

It's Pumpkin Time Again!

The Pumpkin Club have delivered this year's pumpkins – they are under the canopy at the main entrance to school. Please place donations of £1.50 in the collection box or hand to the school office. The Pumpkin Club are looking forward to seeing everyone's decorated pumpkins – please contact the Club directly if you are planning on having a pumpkin on display over the Pirton Pumpkin Weekend.

The PPTA (Pirton Parent Teacher Association) have organised a Pumpkin colouring competition. Designs were sent out via ParentMail earlier today. Please return completed entries to the school office by **Tuesday 12 October**. There are prizes for the winners!



National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is a UK wide celebration of poetry taking place on Thursday 7 October and this year's theme is Choice.

We look forward to each class taking part in a virtual workshop and gigantic poetry lesson with Simon Mole organised by Hertfordshire Library Services and sharing our poetic creations with you.

If your child has a favourite poem, can they please bring it into school to share as part of our poetry celebrations.



Harvest Festival – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Festival food collection today. We will be passing the donations to the village churches for distribution with their own Harvest Festival collections. Thank you for your support.



Congratulations Mrs Pearce!

Congratulations to Mrs Pearce, our School Cook, who has received a long service award in recognition of 30 years' service with Herts Catering Ltd. HCL have rewarded Mrs Pearce with a John Lewis voucher. Generations of school families have known Mrs Pearce over the years. Well done!

Parent Consultation Meetings

Our Autumn Term Parent Consultation Meetings will take place in November. We are still assessing how best to carry these out. A separate letter will be sent out via ParentMail as soon as we have finalised our arrangements but proposed dates are included in this letter.

Key Stage 1 Helpers

We are keen to welcome helpers back into school now that Covid restrictions are improving. It seems a long time ago since our doors were open and we are missing the extra support and help offered by our parents, grandparents and friends from the village community.

If you would like to help out in school we are particularly looking for helpers for our Key Stage 1 classes – Wrens, Robins and Swifts. We look forward to welcoming new volunteers who have not had a chance to come into school during the recent lockdowns and restrictions.

All volunteers need to be DBS checked to comply with our safeguarding procedures. We will also need to take up character references. DBS checks can be arranged with Mrs Bailey via the school office.

If you are interested, please talk to your child's class teacher about what help you may be able to offer. We need help on a number of occasions – swimming, school trips, reading, curriculum workshops, etc.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

A further reminder that as the additional Bank Holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 falls during the May half term break, schools have been asked to arrange an extra day when staff and pupils do not need to attend school. In order to schedule this extra day close to the Jubilee celebration we have moved the Inset Day planned for Friday 27 May to Thursday 26 May and scheduled the additional day for Friday 27 May.

INSET Day: Thursday 26 May
Additional Day in lieu of Jubilee Bank Holiday: Friday 27 May 2022

We hope this allows families to enjoy an extended half term break.

Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

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 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 strict confidence.

We would also like to reassure parents that Free School Meals information is dealt with sensitively and on a need to know basis. 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 so even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, **you may also be entitled to extra support through lockdown in the form of food parcels and other help** and 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.



Open Days for Prospective Parents

We will be hosting two opportunities for prospective parents to look round the school prior to making applications for Reception places for September 2022. At the start of each session parents will be asked to meet in the School Hall when Mrs Fenner will greet parents. Her welcome talk will be followed by a tour of the school with Year 6 pupils and a further opportunity to speak with Mrs Fenner about any individual concerns.

Dates and time are as follows:

Tuesday 16 November 2021 - 1.30 to 3pm
Wednesday 17 November 2021 - 9.30 to 11am

Please let friends, family and neighbours know of these dates.

Primary & Secondary Admissions

The application process for Secondary School admissions is now open with the deadline on Sunday 31 October 2021. Please note that this date is at the end of the October half term holiday.

Online applications can be made on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions .

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 opens on Monday 1 November 2021 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2022.

Asthma and Allergy Register

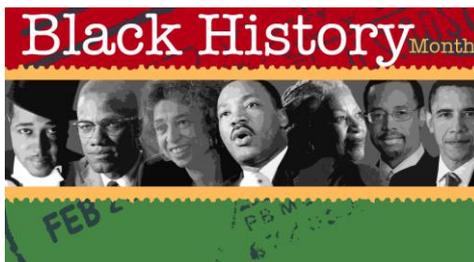
Mrs Keech will shortly be updating the Asthma and Allergy Register for this academic year.

If your child suffers from asthma and has an inhaler, we need to place them on our Asthma Register. Any child suffering from an allergy should also be recorded on our files. Those pupils with EpiPens will need to update their Health Care Plans. Please liaise with the school office.

Black History Month

Black History Month is a national celebration of the achievements of black communities and the remembrance of Black history across the world.

We will be participating in this opportunity to raise awareness of Black history, traditions and contributions in whole school assemblies and class discussions throughout the month of October.



Nut and Sesame Food Allergies

We have several children with severe food allergies which necessitate having EpiPens in school in case of medical emergencies. Can we please ask parents to avoid sending nut products into school in your child's snack box or lunch box. Allergies also include sesame so foods such as hummus can be dangerous. Food from lunch boxes can easily be dropped on tables or transferred by sticky fingers, which then creates a major hazard for some of our pupils. Please bear this in mind when packing lunch boxes and help us to keep the school a safe environment for all our pupils.

Class Assemblies

We will be holding a series of class assemblies throughout the year. In the Autumn Term we will start with Owls and Kestrels classes. Look out for dates for other classes in future newsletters.

Parents are invited to attend the assembly of the class in which their children are taking part. All assemblies will start at 9:05am in the School Hall.

Autumn Term Dates 2021

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| October | Black History Month |
| Thursday 7 October | National Poetry Day |
| Friday 8 October | Kestrels and Owls trip to Verulamium Museum |
| Tuesday 12 October | Individual photos |
| Friday 15 October | STEM Senses Workshops – Wrens and Robins |
| Friday 22 October | 9am – Owls Class Assembly PPTA Non Uniform Day - £1 voluntary donation |
| Monday 25 to Friday 29 October | October half term holiday |
| Sunday 31 October | Secondary School application deadline |
| Monday 1 November | Primary School application system opens |
| Wednesday 3 November | Kestrels swimming starts |
| Monday 8 November | Whole School Flu Immunisations |
| Tuesday 9 November | 5-8pm Parent Consultation Meetings |
| Thursday 11 November | Remembrance Day Assembly 3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Meetings |
| 15-19 November | Anti-Bullying Week ' <i>One Kind Word</i> ' |
| Tuesday 16 November | 1.30-3pm Open Afternoon |
| Wednesday 17 November | 9.30-11am Open Morning |
| Friday 26 November | Occasional Day – School closed |
| Friday 3 December | 9am – Kestrels Class Assembly Christmas Crafts Afternoon |
| Thursday 9 December | 2.15pm and 6pm Key Stage 1 Nativity |
| Friday 10 December | Whole School visit to the panto |
| Tuesday 14 December | 2.30pm and 6.30pm Key Stage 2 Carol Concert |
| Thursday 16 December | Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children Christmas Lunch |
| Tuesday 21 December | PPTA Non Uniform Day - £1 voluntary donation End of Term |

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: Thursday 26 May

Additional Day in lieu of Jubilee Bank Holiday: Friday 27 May 2022

INSET Day: Monday 6 June 2022