

Fortnightly Friday Flyer

11th March 2016

Dear Parent,

Another 'love for learning' packed Friday Flyer this week! It is great to see all of the children engaged in their learning as I do on a daily basis and to see the hard work and effort that the teachers and support teams put into to making learning engaging, motivating and exciting. I helped Y4 out with their flying machine last week and the atmosphere in the classroom was infectious. The whole class were busy collaborating, exploring and problem solving to build their own aeroplane linked to their work on FArTHER. This is just one example of the many activities that happen every day here. It is also great at this time of year to see the superb progress that all children have made from their starting points in September.

Scarlet Fever

There has been a reported case of Scarlet Fever today. Please keep an eye out for symptoms as it is highly infectious. If you suspect that your child might have Scarlet Fever please visit the doctor so that early treatment with antibiotics can be given. If your child does have scarlet fever they can return to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. More information on these pages

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Scarlet-fever/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

http://www.kelsall.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/4832

School Meals

Many parents have asked me about our school meals, in particular our meat suppliers. At present our catering for school meals is, as has been many, many years, supplied by a local authority provider. A few years ago there was a move towards sourcing fresh meat from the local butchers, Duttons. This has worked well. However, without any warning to our school or catering staff the supply of meat changed. I can assure you that the meat is all fresh and from local Cheshire farms and has the red tractor kite mark. As a school we have expressed an interest in continuing our relationship with the local butchers and I am awaiting options to enable us to do this. I will keep you informed. I have also attached a separate letter this week from Edsential's CEO explaining the changes.

Term Dates 2016/17

These are our term dates for 2016/17 –

Autumn 2016	Spring 2017	Summer 2017
07 September – 28 October	09 January – 17 February	19 April – 26 May
Half Term 31 October – 04 November	Half Term 20 – 24 February	Bank Holiday 01 May Whitsun Half Term 29 May – 02 June
07 November – 21 December	27 February – 31 March	05 June – 25 July
Christmas Holiday 24 December – 08 January	Easter Bank Holidays 01 April – 18 April	Summer Holiday 26 July – 03 September

School staff training days (school closed for children)

- Monday 05 September 2016
- Tuesday 06 September 2016
- Thursday 22 December 2016
- Friday 23 December 2016
- Tuesday 18 April 2017

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Teacher Development

Mrs Smith has attended a British Values course run by CDEC (<http://www.cheshiredec.org/>). We will be implementing some of the recommendations from the course in the next few terms. All staff have had Attachment training as well as training into how to use the Defibrillator (located just inside the front entrance). Miss Creek has attended Maths Reasoning training at Mill View Primary (one of the CAT family of schools). Mrs Morris has attended 4 Science twilight workshops. In addition, Mr Clayton, Mr Wearing, Mrs Smith & Mrs Doyle have delivered training to other school settings as part of the Teaching School.

Fairtrade Breakfast

Thanks to everyone who came to our Fairtrade Breakfast and for donating lots of yummy fairtrade breakfast items. This links in with our British Values work and is a development area for school.

First Aid

All members of staff in school are trained to at least level 2 and Miss Williams has completed her 3 day Level 3 training. It is important that not only staff but parents and children have a good awareness and understanding of basic first aid. It was great to join with many parents this Friday for First Aid training. We will be putting on more training days for parents as well as running some workshops for children across the school. If you are interested in First Aid training or any other training please let me know your ideas.

School Developments

The next big project to look forward to in school that will enhance our ethos of 'a love for learning' is the development of a stage area in the playground. This has been something that all of the children, through School Council meetings, were very keen on. We are working with the PTA and Mr Pawley is kindly drawing up plans and costs to get the project underway. Once we are ready to 'break ground' we could do with some support perhaps over a few weekends. Again, let me know if you would like to support.



Facebook/Twitter

Please do follow us on twitter @KelsallSchool – we are getting towards the **5000** tweets mark and many of you are sending us tweets! It's lovely to see '**a love for learning**' being shared through this social media. We also have a Facebook page that is linked to our twitter account. Please Like and share with your family and friends. <https://www.facebook.com/KelsallPrimarySchool/?ref=bookmarks>

Parents Survey

Thank you to all who completed the Parent's Survey. There have been 15 responses up to now. If you do get the chance please do log on to your parent's area of the school website. I will leave the survey open until the end of the month. Following this, I will share the results and any actions that we will take as a result of the responses.

Praise Postcards

Thank you to all the parents and family members who attended our Praise Postcard assembly. The following fabulous learners have all been shown great sportsmanship in PE lessons, clubs and competition;

Oak (Reception)- **Amelia Carr, William Garner & Harley Page**

Beech (Year1)- **Freddy Betts & Tula Hills**

Ash (Year 2) – **Chloe Pawley**

Maple (Year 3) – **Alex Cradock & Isabella Jenks**

Elm (Year 4) – **Evie Clark & Helen Tenner**

Willow (Year 5) – **Lewis Bool, Emma Shaw & Jessica Worley**

Cedar (Year 6) – **Toby Honeysett & Sophie Robinson**

Well done to you all! Keep up your fantastic attitudes towards school and learning.

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PTA

On Friday we will be running a mile in support of Cancer Research and the Mums who are running the London Marathon very soon! A suggested donation of £1 will be collected on the day but if you would like to give more please do. This will be a non-uniform day – children should wear their PE kits (jogging bottoms and warm tops are advised as it is still a bit chilly).

Other events for the rest of the year have been pencilled in and there will be more details to come. As you will know Kelsall Village has for many years had a Scarecrow Trail. This takes a lot of organising. If you feel that you could support organising this event please see myself or the Chair of PTA, Mr Brookfield. This goes for other events too. If you would like to get involved with the PTA, you don't need to attend all meetings – we welcome any support as and when you are able.

Dogs

We still have a problem with some dog owners not clearing up after their dogs especially on the grass verge. Mr Elliott has liaised with the Parish Council and suggested a competition to design a poster to encourage those dog owners to 'poop and scoop.' If you would like to enter please bring in your design – no bigger than A4 to your class teacher before the end of term. There will be an overall winner from KS1 and KS2. The winning designs will be used on the railings at the front of school and there will be a small book voucher prize too. I look forward to seeing your creative designs.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We continue to collect the Sainsbury's School Vouchers. Please send them in with your child who can put them in the box in school.

Have a great weekend

Mr Wearing & The Kelsall Team

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The following is a response from Edsential regarding the new arrangements for meat for school meals. Please do let me know if you have any questions or concerns around this.

Dear Mrs XXXXX,

Thanks for getting in touch with your concerns, I'm always happy to talk to a fellow parent who is passionate about the quality of school meals.

I am glad you have got in touch first to check your facts as it seems from your email that you have received some misinformation about the change, not least that we are buying meat from a cash & carry!

The first thing I want to reassure you about is that we are still sourcing the vast majority of our meat from local Cheshire farms that meet the highest quality and welfare standards (see map below).



The local farming community will still provide meat and produce to West Cheshire schools and are now also benefiting from the opportunity to supply Wirral schools. Our new supply chain will deliver all of the benefits of the previous butchery companies, including the highest levels of food security – all meat is sourced, slaughtered, processed and packed by a single supplier ensuring complete product integrity. Our supplier has the highest levels of traceability, stringent technical standards, and an extensive testing regime that means we can always be sure that what we get is exactly what we ordered. We are also able to reduce the total food miles and CO2 impact of meat delivery by reducing the number of vans on the road by up to half.

Edsential is a Community Interest Company and it exists to ensure that all of the money spent with us is kept within the education community of Cheshire West and Wirral. We will reinvest any profit we make in improving our services or investing in projects and initiatives within our schools. We understand that schools have the freedom to spend their budgets with whomever they choose and we are focused on providing the best value for money in every service.

Edsential has been given a mission **to help improve outcomes for children and young people** and we are driven to deliver this in everything we do. School meals are a core part of our whole school approach to Health & Wellbeing, we understand the positive impact a good school meal has on attainment. Any decision taken on how we provide those meals is rooted in our desire to increase meal uptake to ensure all pupils can benefit every day. Research from the Children's Food Trust is clear that school meals have a high price elasticity, they estimate that for every 1% increase in price there is a volume reduction of 0.8%. This disproportionately affects larger families, who on average tend to be more disadvantaged, as they will obviously quickly switch to packed lunches when they have 3 or more children to pay the increase for.

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Unfortunately, we are facing a period of significant statutory pay, tax and pension increases; these unavoidable changes in payroll will increase the cost of providing school meals to Cheshire West schools by a cumulative £450,000 by 2017/18. In order to simply offset this impact the meal price will need to rise to at least £2.35, probably £2.40 (from today's £2.20) - if we do nothing. I believe it is our duty to use our every effort to stop that inflation resulting in an increase in school meal prices and a reduction in uptake.

Fortunately, Edsential has been able to act proactively to tackle this situation. By using our skills and knowledge we have taken action that will allow us to mitigate the majority of the payroll inflation for the next 2 years. For schools who are supplied under this new central contract we are reinvesting **ALL** of the savings we have made in ensuring there will be no price increase in 2016 and we are hopeful that the majority of the 2017 increase can be mitigated. I am very proud of the work the team have done in ensuring we maintain or improve quality whilst bringing costs down – we are still buying locally farmed meat, just buying it better. This smart solution will save the parents of Cheshire West over **£450,000** during the next 2 years and ensure more children enjoy a nutritious school dinner every day.

I appreciate that you, personally, and your school have had a good relationship with the butchery company. We have not cancelled the contract with the butchery companies because the optional third year of their two year contract simply expires at the end of February. We spent hundreds of thousands of pounds every year with each of the butchery companies and I understand there is a similar value for the Cheshire East element that we have no involvement with. Duttons continued ability to run the retail arm of their business should not be compromised by the loss of a commercial contract, as companies that operate in the commercial meat supply market – for restaurants, hotels, schools etc. – are used to the ebb and flow of contracts in a very competitive market. I assume their retail stores run at a profit on a stand-alone basis and I note that they are currently advertising for a full time butcher and a counter assistant – the sign of a successful business.

Hopefully, now I have been able to provide you with the facts you can rest assured that:

- We are still providing the same quality Cheshire farm produce to our schools
- We are supporting our agricultural communities and actually increasing the business opportunity for them
- We have improved product integrity and traceability, whilst maintaining the same quality and welfare standards
- Our website is accurate in its description of our supply of 'local and fresh' products
- We are using a professional, integrated meat supplier not a cash & carry
- We are working every day in the best interests of all children at the schools we serve
- We will be saving our parents over £450,000 over the next 2 years

Thanks once again for getting in touch, if you or any parent has any further questions please send them to me and I will answer them directly; as I am keen to ensure no misunderstandings are circulated about a positive change that supports improving outcomes for the children of West Cheshire.

Thanks,

Ian McGrady

Managing Director

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www.edsential.co.uk

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