

Headteacher's Newsletter February 2019

February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

We break up for February half term on Friday 15 February 2019 which marks the midpoint in the school year. We return to school on Monday 25 February 2019. It has been a very busy 6 weeks!

Governing Body

I would like to thank all of our Governors for their commitment to our school. They play an important role in supporting and challenging us. There are 12 Governors on our Governing Body.

Parents' Group

Our half termly Parents Group sessions continue to be a success. Thanks to Mrs Hall for organising the latest session on Dyslexia.

These events are informal sessions where Parents/Carers can offer support and advice to each other and relax. Penkford Family Focus groups are held every half term at different venues within the local community. They are an opportunity for you to ask any questions or share any concerns you may have regarding your child. If you would like to know more about our parent group please contact Mrs Hall at school.

Parents Evening

I would like to thank all of those parents who attended our second Target Setting / Termly progress review meetings, arranged on Tuesday 15 January 2019, to review pupils' progress and to set academic and behaviour targets for the Spring Term 2019.

Children's Mental Health Week 4 – 10 February 2019

Being healthy in mind and body is a priority for us at Penkford School. During Children's Mental Health Week, we took steps to be Healthy – Inside and Out with pupils and staff practising Mindfulness, participating in Yoga sessions, running a daily morning mile as well as enjoying healthy breakfasts and developing team work skills by undertaking demanding outdoor physical challenges.

NB: All visitors to Penkford School will be expected to produce up to date photographic ID

Thanks to staff who led this programme. See our website and twitter feed for more details. There is a piece on www.sthelensunlimited.co.uk. Please take a look.

NSPCC Numeracy Day 2019

On Thursday 7 February 2019 a Maths Activity Day was organised to raise funds for NSPCC Numeracy Day. We raised £19.00 by activities such as estimating the number of sweets in the bottle, Stackers game - Who is the quickest? locating the treasure on a treasure map, missing vowel key word challenge and number challenge.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Tesco Bags of Help Scheme

A big thank you to Mr Collins for putting the successful application together to get Penkford on the board. If successful we plan to use prize money to develop outdoor learning spaces and our Forest School provision.

The Scheme is live in store for customers to vote until 28 February 2019.

Attendance

Well done to all our pupils who achieved 100% attendance in Term 1 and those that continue to have excellent attendance. So far this term our weekly attendance continues to be good. Week beginning Monday 7 January 2019 - 27 pupils had 100% attendance. The following week, Monday 14 January 2019 – 30 pupils achieved 100% attendance. We thank you for your support, please continue to encourage your child to attend school every day on time.

By 9:30 am we need to know where pupils are if they are not present in the building. If your child is ill or there is an issue please contact us on 01744 - 678745. The School office is open from 8 am. It is a serious safeguarding issue when Parents/Carers do not inform school of absence and if we are unable to contact you. It is very important that we all work together in partnership so that pupils achieve their potential and thrive at Penkford School.

If you require support or advice regarding attendance please contact Mrs Savage at school or our Education Welfare Officer Janice Halligan on 01744 - 676612.

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Farewell and Thank You

We say goodbye and thank you to Miss Owen, Teaching Assistant who leaves us on 15 February 2019 to take up a post giving support to adults with ASD. We thank Miss Owen for all her work in our Ozone Space.

Holidays/Leave of Absence

A reminder about holidays in school time: St Helens Local Authority's rule is that holidays should not be taken during school term time. If you are planning to take a holiday during term time you must firstly ask permission from the Headteacher then you will need to complete an application/leave of absence form to request time out for your child/children. It is not in your child's best interest to miss school for a holiday.

Penkford Gazette

It is full of news views and stories. Well done to the team who produce The Penkford Gazette. The newspaper showcases all the good work that goes on at our school.

Uniform

Zero tolerance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support with the issue of school uniform. **“Hoodies” and Baseball caps are not suitable for school.** Please support school and ensure Hoodies and Caps are left at home so there are no issues. Any pupil who arrives out of uniform will be given items from our uniform store and will be asked to change. This is not open to negotiation. Footwear should be plain and dark and suitable for school. Trainers are not suitable for school. Please support school and ensure your child is set off from home wearing uniform. This avoids issues upon arrival.

Can you please ensure that all your child's uniform is clearly labelled to avoid any lost items.

And finally, once again I would like to thank you all for your support so far during this academic year. I hope you and your family have a good half term and look forward to seeing our pupils on Monday 25 February 2019 on time, in full uniform and in good shape, ready to learn.

Julie Johnson
Headteacher

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