

Newsletter – 7th September 2023



Dear Parents

Welcome back to the beginning of another school year. All the children have quickly settled back into school and we're ready for another busy and exciting year.

I hope that everyone had a good summer, even if the weather was not as warm as we've had this week. It never ceases to amaze me that a damp, grey summer holiday will almost always be followed by a scorching September.

You could be forgiven for thinking that August is a quiet month in schools but I can assure you that there was a lot going on here. At the beginning of the holiday, all the drainage in the playground and car park was replaced. This was swiftly followed by a complete overhaul of the Nursery outdoor area, with new seating, storage and a fabulous mud kitchen. Then the climbing frame in Reception was replaced, with the addition of a rope bridge. Our school library, located in a building in the Reception playground, has been reconfigured to create four smaller rooms, to include a library space. Benches were painted outside and all the general summer maintenance jobs were completed. Mr Ryan worked tirelessly throughout the summer to manage and complete this work so a big 'thank you' to our hardworking site manager.

This newsletter has some dates for your diary, a few reminders and some news.

Timings of the school day

- Gates open to parents: 8.25am
- Classrooms open to children: 8.35am
- All children in school and learning begins: 8.45am
- **Gates are locked at 8.45am.**

- Gates open to parents: 3.00pm
- Children are dismissed to go home: 3.15pm

Parent survey

Thanks so much to everyone who took the time to respond to the parent survey at the end of last term. We received 110 responses which is a lot higher than in previous years. Your feedback is incredibly important and it was particularly special to be able to share the many positive comments with staff on our INSET day on Monday.

Leave of absence in term time

If parents wish to take their child out of school during term time for any reason other than a medical appointment they must make a request to do so in advance, in writing and complete a form. The form is available from the office. As the headteacher, I will then respond as to whether the absence will be recorded as authorised, unauthorised or partly authorised. For further information, please see the Attendance Policy on the school's website.

Parking

Please can we politely remind you that parents should not be parking in the staff car parks of either the Infant school or the Junior school. The only exception is if the car has a blue badge, and the person entitled to park in the blue badge bay is the person who is collecting their child from school.

Change of address? Change of contact details?

Please don't forget to let the office know your new address if you have moved house or your new phone number or email address if this has changed.

Midday Meals Supervisor vacancy

Due to the promotion of one of our Midday Meals Supervisors last term, we are looking to appoint another member to our lunchtime team. If you are interested in this role, please ask the school office for an application pack. Applications must be received by 12 noon on Monday 25th September.

Please be aware that Turnfurlong Infant School is committed to our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children. We are committed to recruiting candidates who share this commitment to safeguarding, and therefore we apply robust recruitment and selection procedures to ensure that the people selected are right for the job, and that all candidates are appropriately screened prior to appointment. This includes conducting an online search.

RECEPTION PARENTS - Phonics Workshop

We would like to invite Reception parents to a Phonics Workshop on **Monday 18th September from 2.00-3.00 pm**

2.00-2.30 pm - in the school hall

Mrs Ochiltree and Mrs Stockwell will explain the first steps in learning to read, and will tell you how we teach phonics in school. We will also offer you some ideas on how you can help at home.

2.30-3.00 pm – parents are invited to go to their child's classroom and see a phonics lesson.

PE days are as follows:

2C & 2S	Tuesday afternoon
1B & 2M	Wednesday afternoon
All Reception classes	Thursday morning
1A & 1H	Thursday afternoon

Please ensure that PE kits are in school, and children do not wear earrings if they are unable to take them out themselves. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary					
September					
Monday 18 th	Reception year – Phonics Workshop 2.00-3.00 pm				
Class visits to Aylesbury Library (information to follow)					
Monday 18 th	2C		Monday 25 th	1H	
Wednesday 20 th	2M		Wednesday 27 th	1A	
Thursday 21 st	2S		Thursday 28 th	1B	
October					
Friday 6 th	Year 2 trip to Road Farm, Great Missenden (information to follow)				
Monday 9 th	Photographer in school to take individual photos of all pupils				
Monday 9 th	Parent Discussions 5.30-7.30 pm				
Tuesday 10 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm				
Wednesday 11 th	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm				
Monday 16 th	Year 1 visit to Limes Avenue Baptist Church (information to follow)				
Friday 20 th	Break up for half term holiday (usual finish time)				
Monday 30 th	Return to school				
November					
Wednesday 2 nd	Flu Vaccinations (Reception – Year 2)				

TERM DATES 2023-24		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term	Tuesday 5 September 2023	Friday 20 October 2023
	Monday 30 October 2023	Tuesday 19 December 2023
Spring Term	Monday 8 January 2024	Friday 9 February 2024
	Monday 19 February 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024
Summer Term	Monday 15 April 2024	Friday 24 May 2024
	Tuesday 4 June 2024	Tuesday 23 July 2024
Staff Training Days	Friday 1 September 2023 Monday 4 September 2023 Thursday 4 January 2024 Friday 5 January 2024 Monday 3 June 2024	
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May 2024 (school closed)	