

Great Start to the School Year!

What an amazing first few weeks we have had! The learning buzz around school has been echoing in all classes and none more so that with our new children in Reception. It is a testament to the adults they have at home and the team we have in school that they have settled in school life so well and are enjoying the day to day experiences of playtimes, school dinners and assemblies with such confidence already!

Already, as a school, there is much to look forward to in the busy term ahead and I hope that the diary dates at the end of this letter are helpful to you. We look forward to sharing a great term of learning with you in the next few weeks and the launch of our new school website!

Curriculum Information for Parents and Carers

Curriculum information and class timetables are being distributed with this newsletter – these enable parents to see what we will be teaching this term and how the days will be structured. The timetable also allows you to discuss the school day with your children in the knowledge of what lessons and topics they have been doing. A timetable for PE lessons has already been circulated. Please continue to send your child to school wearing their PE kit on PE days.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our Harvest Festival on Friday 1 October. Any donations of tinned or packaged foods will be gratefully received. Donations can be placed on the tables in the school hall at drop off and will be handed to the village churches for distribution with their own Harvest Festival donations. Thank you in advance for your support.



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 newsletter.

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.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

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.



Primary & Secondary Admissions 2022

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.

Allotments

Thank you to our band of volunteers who continue to work in our allotments.

This is the latest addition: Buggingham Palace Bug Hotel where I understand you pay extra if you are a bed bug!



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.

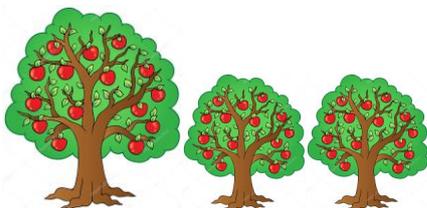
Dates and time are as follows:

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.

Apples in the Orchard

There are several apple trees in the orchard area and in the Key Stage 1 outdoor area. Please help yourself and pick the fruit if you wish.



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.

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.

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.

Class DoJo

A reminder to parents to use Class DoJo for sharing day to day achievements and family learning with your child's class teacher. It is always exciting to see how pupils are applying their learning outside of the classroom and teachers will continue to share information about what we are learning in school.

However, parents should continue to contact the school office with urgent messages such as absences, change in collection arrangements or medical updates. Class DoJo should only be used for general communication as messages may not be picked up during the school day. The office staff can be contacted by telephone 001462 712370 or email admin@pirton.herts.sch.uk. Mrs Fenner can also be contacted via the school office.

The School Day and Attendance

Our school gates are unlocked at 8.40am each morning and, from Monday, will be unlocked again at **3:10pm**, to assist in the safety and safeguarding of our children.

In accordance with our Attendance policy, pupils are marked present if they enter the classroom up to 8.50am which is the official start time for the school day. Pupils arriving between 8.50am and 9am are marked as late and pupils arriving after 9am are marked as late and an unauthorised absence. In order to avoid a late mark, please ensure children are at school ready to enter the classroom for 8.50am.

At the end of the day the gates are opened at 3:10pm for parents to wait on the playground. However, school does not officially end until 3.15pm when teachers will hand pupils over to their parents or authorised adult. Any changes to pick up arrangements should be notified to the school office. As part of our ongoing safeguarding arrangements, our younger children will only be allowed to go home with a known and named adult. On occasion, we may call to double check this arrangement and we thank you for your understanding and co-operation with this.

Autumn Term Dates 2021

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| Friday 1 October | Harvest Festival |
| Thursday 7 October | National Poetry Day |
| Friday 8 October | Kestrels and Owls trip to Verulamium Museum |
| Tuesday 12 October | Individual photos |
| 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 |
| Monday 8 November | Whole School Flu Immunisations |
| Tuesday 9 November | 5-8pm Parent Consultation Meetings |
| Thursday 11 November | 3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Meetings |
| 15-19 November | Anti-Bullying Week ' <i>One Kind Word</i> ' |
| 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