

Newsletters!

This is our first newsletter for a while! With the end of lockdown and the government's roadmap currently on track, we hope to resume sending out our newsletter on a monthly basis.

We look forward to bringing you more news of school events as the summer term progresses. All newsletters are sent out via ParentMail at the start of each month so please keep an eye on your account.

We are aware that the circumstances of many families have changed over the last year. Please read the section on Pupil Premium applications if you think you may be entitled to apply. If you need assistance, the school office can help with the application on a strictly confidential basis.

Next year's term dates can be found at the end of this newsletter. **Please note that school will be closed on Friday May 28th for a planned INSET day.**

Reading

"A book is like a garden, carried in the pocket" Chinese proverb"

Reading remains a high priority in school and we are pleased with how well engaged children are on their return after the holiday. As a school and with the support of the PPTA, we continue to invest in high quality texts and provide as much variety as possible in the books children read. Teachers also carefully consider the texts they use to inspire pupils in their learning across all subjects. We are pleased to be reading to pupils on a regular basis again in class and we are looking forward to welcoming author, Julia Jarman to school on Thursday 27 May 2021. Thank you for sharing books with your children at home too.



New Families

This is also a great opportunity to formally welcome the large number of new families who have joined our school community in recent months! We hope that you are starting to settle into new homes and routines. If we haven't had the chance to say hello to you yet on the school playground, we know that it won't be long! Welcome to Pirton School!

Welcome

PPTA May Day – thank you

A big thank you to the PPTA (Pirton Parent Teacher Association) for running a Teddy Bear stall at this weekend's May Day celebrations in the village. They raised £121 on their stall.



Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

- **Have your circumstances changed?**
- **Have you been furloughed?**
- **Is your child moving into Year 3 in September?**

Schools across the country are reporting an increase in Free School Meal applications due to the effects of lockdown and subsequent job losses and reduced working hours. If your circumstances have changed, even if only temporarily, and you would like help in applying for Free School Meals, please speak to Mrs Fenner, Mrs Bailey or Mrs Keech in the school office in strictest confidence. We would also like to reassure parents that Free School Meals information is dealt with sensitively and on a need to know basis.

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 pupils, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families applying for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals funding when their child starts school. If you have a child who is moving into Year 3 from September 2021, school meals will begin to be chargeable. Therefore if you think you might be eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please visit the following website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or click on the following link [Free schools meals](#)

As a school we also benefit financially from funding for Pupil Premium pupils and are able to support those pupils eligible in many ways. Therefore, even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, it also saves you having to remember to apply when your child moves into Year 3. If you need any additional information, please speak to Mrs Fenner, Mrs Bailey or Mrs Keech in confidence.



Parent Governor Election

Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent Parent Governor election. Votes have been counted and we are pleased to announce that Mrs Jennifer Steeden has been duly appointed as our new parent governor. We have also recently welcomed Mrs Lewis as a new Governor and look forward to working with them both.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Sasha and Phoebe in Owls class for raising £35 for Cancer Research UK when they recently ran a village Easter Egg Hunt.

They organised the Hunt by themselves and worked together really well to provide some much needed fun during lockdown whilst at the same time putting in place all of the relevant COVID precautions. It was a very cold day and they stayed outside from 9am until 5pm - brrrrrrrrrr!!!

They have received a thank you from Cancer Research.

Well done!!



One Way Entry & Exit System

Please be reminded that we are continuing to run **a one way system across the school site. Directional signs are in place and we would ask everyone to follow these arrows. This will ensure that everyone is moving in one direction and help to avoid congestion and maintain social distancing.**

Entry to the school site is made via the turning circle with movement across the playground to classrooms and exit via the gates near the school office.

We realise that if you live at one end of the village this may cause you to go 'long way round' on your entry or exit, but we would emphasise the need to adhere to this guidance in order to keep pupils, parents, grandparents and staff safe.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding with this.

Staggered Start Times

The staggered start and end times to the school day are now becoming more embedded and are helping to reduce congestion on the playground as we adhere to our school Risk Assessment and Government social distancing guidance.

A gentle reminder to try to keep as close to your child's allotted class times as possible (unless your child has a sibling in another class) so that we can keep to our timetables. Many thanks.



Term Dates 2020-2021

Summer Term 2021

Monday 12 April – Thursday 22 July 2021
Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021
Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021
INSET Day: Friday 28 May 2021

Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term 2021

Wednesday 1 September – Tuesday 21 December 2021
Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021
INSET Day: Wednesday 1 September 2021
OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 26 November 2021

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5 January – Friday 1 April 2022
Half Term: Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February 2022
INSET Day: Wednesday 5 January 2022

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19 April – Friday 22 July 2022
Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2022
INSET Day: Tuesday 19 April 2022
Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May 2022
INSET Day: Friday 27 May 2022
INSET Day: Monday 6 June 2022