

## Trips and Visits!

We have lots of exciting school trips and visits planned for this year. Letters and consent forms are distributed to the relevant classes. Trips arranged to date include:



Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Year 5 residential visit to Boreatton Park  
Class 1 & 2 Fire Service visit (in school)  
Class 4 science workshop at PHC Preston  
Class 3 trip to Woburn Safari Park  
Class 5 trip to Bletchley Park  
Whole school pantomime trip to Stevenage  
Year 4, 5 and 6 Young Voices at the O2 Arena

Enrichment activities such as school visits are a wonderful opportunity to enhance the curriculum taught in school. Unfortunately we rely on parental contributions to enable these trips to take place. Please be assured that we always try to keep costs to a minimum. In the unfortunate event of parents being unwilling to contribute to the cost of a visit, we may need to make the decision to cancel a planned trip. We trust that parents will be understanding of this position and support the school in this way. If any parents find the cost of a trip difficult, we would ask you to make an appointment to discuss this with Mrs Webb or Mrs Bailey in strict confidence.

## Herts Catering Themed Lunch – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Information is being sent home with this newsletter about a themed lunch on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Herts Catering are cooking a Street Food Festival lunch comprising a Sweet Chilli Wrap or Jerk Quorn with Rice and Peas.

If your child normally has a school dinner on a Thursday they will automatically be offered this lunch. If your child normally has a packed lunch on a Thursday but would like to take part in this special lunch menu, please complete the form on the leaflet and return to the school office. This is a great way to try a school dinner!

## HAND News

The September edition of HAND News is now available. This is a free online newsletter for parents, carers and professionals of children with additional needs.

The newsletter gives information about free courses for parents, Makaton stories, inclusive activities for children, support groups and much more.

Please visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews) to download the newsletter



## Governor News

### Parent/Carer Survey

The Pirton School leadership team (the governors and the school senior leaders) would like to thank parents and carers for their responses to the survey in the autumn term. We are pleased that the responses were overwhelmingly positive, with all respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that their children are happy at Pirton School. Several respondents took the opportunity to raise additional comments that deserve further consideration, and we hope to address these over the coming months.

### Apples in the Orchard

There are several apple trees in the orchard area and near the Class 1 coloured fencing. Please help yourself and pick the fruit if you wish. It is a shame to see the fruit going to waste.



### Emergency contact details

A reminder to parents to let us know if you changed your mobile phone number over the summer holidays. Please speak to Mrs Keech who will update your emergency contact details.



## Scholastic Book Fair

The annual Scholastic Book Fair will take place after school in the School Hall from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October (except Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October when the Hall is used by Rising Stars). The children will have the opportunity to look at the books during the school day and parents are welcome to browse or purchase books after school each evening.

Please note that there is no pressure for parents to purchase books. Any commission from purchases made at the Fair is used to enhance the number of books in the classrooms and library.

## Lunchtime Supervisors (MSAs)

We are interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to join a team of 'bank' midday supervisors to help fill gaps when our current lunchtime staff are on training courses, school trips or off school through illness.

The duties will comprise setting up the school hall ready for lunchtime, assisting the children whilst eating their lunch and supporting the pupils in the playground and on the school field during the lunch time break. Hours would be from 11.45am to 1pm and remuneration will be paid. Candidates will need to hold a valid enhanced DBS check and be willing to undertake safeguarding training. School will bear the cost of any DBS checks and/or training.

Please speak to Mrs Fenner or the school office if you would like more information.



## Primary & Secondary Admissions 2018

The application process for Secondary School admissions is now open with the deadline on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Online applications can be made on [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions).

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with the closing date deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

We will be holding an **Open Morning** for prospective parents on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November between 9am and 11am.

## Noticeboard

The noticeboard near the main school entrance displays information about local events and clubs which may be of interest to families. The notices are changed on a regular basis so please take the opportunity to have a look every now and then.

Please note that by displaying these notices, the school should not be perceived as promoting or recommending any of the activities advertised. We are, however, happy to act as a point of information for village families.



## Hitchin Food Bank

Hitchin Food Bank is part of a national initiative which helps to provide food parcels for deserving local people. They have informed us of current shortages at their warehouse. If you would like to contribute, donations can be handed in to the school office. For further information about the Food Bank, please visit [www.letchworth.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.letchworth.foodbank.org.uk)

Items currently needed:

Toilet Rolls  
Sponge Puddings  
Tinned Vegetables  
Size 6 Nappies  
Cereals  
Tea bags  
Rice  
Soup

Long Life Fruit Juice  
Dried Milk  
Sugar 500g bags  
Strong Carrier Bags  
Tinned Meat/Fish  
Coffee  
Pasta  
Baked Beans

Long Life UHT Milk  
Noodles  
Instant Dried Potato  
Tinned Fruit  
Tinned Rice Pudding  
Pasta Sauce  
Tinned Tomatoes  
Jam

## Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 pupils, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families applying for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals funding. If you have a child who has moved into Year 3, school meals are now chargeable. Therefore if you think you might be eligible to apply for Free School Meals, there are several ways of applying.

- Online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)
- Phone: 0300 123 4084
- Smartphone using the LookingLocal app
- Digital TV: The Community Channel – Press the red button
- Wii/XBox/PS3: [www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect](http://www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect)

As a school we also benefit financially from funding for Pupil Premium pupils so even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, it also saves you having to remember to apply when your child moves into Year 3.

If you need any additional information, please speak to Mrs Webb or Mrs Bailey in confidence.

## Sports & Activity Clubs for the Autumn Term

The following Clubs are taking place this half term:

Monday	Book Club – Key Stage 2 Rising Stars Activity Club – all ages Orchestra – Key Stage 2	lunchtime after school after school
Tuesday	Football Club – Key Stage 2 Feel Good Club – all ages Choir Key Stage 2	lunchtime after school after school
Wednesday	Chess Club – all ages Lego Club all ages	lunchtime lunchtime
Thursday	Tennis Club – all ages Pom Pom Club – all ages Gardening Club – Years 4, 5 & 6 IckleDrama – all ages Code Club Years 5 & 6	lunchtime lunchtime after school after school after school
Friday	Football Club – Key Stage 1 Homework Club- Key Stage 2	lunchtime lunchtime

A separate letter and booking information was sent home with the last newsletter. Clubs may vary from term to term so watch out for any new clubs which may start further into the year.



## Key Stage 1 Art Club

Advance warning that in addition to the clubs which were advertised in the last newsletter, Mrs Snell has kindly offered to run an Art and Craft club for children in Key Stage 1. The club will take place after school on Tuesdays in Class 2 **starting after the October half term holiday.**

In the first instance the club will be limited to 10 pupils so depending on numbers we will offer places to the first 10 children who sign up. These first 10 pupils will have a place for the sessions between October half term and Christmas and then we will take the next 10 pupils for the sessions between Christmas and February half term, and so on. There is likely to be a small charge for this club to cover the cost of materials. Watch out for a separate letter and signing up information in the next couple of weeks.



# Term Dates 2017-2018

## Autumn Term 2017

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Half Term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Occasional Days: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

**INSET Day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Occasional Day: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

## Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Half Term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**INSET Day: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**

## Summer Term 2018

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Half Term: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

**Bank Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**INSET days: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Occasional Days: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

School Term Dates for 2018-19 can also be found on the following link:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/schlfe/termdates/>

## Autumn Term Dates 2017

25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 residential visit to Boreatton Park
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Class 2 Fire Engine visit
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Class 4 science workshop at Princess Helena College
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Street Food Themed Lunch
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Book Fair in the School Hall – 3.15pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual School Photographs
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Class 3 trip to Woburn Safari Park
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term holiday – school closed
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Secondary School application deadline Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm-6pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Class 4 swimming starts Parent Consultation Meetings – 5pm – 8pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Nasal Flu Vaccines
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Class 5 trip to Bletchley Park
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9am – 11am
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Football Rally
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Occasional Day – school closed
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 2pm in the School Hall
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 6.30pm in the School Hall
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Crafts Afternoon
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 Lessons & Carols – 2pm at St Mary's
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 Lessons & Carols – 6.30pm at St Mary's
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	PSA Children's Christmas discos 4pm to 7.30pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch End of term

## Spring Term Dates 2018

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	INSET Day – school closed for pupils
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring Term begins
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole school panto trip to Stevenage
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 3 swimming starts
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 5 Assembly – 9am School Hall
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 4 Assembly
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 3 Assembly
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Class 2 Assembly
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices Concert (Years 4, 5 & 6), O2 Arena
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 1 Assembly
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term holiday – school closed
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Class 2 swimming starts Parent Consultation Meetings – 5pm – 8pm
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term

## Summer Term Dates 2018

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Summer Term
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Class 1 swimming starts
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS Week
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Half Term holiday – school closed
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Testing
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Athletics Rally
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Class photographs
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Key Stage 2 Performance 2pm and 6.30 pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Key Stage 2 Performance 6.30pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports to Parents
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Afternoon
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Secondary Transfer Day (to be confirmed)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Session for Parents re Reports – 3.30 – 5pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Afternoon
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Assembly – 9am End of term