park or to stop swinging on the school gate. At home time, all children must be supervised by a parent, carer or responsible adult.

## Dinner Money

Sadly, Mrs Williams has informed me that I have a worrying £80 debt caused by several unpaid dinners in the first week back. I know this money will be paid back, but it comes as an unnecessary use of time in chasing it. Please make sure all dinner money is paid in advance, preferably on a Monday. Thank you to all parents who always keep on top of their children's dinners and pay in advance, on time - it really does make a difference and is much appreciated.

## Diary of Events (also on our website calendar)

### More events will be added or dates could change

Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	- Roald Dahl Day
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	- KiVa Launch for Parents 6pm
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	- Governors Meeting/AGM 5:30pm
Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	- Creative photo shoot
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	- Water Workshop in school
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	- Community Litter Pick
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	- KiVa Day (activities in class)
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	- 3:30-7pm Parents Evening (Drop-ins)
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	- Macmillan Coffee Afternoon (2-4pm)
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	- Half term
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	- School opens
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	- International Day
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	- Reception, Y1, Y2 & Y3 Flu Immunisations
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- Christmas break

## Admission to Secondary School 2017

The closing date for County to receive secondary school applications is Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. All applications must be done on-line at [Flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://Flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) (please make sure you make a note of your reference number when the form is submitted!).

## Early Entitlement Applications.

You your child is 3 by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, he/she is entitled to a free place with our Early Entitlement Class. Mrs Quirk will be starting the next intake of little learners straight after the Christmas break in January 2017. Please contact the school office of Mrs Quirk for more information and an application pack.

## Mr Kelly's Year 3 to 6 Sports Club Reminder

Mr Kelly the Sports Coach will be starting his fun, fit and sporty after-school club this Tuesday 3:15-4:15pm. As he is an external provider, there is a small charge of £12 for 6 weeks.

## Engagement with School

At Westwood, we welcome the opportunity to receive feedback from our parents and carers. There are several ways to communicate with school staff. Miss Pickering is on hand every morning in the school foyer to be of assistance. Should you need to speak with a teacher, an appointment must be made to allow the member of staff to allocate a suitable time. A request for an appointment can be made in writing or via a phone call to the school office. Every now and again, you may need to raise an issue in relation to your child. It is expected that parents are always calm and considerate with our staff when doing so. We also like to receive and share positive feedback and happy experiences. If you are able to commit to a more active role, please consider joining our PTA Group.