

Weekly Newsletter

6th September 2024



Message from the Head

AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

It was lovely to welcome everyone back this week and to meet our new, little Reception and Nursery children. We've also had children arrive in Class 3 and 4 so a warm welcome to all our new children. By 9.15 on the first day children were settled and engaged in their learning; a great start to the new term. A reminder of some of the new faces you may see in school. Miss Harrington has joined us as Class 5 teacher on Friday, Miss Hodge has joined us as a teaching assistant and Miss Meek has joined Class 1 as a trainee teacher. A warm welcome to all our new starters.

Over the summer holiday we had lots of work done to the interior of the school. I can't believe how it's possible to actually get excited about new toilets! They are more private, more hygienic and really look amazing. We are lucky, as a church school, that this has been funded by the Diocese. Class 4 has been redecorated with new carpet and we reconfigured the old art area outside Class 4 into a new office for Mrs Cleaver and a great new teaching space for Class 4. The only outstanding work is to build some new storage space for our art material but school is looking really fresh and much more organised.

A reminder that school is open on Monday 9th September from 3.15-4.15pm so you will be able to come in, meet your child's new class teacher informally and see the improvements we have made to the school environment. Although you will have read all information about the forthcoming year that has already gone out (which is available on the website), teachers will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Attendance

At the end of the summer term, I wrote about the changes to legislation on attendance. As a school, we are now required to fine parents who take 5 days of unauthorised absence in any 10 week period. It's important you keep this in mind as this would include term time holidays and any absence which is unauthorised. If a child has had a significant amount of time off school, not all requests for authorised absence will be approved. We will be sending out more information on an ongoing basis but please keep this in mind as the term starts. This isn't a route I would have chosen to go down and it will add considerably to the office team's workload. Thank you for your help and cooperation in limiting the number of these fines we have to administer.

PTA Help!

At the end of the summer, Sophie and Lucy stepped down as joint Chairs of PTA. As yet, we haven't had any-one step forward to replace them. The PTA raise essential funds each year which pay for pantomime and our interactive white boards as well as subsidising forest school. Without those funds these activities and resources are at risk. It doesn't need to be one person, a team is more effective, so if you have even a little time and are interested, please do speak to Lucy Hood or I.

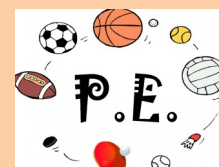
Kind regards, *Mrs Laura Whateley*

Forest School

A reminder that Class 5 children have forest school next Thursday and each Thursday until the end of the half term. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help. However, we are still short of volunteers for the afternoon sessions (12.45-3.00pm). If you are able to spare a couple of hours for one session it would be hugely appreciated. Children will need to come to school with a coat and clothes suitable for outdoor learning, whatever the weather.

Class Whatsapp Groups

I hope our new parents have been welcomed to the class Whatsapp groups which are a useful way of reminding each other of school events and information. Please can these groups be used for school related information only and, if anything is posted which isn't related to school, please can admins act swiftly to remove it. I would also like to be informed if anything is posted that you think is not appropriate. Many thanks for your help with this.



PE Days this term

Monday

- Class 3
- Class 4

Tuesday

- Class 5
- Class 4

Wednesday

- Class 2
- Class 1

Thursday

- Class 3
- Class 2

Friday

- Class 1

Attendance this week

Class 1	94.7%
Class 2	97.1%
Class 3	91.1%
Class 4	94.0%
Class 5	99.3% Well Done!

Whole School Attendance

this year: 95.1%
Target for this year: 96%



Coming Up

Monday 9th September

- Gymnastics
- Gardening Club

Tuesday 10th September

- Summer sports (KS1 & KS2)
- Tennis (KS1 & KS2)
- Game on Football Club (KS1)

Wednesday 11th September

- Multisport Club (KS1 & KS2)

Thursday 12th September

- Girls Football - lunchtime
- Game on Football Club (KS2)
- Netball (KS1 & KS2)
- French (KS1)

Friday 13th September

- French (KS2)

Additional Information

For this week's letters click on the image below ...



Pencil cases

We request that children do not bring in their own pencil cases. Instead, we provide all the children need and top it up throughout the year for a donation of £9.00. Please make this payment through the shop on the Arbor app. Thank you.

Secondary Transfer

Just a reminder to all parents with Year 6 children that the online application system for applying for a secondary school place is now open. The deadline for making your application is 31st October 2024. For further information about the admissions process please [click here](#).

Hertfordshire Libraries

This autumn Hertfordshire libraries are running an initiative to encourage all Reception children to have their own library card with 'My First Library Adventure' promotion. The scheme is running until 30th November. Please [click](#) here for more details..

Clubs this term

Clubs will commence on the week commencing 9th September, please see below for details.

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY			
Gardening Club (KS1/2)	Gymnastics (KS1/2)	Summer Sports (KS2)	Tennis (KS1 & KS2)	Football (KS1)	Makaton	Multi Sports (KS1 & KS2)	Girls Football (KS2)	Netball (KS1 & KS2)	French (KS1)	Football (KS2)	French (KS2)
15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	LUNCH-TIME	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	12:30-12:50	15:15-16:15	LUNCH-TIME	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15
Mrs Buckley (Contact school)	Sapphire (click here)	Game On (just turn up)	International Tennis Coaching (click here)	Game On (click here)	Mrs Whateley (just turn up)	International Tennis Coaching (click here)	Game On (just turn up)	International Tennis Coaching (click here)	Mdme Rhodes Lingotots (click here)	Game On (book direct)	Mdme Rhodes Lingotots (click here)
16th Sept	9th Sept	10th Sept	10th Sept	10th Sept	11th Sept	11th Sept	12th Sept	12th Sept	12th Sept	12th Sept	13th Sept

Dates for this half term

Date and time	Event
Mon 9th Sept 3.15-4.15	Open classrooms to informally meet new Teachers Clubs start
Thurs 12th Sept	Forest School starts - Class 5
Thurs 19th	Class 4 cake sale
Mon 23rd	Bikeability for Year 6 all week—bring own bike in good, working condition. Please ask if
Mon 30th Sept	Parent workshops this week
Mon 7th Oct	Year 4 pedestrian skills training
Thurs 10th Oct	Class 3 cake sale
Mon 14th 3.30-6.00	Parents' evening in person in school
Weds 16th 5.00-7.30	Parents' evening online
Tues 22nd Oct	Headteacher afternoon tea
Thurs 24th Oct	Perform Workshop to Class 1 and 2
Fri 25th Oct	Break up for half term
Mon 4th Nov	Return to school



School Meals

Meals are paid by top-up in Arbor. Ideally in advance but at least cleared at the end of every half term.

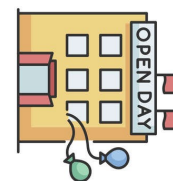
Arbor Shop

Please use this area to purchase the following:-

- Pencil Cases
- Book Bags
- Milk
- Snack Money (Class 1 only)

Bikeability

Year 6 - Please don't forget to sign your child up in Arbor under school trips.



School Open Afternoon
Monday 9th September
3.15 - 4.15

