WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Welcoming - Kind - Polite - Successful
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11th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that we have been back at school for over a week, our playground routines, rules and expectations are becoming well established. As part of this, staff have been reviewing and reintroducing football timetables to ensure that where children wish to do so, they have regular opportunities to play football safely and fairly.

All children have access to a designated football slot, either at playtime or lunchtime. As our playground space is limited, we need to manage the number of footballs being used at any one time.

From Monday 14th September, the following arrangements will be in place:

- Years 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4: **Must not** bring footballs or other balls from home to use for games at playtime or lunchtime.
- Year 5 and Year 6: May bring a football/ball from home to use at playtime or lunchtime. However, this will also continue to be monitored. Please be aware that the school cannot accept responsibility for footballs/balls that are kicked or hit over the railway boundary or into neighbouring areas and are subsequently lost or damaged.

We have made this distinction because, as children move into UKS2, we expect them to demonstrate increasing maturity and responsibility and to make appropriate choices when using the playground. This includes following the rules of the game, considering others and using the available space safely and respectfully.

We also have designated days for girls' football in both KS1 and KS2, ensuring that there are regular opportunities for girls to enjoy and develop their football skills.

We would also appreciate your support in reinforcing our expectations around how football is played in school. Football at school is a friendly game and is not high-level or competitive football. Rough tackling, pushing, physical challenges or deliberate physical contact is not allowed. Children are expected to play fairly, safely and respectfully. Our usual behaviour system will be followed where children do not meet these expectations.

We want to be able to continue offering football at both playtime and lunchtime, as we know how much many of the children enjoy having this opportunity. However, we will be keeping the arrangements under review. **For football to continue as part of our playground provision, children need to demonstrate good sportsmanship,**

teamwork, respect for others, fair play and self-control, as well as following the rules and the instructions of all staff.

Football should be enjoyable for everyone, and all children are expected to accept decisions, resolve disagreements appropriately and understand that winning is not the most important part of the game. **If these expectations are not consistently met, we may need to review or withdraw football as an option for particular groups or at particular times.**

Finally, the MUGA should not be used for ball games before or after school. The playground is particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day, and using balls in this area at these times increases the risk of children being hit or involved in collisions. We therefore ask that children do not bring or use balls on the MUGA before or after school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to establish positive playground routines and ensuring that football remains an enjoyable, safe and inclusive activity for all of our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Bailey (Headteacher)
Mrs S Burrows (PE Subject Leader)