



Newsletter - December 2018

Dear Parents

So, we are almost at the end of term and for the children in Reception, some of our Nursery children and for me, the end of our first term at Turnfurlong Infant School. Some of the Reception children are looking quite exhausted now. We'll be competing for who can do the loudest yawn by the end of the week!

January 2019 - Changes to dropping off and picking up at the beginning and end of the school day. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

From January 2019 we are changing our routines at the beginning and end of the day.

Mornings

- In the morning, please take your child to their external classroom door. Their teacher will be there to welcome your child from 8.45am.
- You cannot leave your child unsupervised in the playground.
- Please say goodbye to your child just outside the classroom. They don't need you to come in with them.
- Playground gates will be locked at 8.55am
- Please can I ask you to make sure that your child arrives at school on time. Any latecomers will need to go to the School Reception as they do currently
- Children in breakfast club will be taken to their classrooms by breakfast club staff

Afternoons

- The playground gates will be opened at 3.10pm
- Please go to the area outside your child's classroom
- Your child's teacher or teaching assistant will hand over your child to you at the door when they see you
- Collect older children first – Year 2 children should be able to organise themselves faster than Reception!
- Please don't allow younger children to play on school equipment
- Late collections will be from outside the breakfast club room via the School Reception
- Children going to after school clubs or childcare will be collected from their classrooms as they are currently

No dogs are allowed on site so please do not bring them with you at drop off or collection times.

Communication between home and school is a priority for me and this change should support this. Teachers won't have time for long in-depth conversations in the morning, these would still need an appointment, but you will be able to greet your child's teacher or teaching assistant in person every morning. Sometimes it can be useful to share a child's bad night's sleep for example!

Also, some of our children find saying goodbye and then having to wait in the playground quite stressful in the mornings so this will make the beginning of the day more positive for them. There will be less moving around for children at the end of the day, reducing time spent transitioning from one place to another and opportunities for low level disruption at

the end of the day. This should mean that the day begins and ends positively for all our children.

As this is such a significant change, I am asking all parents to acknowledge that they have read and understood this by completing the slip attached.

There are bound to be some teething issues in the first few days but please bear with us. It really will be short-term pain for long-term gain.

Thinking skills

When you are completing 'thinking skills' activities at home please can you make sure this goes into your child's thinking skills book. Teachers mark children's thinking skills activities on a Friday. This means that you have a whole week to complete a task should you wish to. Please remember that these are suggested activities. We know that with busy lives not all families will be able to complete a task each week.

Highlights and thank yous

There have been so many highlights for me this term. In November it was such an honour to take the children in Year 1 and 2 to The Grange Community School to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The children's behaviour was impeccable. Then there was our parent involvement morning which was such a lively celebration of learning at Turnfurlong Infant School. The children sang their hearts out at the recent performance of 'A Miracle in Town', our Christmas play and it was an incredible experience to watch a group of Year 2 children perform on stage at The Waterside Theatre as part of the Energise dance festival. In school. I've particularly enjoyed sharing my lunchtimes on a Monday on 'Mrs Ochiltree's Special Table' with the children who have been nominated for good behaviour by the Lunchtime Supervisors.

I know I'll have missed lots of things out so please forgive me but what an incredible term it has been.

One of the things about Turnfurlong Infant School that amazes me on an almost daily basis is the incredible support that we receive from parents and people from the wider community. I have never known a school with such a phenomenal 'army' of volunteers who come into school every week to glue, stick, laminate and just support our teachers. I've worked in many Primary and Nursery schools in my career and believe me, it's unique. Thank you so much.

Thank you also to all the parents, and grandparents, who have helped us on our outings and to walk safely from school to all our local destinations. We couldn't do these things without you and I don't take your support for granted.

Not everyone is able to come into school during the working day, even though they might like to, so thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Fayre. The event really kicked off the festive season with style and our creative and incredibly hard working PTA, 'Friends of Turnfurlong Infant School' managed to raise over £3000. All of this money supports the work of the school so thank you to everyone.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you from the Royal British Legion for the donations to the Poppy Appeal. We raised £190.76.

What's on where in the holidays?

If you are looking for information about local services and events during the Christmas period, don't forget to take a look at the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service website; <https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org>

Help and support for families

The charity 'Family Lives' has a website that gives free advice and guidance about just about anything and everything to do with parenting. It's not just for Christmas and it also has a free and confidential helpline; <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Carols around the Tree – Wednesday 19th December

The singing of carols around the Christmas tree will start at **2.30 pm**. Children will be dismissed at the end of the day at 3.15 pm.

Bucks Schoolwear Plus

The uniform shop is shut for Christmas from Monday 17th – Wednesday 26th December, re-opening on Thursday 27th. The final date for pre-Christmas web orders is Friday 14th December. All relevant information can be found on their website: www.bucksschoolwearplus.co.uk.

And finally

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy Christmas. I know that some of you will be working very hard over the Christmas holiday but I hope that everyone enjoys the opportunity to take a break with their children and to spend time with people whose company brings you joy and happiness.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 3rd January 2019.

TERM DATES		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Spring Term	Thursday 3 January 2019	Friday 15 February 2019
	Monday 25 February 2019	Friday 5 April 2019
Summer Term	Wednesday 24 April 2019	Friday 24 May 2019
	Tuesday 4 June 2019	Wednesday 24 July 2019
Staff Training Days	<i>Wednesday 2 January 2019 Tuesday 23 April 2019 Monday 3 June 2019</i>	<i>May Day: Monday 6 May 2019</i>

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December newsletter reply slip – please complete and return to school

Name of oldest child at TIS: _____ Class: _____

I acknowledge receipt of the December newsletter detailing the changes in January.

Signed: _____