



Head Teacher Newsletter February 2024

WELCOME BACK!

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year with another exciting half term ahead of us and beyond which we are very much looking forward to.

This half term is quite short so the children will be carrying on studying the topic they had been doing before we broke up. This is also why the children only have had one POWER project sheet for the whole of the spring term, the children should choose 3 activities from the sheet to present to the class. If you have mislaid the POWER project sheet then please check on your child's class page, on our website so they can start straight away on their chosen projects otherwise they will run out of time.

The term dates for the academic year for 2024-2025 were agreed by Governors on the 24th January and sent out to parents via Parentmail at the end of January, however the dates are also at the end of this newsletter. All 5 INSET days have been included where school is closed to children.

After School Activity Clubs

Thank you to everyone that booked the new activity clubs through Parentpay. The new booking system has worked well and bookings have been coming through. Here is a reminder of the clubs, whether they still have spaces and the dates and times they start.

KS1 Book Club for Year 1 & Year 2

Every Thursday for 5 weeks starting Thursday 22nd February to Thursday 21st March, 3.15pm to 4pm

Spaces left: 7 Cost: £2.00 a week, £10.00 in total

KS2 Book Club for Years 3, 4 & 5

Every Thursday for 5 weeks starting Thursday 22nd February to Thursday 21st March, 3.15pm to 4pm

Spaces left: 7 Cost: £2.00 a week, £10.00 in total

Lego Club for Year Reception, Year 1 & 2, run by Laje

Every Monday for 5 weeks starting Monday 26th February to Monday 25th March, 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Spaces left: 4 Cost: £3.00 a week, £15.00 in total

Film Club for Years 3 & 4, run by Diana

Every Thursday for 5 weeks starting Thursday 22nd February to Thursday 21st March, 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Spaces left: 15 Cost: £2.00 a week, £10.00 in total

Football Club for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6, run by Josh

Every Wednesday for 5 weeks starting Wednesday 21st February to Wednesday 20th March, 3.20pm to 4.30pm

Spaces left: 5 £30.00 in total

Chess Club for Years 5 & 6, run by Bilyana

The children in Year 6 have been asking for a chess club for quite a while now so now we have one!

Every Monday for 5 weeks starting Monday 26th February to Monday 25th March, 3.20pm to 4.20pm

Spaces left: 5 Cost: £3.00 a week, £15.00 in total

Measles – Information from Waltham Forest Public Health

Measles cases are rising in the UK, and it is likely that there will be outbreaks across London. There have already been large outbreaks of measles in North West London and the West Midlands in 2023. Measles is highly infectious – one case of measles can infect 90% of unvaccinated close contacts (this includes those they share a classroom with). It can also be a really serious illness: for every five children who get measles, one will require a hospital visit; for every fifteen children who get measles, one will be affected by life-limiting conditions, such as blindness, meningitis and sepsis.

The safest and most effective way to protect yourself, the children you care for and your community against measles is to make sure that you and your children are up to date with MMR vaccinations. Two doses of the MMR vaccine provide 99% protection against measles. It is never too late to get your MMR vaccination and you can check whether you or your children are up to date with your vaccinations by contacting your GP or by looking in your child's red book. If you haven't been fully vaccinated (two doses of MMR) then you can get vaccinated at your GP practice. Primary school-aged children can also get vaccinated at clinics run by Vaccination UK (parents can book by completing the form <https://london.schoolvaccination.uk/polio/2023/Walthamforest>).

Halal MMR vaccinations are available and can be requested when you make an appointment.

For more information about measles and the MMR vaccine see below:

- www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/
- www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/

Parent WhatsApp Groups

We are aware that each class or Year group has a parent WhatsApp group that is set up by a parent, usually at the beginning of their child's Reception year. These groups are not accessed by the school and are not an official school group however they can be a very useful way for parents to remind each other of events and activities that are happening in school. Parents and Carers do have a code of conduct to follow though during their time at our school and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our children and staff should never be discussed in these groups and should never be named. If you have any concerns about your child then you should always contact the school and make an appointment to meet with your class teacher or a member of the Leadership team if appropriate. We appreciate that managing

the conversations within a WhatsApp group, as the parent that has set it up, can be difficult at times and if you do have any concerns about any of the conversations within a group then please do get in touch with the school.

Children bringing in mobile phones to school

Can I remind parents that children should not be bringing mobile phones into school unless it has been agreed between the school and the parents. Usually the only reason a child in Year 6 and very occasionally Year 5 is allowed to bring in a phone is because they walk to and from school by themselves and even then it is not always necessary depending on the distance your child has to walk. There is no other reason for your child to have a phone in school.

As always, if your child does have a mobile phone at home you should regularly be checking their phones as they can be subject to online abuse and not everyone they communicate with is always who they think they are. It also goes without saying that your children should never have their mobile phones with them in their bedroom when they go to bed as this should be a time when they switch off from the day.

Scholastics Book Fair & World Book Day



Next week we start our build up to World Book Day by the arrival of our Scholastics book fair on **Thursday 29th February to Wednesday 6th March**. There will be bookcases of books for our youngest to oldest children to buy and they can use their World Book Day voucher which is attached to this newsletter.

The book fair will be run every afternoon from 3.10pm, when the gates open, in the main playground by the bifold doors of the

hall. This year we once again have a card reader so you can pay by cash or on the card reader. For every book sold we get a percentage back in books for our children.

World Book Day is on **Thursday 7th March** and focuses on reading for pleasure. This year the staff theme is 'Goodies & Baddies' from some of our favourite books. I am dusting off my Cruella Deville wig and finding myself a Dalmatian puppy! The children can follow our theme or they can come dressed as their own favourite book character or even in their pyjamas. We are also asking the children to bring in their favourite book from home as they will have a chance to chill and read during the day.

#Let Girls Play

Following on from the success of previous years, Barclays and Youth Sports Trust have partnered up again to get girls football out there. Their aim is that by this year girls will have the same access to football and that equality will be common place in the game. To get girls more exposed to and into football, there is an event on the **8th March**, #letgirlsplay. This involves getting as many girls as we possibly can to play football in a session on 8th March across all schools in Waltham Forest.

We are aiming to get every single girl in our school, from Reception to Year 5, to come into school on **Friday 8th March** in the correct P.E kit (staff you are welcome to come in your football kit too) and then join Fenella, who leads on PE in our school, for a huge football session. (Year 6, you are on a trip so you will have a different day to take part).

#Let Boys Play

The boys do not need to come into school in their PE kit on that day as they will be working with some of the teachers separately. However we would like to do something for them on **Thursday 14th March** and support Secondary schools in their ambition for all boys to arrive in Year 7 knowing how to play netball. On Thursday 14th March we are asking all boys to come

to school in their PE kit and have a morning of fun learning the skills and the game of netball, again led by Fenella.

COMIC RELIEF – RED NOSE DAY! Friday 15th March



Comic Relief and Red Nose Day is now celebrated every year whereas in previous years it used to run every 2 years with Sports Relief on the alternate year. On Red Nose Day we always gunged a member of staff but now it's every 2 years we want to do something different in the year when we don't gunge!

Comic Relief takes place on **Friday 15th March** and this year, as Andrew got gunged last year, we are raising money for the charity with an all-day disco which starts with Reception showing us their disco moves, ending with Year 6 dancing the afternoon away. **'DJ Marshmallow'** will be making a comeback after visiting us last during covid and other 'guest' DJs will be invited to spin some tunes!

To get the staff involved we are also going to be doing a staff 'Bake Off' where staff bake their own incredible cakes which are then judged by the children and sold at the end of the day to raise even more money. I have to say after failing miserably in making a vegan chocolate cake over the half term, I am not at all confident that I will be Star Baker!

You can donate to the Comic Relief charity by making a £2.00 donation on Parentpay which show in your account as Comic Relief Disco Fundraiser

We unfortunately don't have Red Noses to sell this year as they have changed how we can buy them but they are for sale on Amazon if you would like one.

And finally

There is some good news for the next academic year and the funding for school meals at Key Stage 2. As you are aware Reception and Key Stage 1 do not have to pay for school dinners as this is funded by the Government.

For this academic year the Mayor of London committed to funding children in KS2 to also have free school meals and it has been announced that this will now continue for the next academic year, 2024/25, so good news for Primary aged children in London.

Thank you as always for your support
Best wishes
Deborah

Dates For Your Diary

Whole Class Photos

Tuesday 27th February

Children that have PE on that day should come to school in their school uniform

Book Fair

Thursday 29th February to Wednesday 6th March

3.10pm by the school hall

World Book Day

Thursday 7th March

#Let Girls Play

Friday 8th March

Science Week – TIME

Monday 11th to Friday 15th March

#Let Boys Play

Thursday 14th March

Red Nose Day

Friday 15th March

POWER Project due in

Monday 18th March

POWER Project Parent Exhibition

Wednesday 20th March

Children break up Wednesday 27th March at 2.30pm

Staff INSET Day: Thursday 28th March

Easter holiday Friday 29th March 2024 to Friday 12th April 2024

Year 6 Easter School

Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th April

Summer Term 2024

Children come back on Monday 15 April 2024

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May 2024

Year 6 SATS

Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May

Half term holiday Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

Children break up for the summer on Tuesday 23rd July 2023 at 2pm

Staff INSET Day – Wednesday 24th July

For dates of class trips and events please see your child's class newsletter on our website and sent by Parentmail.

School Calendar for 2024/25

Autumn Term 2024

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September
Year 1 to Year 6 Children Start – Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 9.05am
Reception Children Start – Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 9.05am and will finish
at 12 midday for the first 3 days.

Half Term - Monday 21st October to Friday 25th October

Children Break Up – Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 2.30 pm

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children –Thursday 19th December 2025

Christmas Holidays ~ Friday 20th December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term 2025

Children Start – Monday 6th January 2025 at 9.05am

Half Term - Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025

Children Break Up – Friday 4th April at 2.30pm

Easter Holidays – Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Children Start – Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 9.05am

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May 2025

Half Term - Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children – Monday 2nd June 2025

Children Start – Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 9.05am

Children Break Up – Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at 2.00 pm

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children – Wednesday 23rd July 2025