

Newsletter – 20th October 2023



Dear Parents

It's amazing that we've already reached October half-term but it's been a busy start to the school year. The Reception and Nursery children who joined us in September have made such a fantastic start to school but they are definitely ready for the opportunity to recharge their batteries next week.

I'd also like to say a big, 'well done' to Mrs Glen. Her tireless and tenacious work on the school travel plan has resulted in Turnfurlong Infant School being awarded Platinum level accreditation.

This week at school, the children in Year 1 have been to Limes Avenue Baptist church to support their learning in RE. We've also been learning about the stories of ordinary and extraordinary black people in assembly, in particular the story of The Empire Windrush. If you'd like to discuss this again with your children, there are some links here, including further information about the story 'Granny came here on The Empire Windrush' that I read to the Year 1 and 2 children in assembly;

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8ftp4j/articles/zmmr4xs>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/g/granny-came-here-on-the-empire-windrush/>

OPAL – Outdoor play and learning project

This year we are starting a new project at school that should transform the children's experience of lunchtime and playtime. It's called 'OPAL' and the letters stand for the 'Outdoor play and learning project'. We are starting the process of collecting resources for the children to play with and this is where we need the support of our fabulous school community. We've attached a list of things that we are looking out for to this email. Everything we are collecting will be second-hand, surplus or pre-loved so now's the time for a clear out.

Please bring your items to school in the week beginning Monday 30th October, either at drop off or collection time so that they can be taken to the hall foyer or roundhouse. Thank you.

We will start to introduce the changes to playtime and lunchtime from January 2024. We'll be inviting parents to sessions to explain more about the project in the Spring term so look out for further information in the coming weeks.

Risk assessment and educational visits

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and carers who have helped us on educational visits this term. These experiences really help to make the children's learning at school memorable and meaningful. The benefits are many but we know that visits outside support children's vocabulary, broaden their life experience and cultural capital and are an enriching social experience. Thank you for helping us make this happen.

In schools, all visits and experiences are carefully risk assessed and plans are submitted for approval in advance. Even a short walk to the post box with Reception is planned with great care. Risks can change and therefore plans will always be amended where it is

necessary to do so. This can include a visit leader making a change on the visit itself or cancelling a visit at short notice on health and safety grounds.

We would not routinely plan to carry water on shorter local outings, such as the library visit, unless temperatures were particularly high. In these circumstances sunscreen and hats would also be required. The decision to take these could be made on the day itself if weather conditions had changed.

When children are eating lunch, because they are out for the day, they will take water bottles with them. However, on all educational visits staff will also be aware of the need to make reasonable adjustments for individual children or adults, including volunteers, who have health care plans in place.

Finally, I'd like to thank the staff who have taken children out on visits this term. Taking children out of school on educational visits is so worthwhile but it is always a huge responsibility.

Little Acorns Art – FoTIS fundraising

A card template is being sent home with children today, to be completed over half term. Little Acorns Art will turn the artwork into a card, keepsake or gift idea, and parents will be able to purchase their child's art printed on various products. The cards can be decorated and used for occasions other than Christmas, such as thank you or birthday cards.

All your child needs to do to is create their design on the form using felt tips or coloured pencils, but avoiding pastel colours, glitter and ordinary pencil – the bolder and brighter the better! Put a cross in the right box to indicate which way is up. Additional forms are available at the school office after half term if replacement forms are needed. Please try to keep completed artwork flat, as creasing will affect the end product.

Please return the completed design form to school by **Monday 6th November**. Instructions and suggestions are attached to the email. Happy creating!

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Stick-on poppies are available in school after half term. Please send in a donation with your child if you would like them to have a poppy.

Headlice

Please could we remind everyone to check their children and treat them if necessary. Any pharmacy will give you advice on the best way to treat your child. It is important to check children's heads regularly, even after treatment, in order to try and eradicate the problem. This NHS advice contains a helpful photograph of what to look out for and what to do <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Half Term activities

From 23rd to 28th October at **Discover Bucks Museum** in Aylesbury there are some great activities for families to enjoy, from making Rangoli Sun Catchers, Autumn Collage and Clay Leaves at the beginning of the week to spooky Bats and Spider Webs later in the week, topped off with a Frightful Family Halloween day on Saturday 28 October. Join them for different activities each day from Monday to Saturday. They will also have a cryptic Halloween inspired trail for £1, available every day from reception for all to enjoy.

Also at Discover Bucks Museum, get ready to pull up your leg warmers and scramble your Rubik's Cubes, as their exciting new exhibition, **I Grew Up 80s** will open just in time for the October Half-Term. Don't forget to visit while you're there!
www.discoverbucksmuseum.org

Dates for the Diary			
October			
Monday 30 th	Return to school Indian dance workshops (<i>Reception – Year 2</i>)		
Tuesday 31 st	2M - trip to the National Paralympic Heritage Centre	Please remember to return the permission slip if not already done	
November			
Wednesday 1 st	2C - trip to the National Paralympic Heritage Centre		
Thursday 2 nd	2S - trip to the National Paralympic Heritage Centre		
Thursday 2 nd	Flu Vaccinations (<i>Reception – Year 2</i>)		
Wednesday 8 th	Parent Involvement Morning 9.00-10.30 am (<i>Reception – Year 2</i>) <i>Further details to follow</i>		
December			
Friday 1 st	'Winter Sparkle' day <i>Further details to follow</i> FoTIS Winter Bazaar 2.45-5.30 pm		
Friday 8 th	Save the Children Christmas jumper day Pantomime for the children during the school day		
Tuesday 12 th	Reception Christmas Play – 9.30 am		
Wednesday 13 th	Year 1 Christmas Play – 9.30 am Year 2 Christmas Play – 2.15 pm		
Monday 18 th	Christmas Party Day		
Tuesday 19 th	Carols round the Christmas Tree – 2.15 pm (children and parents) End of Term		

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)	