



Head Teacher Newsletter April 2024

Welcome Back

I hope you have all had a lovely break and enjoyed the bit of sunshine and the rain! The children, as always, have come back into school ready to learn and walking around the school and going into the classrooms the children have made an excellent start to the new term.

Most of you will be aware that we had quite a few teacher pregnancies in the last couple of years, in fact we had 6 beautiful Jenny Hammond babies! This half term we have 2 more teachers returning from maternity leave and both will move to a PPA role for the rest of the academic year. Both Nafisa and Ashleigh will be returning closer to the May half term and Sakina will be returning to school in July.

As we move into the summer term we don't hold parent consultations or intervention on a Tuesday after school as the teachers use the time for report writing. If you do need to speak to the class teacher then please phone the school office who will arrange for the teacher to call you back. As always if it is a safeguarding matter then you ask to speak to Diana Williams, our Designated Safeguarding Lead or Andrew Warren, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Attendance

We had our recent attendance review and children's attendance under 90% was a particular focus. Children whose attendance falls under 90% counts as a persistent absence and this can lead to a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer from the BACME team. (Behaviour and Children Missing in Education). These children will be tracked and the school may be in touch to see how we can support you in your child attending school every day. Part of the review also focused on children who had been absent due to illness and how this is authorised on the register. We have been told that we need to be clearer in our communication to parents about the expectation that children should come to school if they have slight coughs and colds, when they are otherwise fit to come in. They have also reiterated the continued need to ask for proof of medical appointments and for proof of when a child is ill in the form of any medical evidence or a photo of the medicine they are taking for example.

Clubs

We opened the bookings on Parentpay for the summer term clubs just before the Easter break and some clubs are now full. However we do still have places in Chess club for Years 4, 5 and 6 on a Monday and Art club for Year 4 and 5 also on a Monday. Lego club and cooking club on a Monday are full. On a Wednesday we have a few spaces left for cooking club for Year 1 to Year 6 and some spaces for Football club for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. On a Thursday there are couple of spaces left in Film Club and a few spaces left for both Book clubs for Key Stage 1 and 2. Activity clubs start next week and please log on to Parentpay to book.

School Menu

We have now moved to the spring/summer lunch menu which rotates over 3 weeks. As always there is a vegetarian option every day and there are some vegan options occasionally as well. Tuesday is meat and fish free and when we do serve meat on other days it is halal. It is fish on a Friday. A copy of the menu has been sent to you on Parentmail this morning and under the parent tab on our website you can click on the school dinner menu tab and this takes you directly to Waltham Forest Catering site. However as of yesterday they had not published the new menu.

Shaking Up Shakespeare



Anthony Glen from Shaking Up Shakespeare will be working with Year 1 classes on the play *Oliver Twist* this year. Each class will have 3 days of working on the play and will perform it in the hall in front of friends and family and other classes.

Holly class will be working with Anthony from **Tuesday 23rd April to Thursday 25th April** and will perform their play in the afternoon of the **25th April at 2pm** in the school hall with family and friends welcome to come and watch their performance.

Sequoia class will work with Anthony **Tuesday 30th April to Thursday 2nd May** performing their play in the afternoon on

Thursday 2nd May at 2pm.

Family and friends will be able to come and watch their child perform with doors opening at 1.50pm. You will be able to take your child home when the performance finishes with their siblings.

POWER Projects

Each class from Year 1 to Year 5 have a new POWER project to complete this half term and the children should have taken home their POWER project sheet before the break but you can also find the sheet on your class page on our website.

The handing in date this half term is **Monday 20th May** when the children will present their projects to the class and the parent exhibition is on **Wednesday 22nd May**.

Year 6 will be given one more POWER project to complete after their SATs.

There is an expectation that all children complete **at least** one of the suggestions on the POWER project sheet with older children completing more. Handwritten work is encouraged and projects should not be given on USB sticks as we cannot use them on our computers to share with the class.

It is also expected that children continue with daily reading and KS2 complete their Reading and Writing journals.

Year 6 Easter Booster Classes

Every year we hold Easter classes for Year 6 as revision for the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) they take in May. This year the majority of children in Year 6 were able to attend over the 3 days and we are really impressed with how hard they all worked. Very well done Year 6, I am very proud of your work ethic and great behaviour for learning. I would also like to thank the teachers for giving up some of their Easter holiday to give the children that last minute boost in learning prior to their SATS.

Year 6 SATS

Year 6 tests will start on **Monday 13th May** for 4 days and the children are invited to come to school early from **8.15am** over the 4 days where the teachers can help them with any last minute revision in their classrooms and where they will be given a breakfast to start their day off. The children will take a Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test on Monday, Reading on Tuesday, 2 Maths papers on Wednesday and 1 further Maths paper on Thursday.

Assessments in other Year groups

In June other assessments take place in certain Year groups. Year 4 will take an online multiplication test during a 3 week window from Monday 3rd June and Year 1 will also be carrying out the phonics assessment from Monday 10th June to Friday 14th June. This is the first year that Year 2 **will not** be carrying out the DFE's assessments and teacher's assessments will be made in their end of year report.

Year 4 Swimming

This academic year we have changed the year group that goes swimming back to Year 4. This was always the Year group that we provided swimming lessons for before the pandemic when the lessons stopped and we then had catch up lessons. This means that moving forward Year 4 will have swimming lessons funded by the school.

The lessons now happen over a 2 week block every day as this has shown to be a more effective way of children learning to swim rather than once a week. Year 4's lessons start Monday 13th May and you can find more details in the class newsletter.

ART & Enterprise Week

This year we have moved Art Week to week beginning Monday 17th June when we will be participating in Sky Arts 'Access All Arts' week with the theme Connection. We would also like to link it with Enterprise week and before the Easter break I asked if parents would be interested in sharing their story with our children of how they went from school into work. Thank you to those that have already put themselves forward. If you are interested in being part of Enterprise week then please email school@jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk putting Enterprise Week in the subject heading and telling me a little bit about what you do.

Parents' evening and children's reports

There are no parent consultations this term as the teachers are using the time after school to write the children's reports. However if you need to speak to the teacher about something of importance then please phone the school office or email your teacher directly through their class email.

Parents' evening takes place in July with dates to follow.

Trips

You will see on your class newsletters whether your class has a school trip this half term. When a school trip is arranged you will receive a letter from your class teacher with a slip to complete and return giving permission for your child to go. Without that permission we cannot take your child unless it is considered a local trip which you sign permission for in the entry profile document completed when your child started here. Whilst we do try and keep the cost of trips small and often subsidise them or fund them completely we can't always avoid a cost particularly if we have booked the children to take part in workshops as well. Trips are paid on parentpay and will appear on your account once the trip has been booked by the school.

For class trips please check the individual class newsletter that you can find on our school website.

And Finally

If you have a child that is expected to start school in September 2024 you should have received an email yesterday confirming the school you have been allocated. We have 19 siblings starting in Reception and 41 new families which we look forward to welcoming. If you do have a child starting you will receive a starter pack from the school in May which contains the paperwork to complete and an invite for you and your child to come into school. We only do home visits for our new families and not siblings.

Best wishes
Deborah

Dates For Your Diary

Earth Day

Monday 22nd April

The focus for Earth day this year is Planet Vs Plastic

Shaking Up Shakespeare Workshop

Holly Class Performance

Thursday 25th April at 2pm

Shaking Up Shakespeare Workshop

Sequoia Class Performance

Friday 2nd May at 2pm

May Day Bank Holiday– School Closed

Monday 6th May

Year 6 SATS

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th May

POWer Project hand in

Monday 20th May

POWer Project Parent Presentation

Wednesday 22nd May

Children Break Up

Friday 24th May at 3.15pm/3.20pm

Half Term

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Children Return to School

Monday 3rd June

Year 1 Phonics Assessment

Week beginning Monday 10th June

Sports Days

Wednesday 12th June: Year 1, 2 & 3 in the morning

Reception in the afternoon

Thursday 13th June: Year 4, 5 & 6 in the morning

Children break up for the summer

Tuesday 23rd July at **2.00pm**

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