

DATES FOR THE DIARY

March

Tues 5th – 20 Year 6 pupils to STEAM Festival

Thurs 7th – World Book Day, come dressed as a character from a book or comic (no charge)

Thur 7th & Fri 8th – KS1 & KS2 classes to do Dog Safety Workshops with The Dogs Trust

Fri 8th – WEAR SPORTY CLOTHES for £1
NO Rec / KS1 Assembly as Reception
Mother's Day Cream Tea event at 9am!

Mon 11th – KS1 Beach Trip
8 UKS2 pupils to Chester University

Tue 12th - Parents' Evenings for Reception & Y6 only

Wed 13th – KS1 Beach Trip
Parents' Evenings for Reception & Y6 only

Thurs 14th – Reception & Y6 class photos

Fri 15th – Dress Down for bottle or choc donation

Mon 18th – Year 6 to Riveracre for SNAPTRAP performance (online / internet safety)

Wed 20th – 5:30pm PTA Easter Family Bingo

Thurs 21st – Fri 22nd - Year 4 London Residential

Thur 28th – Dress Down for £1 contribution to PTA

Wk beginning Mon 13th May: SATs week for Y6

Residentials: please put these dates in your diary:

Year 2 Residential to Tattenhall: 3rd – 4th July 2024

(Deadline for payment in full: Monday 6th June 2024)

Year 6 Residential to Min-y-Don: 8th – 12th July 2024

(Deadline for payment in full: Monday 20th May 2024)

HOUSE POINTS THIS HALF TERM

This half term, we are awarding House Points to those pupils who are demonstrating fantastic lining up and those who are completing work to the best of their ability.

THANK YOU!

Recently, our KS2 pupils they told us that they didn't really like having outdoor spaces they couldn't fully utilise and enjoy. As our values include mutual respect and equity, we took on the challenge of fixing this for them and on Monday, we revived and developed a space on the KS2 playground. Needless to say, the pupils love their new playground area! We now need to say a massive thank you to members of our community as support came from far and wide and included:

£50 towards paint from Whitby House Care Home

A FREE skip from Cheshire Waste

The offer of rubbish disposal from the Taylor Family

£500 of topsoil & bark from Dandy's Topsoil

The muscle and collaboration of our Asda Champions, Adele Helen-Louise

£375 towards the project plus the muscle of Collette and waste disposal thanks to local Councillors

The collaboration of Family Beisly

Equipment Loan from 'Your Street'

And the wonderful Acorns staff (and their aching muscles)

ASK ME ABOUT...

Education is most effective when schools and parents work in partnership. So, this week;

Caterpillars: *singing Baa Baa Black Sheep*

Butterflies: *who is Jim Lad*

Reception: *our classroom visitor*

1Mc: *Rosa Parks*

1/2T: *the difference between 2D and 3D shapes*

2M: *Michael Churm*

3U: *similies*

3/4T: *3 x table*

4G: *rainforest body percussion*

5I: *World Wildlife Day*

5/6K: *the impact humans have on earth*

6T: *my inspiring fitness session with Michael Churm*

GOODBYE TO KEVIN UNSWORTH AND HELLO TO GARETH BLUNDEN!

In January, our Chair of Governors, Kevin Unsworth, took the decision to retire from the position after many years of dedicated service to both The Acorns and Whitley. We would all like to thank him and wish him all the best. The Governing Body voted and we can now welcome Gareth Blunden as our new Chair of Governors. Please meet him below...

Hello everyone, I'm Gareth Blunden and I have been selected as the new Chair of Governors for The Acorns and Whitley following the retirement of Kevin Unsworth, who many of you would have met over the years. At home, I am the Parent of a Whitley child, with my second due to start there in a couple of years.

I feel honoured to hold this position for a pair of amazing schools and feel lucky that our communities are so good at supporting each other, the schools and most importantly the children.

If anyone has any queries about what we do, please get in touch or speak to our fantastic Parent Governor, Donna Knight.

We're looking to expand the Governing Body with more Governors, to help bring support and appropriate challenge, helping our schools to be the best they can be. You don't need to have experience or knowledge of education to be a Governor, and Training is supplied where needed. The school benefits from the input and professional skills new people bring to the role. I've found the experience personally rewarding as I have used my skills to help others but have also developed new skills through the role, that have then helped me professionally. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, then please get in touch with me or Mrs Broom to talk through the role in detail.

Gareth

(This is me – please feel free to say hello if you see me at the schools)



SCHOOL LUNCH BOOKINGS

Thanks to all our families who are religiously booking school lunches via School Hub and doing this for up to 3 weeks at a time. It is really positive for the children that they have chosen lunches with family and that you know what they are eating each day. We are still finding up to 50 pupils do not have lunches ordered on a Monday morning, so please can we request that ordering becomes part of your Sunday night routine and don't forget that you can book for 3 weeks at a time, reducing the number of times you need to remember to go on the app and book lunches. The office staff would very much appreciate your support with this.

Year 4&5

Information Evening

for the parents/carers of prospective students



Tuesday 23rd April

With sessions taking place
17:00 and 18:00

We would like to invite you to join us for our
Year 4 & 5 Information Evening on Tuesday
23rd April.

The evening will begin with a talk from Mr Clarke (Headteacher)
and Mrs Begbie (Deputy Headteacher) about why we think West
Kirby is so special, our values, curriculum, care & support, along
with some information about admissions.

You will then be taken on a small group tour of the school with our
student guides who will tell you all about our school from their
perspective and show you some of the main areas.

Please visit the link below or scan the QR code to book your place.
There are sessions at 17:00 and 18:00.



Scan to book
your place

ticketsource.co.uk/west-kirby-grammar-school



West Kirby
Grammar School

Redefine
Your Possible

PTA FAMILY BINGO

We will be holding our annual PTA Easter
Bingo on **Wednesday 20th March**
Doors open 5:30pm, eyes down 6pm

Tickets go on sale on Monday from the
playgrounds and the office and include
refreshments:

£1.50 Adults £1 Child

(Maximum charge of £5 per family)

Bingo books and raffle tickets will be on sale
on the night, so please bring your change and
your dabbers!

Please send your children in their own
clothes on Friday 15th March in exchange for
a chocolate or bottle donation.

ANXIETY PARENT OFFER – A DROP IN SESSION!



The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in Ellesmere Port continues to
offer evidence based interventions in a small group setting or online for
parents of children of primary age who are experiencing anxiety.



Small changes,
big differences.



OSI

Online Support
and Intervention
for Child Anxiety

We have arranged a drop in day for interested
parents to attend – on **FRIDAY 22ND MARCH
2024!** There will be a **1 HOUR INFORMATION
SESSION** about the MHST offer, followed by
time for questions.

**The same information session will run twice
- at 09.30am and again at 2pm - please
attend whichever session suits you best.**
We hope to run the next parent group after
the Easter break at Kingsley Resource
Centre – dates and times to be arranged.

The information session looks at: What is
anxiety? Why parent work? What Happens in a
Group Session? What is our current offer for
parents - including TripleP Fear-Less and our
online offer (OSI – Online Support &
Intervention for Child Anxiety)?

**FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024 @ KINGSLEY RESOURCE
CENTRE (CORONATION ROAD, ELLESMERE PORT,
CH65 9AA – by the Fire Station / Cherry Bank)**

**Please come along, we would love to meet you! It is a
great chance to learn more about our anxiety parent
work offer & ask any questions you may have.**



NHS
Cheshire and Wirral
Partnership