

19 October 2018

Communication with Parents - Questionnaire

We are reviewing the way we communicate with parents and would appreciate your feedback and comments in the attached questionnaire.

We currently issue paper copies of all correspondence (newsletters, class trips, sports and activity clubs, etc) as well as sending out information via our online contact facility ParentMail to which 99% of families subscribe free of charge.

We know that paper copies often go missing before reaching home! We also think it may improve our contact with parents if we have only one form of communication. It makes sense to concentrate on the ParentMail facility as this is reliable and will help us to save paper and also the environment.

We are also reviewing how often we issue our school newsletter. Currently this is fortnightly but we think monthly may be more effective as parents would know that the newsletter would be issued at the beginning of each month and be able to keep track of information. The newsletter would continue to be posted on the school website.

We are aware that newsletters, etc often include reply slips for returning to school. Please be assured that we would continue to have paper copies of reply slips available at the school office if you would prefer not to print at home.

We would welcome your input and look forward to receiving your replies.



Discovery Zone Reorganisation – Help Needed!

Over the summer holidays we moved the library from the school house into the old Class 5 classroom. We have renamed the room our Discovery Zone and we hope to develop it over the coming months. Following the move, the library books need to be rearranged into order and we are hoping that we can encourage a few parents to come along one afternoon to help with this task. We are proposing the afternoon of Monday 12 November. No DBS is needed, just a willingness to help sort the bookshelves! Tea and biscuits will be provided! Please complete the return slip or speak to the school office if you are able to help.



Harvest Assembly

Thank you to everyone who donated tins and dried items of food at the Harvest Assembly which were passed on to the Hitchin Food Bank. Please see below the message of thanks we have received.



“Hitchin Foodbank would like to thank you for thinking of us in your Harvest festival celebrations and for your recent generous donation of 18 bags of food to this Charity. Just one item donated, when combined with other people's contributions helps to make up a much needed food parcel for people who have been referred to us (sometimes via the Hitchin Schools Partnership). Our unique red voucher system ensures that only deserving people, who are having real difficulty in putting food on the table, receive our (and indirectly- your) help. If we did not have people like yourselves making financial donations and/or contributing food, then there is no doubt that our Charity would cease to exist, and desperate, needy people would go hungry.”

Allergies – Important Information

A further reminder that we have several children with **nut and sesame allergies** who need to keep EpiPens in school in case of an allergic reaction. You may have seen the news recently about a young person having a fatal reaction when buying a sandwich. We want to ensure that school is a safe environment for all our children. Please make sure that any snacks and lunchboxes brought into school do not contain nuts or sesame. **Hummus** is often brought into school and parents may not be aware that tahini, one of the ingredients in hummus, is made from sesame seeds.

We also have a growing number of children who are allergic to **kiwi fruit** so again would be grateful if parents could refrain from sending pupils to school with kiwi in the snack or lunch box.

Thank you for helping to keep our pupils safe and well.



Parent Consultation Evenings

Appointment times for Parent Consultation Evenings on Tuesday 23 and Thursday 25 October were sent home yesterday. We will try our best to allocate appointment times as requested but this is not always possible during busy slots.

Mrs Fenner will be available to meet with parents throughout the consultation evenings – please drop by her office. If the door is closed she will be meeting with other parents, so please wait on the chairs outside her office until she becomes available.

Secondary School Application Deadline

A reminder to our Year 6 pupils that the deadline for Secondary School applications is **Wednesday 31 October** which falls during the October half term holidays.

Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Our Open Morning for prospective families will take place on Tuesday 27 November between 9am and 11am. Our Year 6 pupils will escort families around school and there will be the opportunity to talk to Mrs Fenner at the end of the tour to answer any questions you may have. There is no need to book – just turn up on the morning.

Please pass this information onto family, friends and neighbours who have children due to start school in September 2019.



Pirton Activities

Over the past couple of weeks, the children have represented the school at a Tag Rugby Festival and football matches against Wilshere Dacre and St Ippollytts schools. The latest sporting outing was a netball match against Whitehill yesterday. We are proud of all those representing the school and it is great to see parents supporting the children at these events. Thank you to Mr Dawson for refereeing the football matches and to Mrs Manson for running our lunchtime netball club.

Swifts class took part in a Stone Age Workshop at the beginning of the week and dressed up for the occasion.



Primary Admissions 2019

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 opens on Monday 5 November 2018 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2019.

Online applications can be made on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

World War I Workshops

We are looking forward to celebrating the centenary of the end of WWI with a series of workshops after the October half term holidays. We are grateful to Mrs Fryer for offering to run these sessions for us. If anyone has any memorabilia that they are willing to lend to us, we would be very grateful. Please speak to Mrs Fenner.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Appeal

Operation Christmas Child is the largest children's Christmas project sending gifts in shoe boxes to children in hospitals, orphanages, homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods in the poorest parts of the world and has been well supported by pupils and parents in recent years. The children heard about the scheme in one of our assemblies and information leaflets were sent home last week.

The collection of shoe boxes in Pirton is being kindly organised by St Mary's Church. The last day for returning filled shoe boxes is **Thursday 8 November**.

Pre-wrapped boxes are available from the school office costing 50p each.

Thank you in advance for your support for this village project.



Term Dates 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

Monday 3rd September - Friday 21st December 2018

Half Term: Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November 2018

INSET Day: Monday 3rd September, Tuesday 4th September, Wednesday 5th September

OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 30th November 2018

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January – Friday 5th April 2019

Half Term: Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February 2019

INSET Day: Monday 7th January 2019

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April – Wednesday 24th July 2019

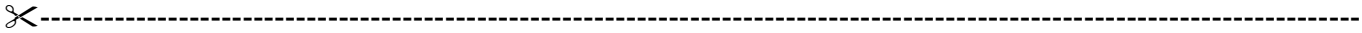
Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2019

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2019

INSET Day: Friday 24th May 2019

School Term Dates for 2019-20 can also be found on the following link:

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

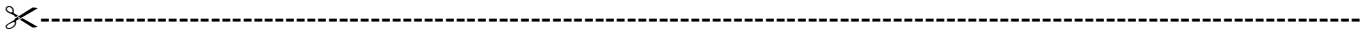


Discovery Zone Reorganisation – Monday 12 November 1pm

Name (s).....

I / We will be able to help with the reorganisation of the Discovery Zone on 12 November.

Signed



Communication Questionnaire

	Please circle as required
I would prefer the newsletter to be issued	Monthly / Fortnightly
I would prefer to receive the newsletter	Paper copy Via ParentMail Both
I would prefer to receive other letters such as class trips, sporting events, etc	Paper copy Via ParentMail Both
Any other comments:	

Signed:

Autumn Term Dates 2018

Tuesday 23 October	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 – 6pm
Thursday 25 October	Parent Consultation Meetings 5pm – 8pm
Wednesday 31 October	Secondary school application deadline
Monday 29 Oct to Friday 2 Nov	Half Term holiday – school closed
Saturday 3 November	Pirton Bonfire Night and Firework Display
5-9 November	WW1 Workshop Week
Wednesday 7 November	Class 4 swimming starts Maths Workshop
Thursday 8 November	KS1 Sports Festival
Friday 9 November	WW1 Celebratory Assembly
12-16 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 12 November	Nasal Flu Vaccines YR, 1, 2, 3, 4 ,5 Discovery Zone reorganisation – parent helpers
Tuesday 13 November	NSPCC Assemblies
Monday 19 November	Year 1 and 2 visit to Hitchin British Schools
Thursday 22 November	Working It Out Together – School Website - 9am NSPCC Workshops
Tuesday 27 November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9am – 11am Rural Football
Friday 30 November	Occasional Day – school closed
Friday 7 December	Christmas Crafts Afternoon
Tuesday 11 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 2.30pm in the School Hall
Wednesday 12 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 6.30pm in the School Hall
Tuesday 18 December	Christmas Lunch Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – 2.30pm
Wednesday 19 December	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – 6.30pm
Thursday 20 December	Whole School Panto visit – Gordon Craig Theatre Children’s Christmas discos 4pm to 7.30pm
Friday 21 December	End of term

Spring Term Dates 2019

Monday 7 January	INSET Day – school closed for pupils
Tuesday 8 January	Spring Term begins
Wednesday 9 January	Class 3 swimming starts
Tuesday 15 January	Primary School Admissions application deadline
Thursday 24 January	Y6 SATS Parent Information Evening
Monday 28 January	Writing Parent Information Evening (at Hexton School)
Wednesday 13 February	Working It Out Together – SEN – 2pm
Monday 18 to Friday 22 February	Half Term holiday – school closed
Tuesday 26 February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 5pm – 8pm
Wednesday 27 February	Class 2 swimming starts
Thursday 28 February	Year 6 Knex Challenge Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day KS2 Netball competition
Friday 8 March	Class 3 Assembly – 9am
Friday 15 March	Class 4 Assembly – 9am
Friday 22 March	Class 5 Assembly – 9am
Friday 29 March	Class 2 Assembly – 9am
Wednesday 3 April	Year 3 & 4 Performance – 2pm
Thursday 4 April	Year 3 & 4 Performance – 6.30pm
Friday 5 April	Class 1 Assembly End of term

Summer Term Dates 2019

Tuesday 23 April	First day of Summer Term
Wednesday 24 April	Class 1 swimming starts
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 13 to Friday 17 May	Year 6 SATS Week
Friday 24 May	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 27 to Friday 31 st May	Half Term holiday – school closed
Saturday 8 June	Pirtonfest
Monday 10 to Friday 14 June	Year 1 Phonics Testing
Tuesday 11 June	Rural Athletics
Friday 14 June	Class photographs
Monday 1 to Friday 5 July	Year 6 Residential to the Isle of Wight
Monday 8 July	Year 5 & 6 Performance 2pm
Tuesday 9 July	Year 5 & 6 Performance 6.30pm
Monday 8 to Friday 12 July	Transition Week
Thursday 11 July	Secondary Transfer Day (to be confirmed)
Wednesday 10 July	Sports Afternoon
Friday 12 July	Reports to Parents
Monday 15 July	Open Session for Parents re Reports – 3.30 – 5pm
Wednesday 17 July	Reserve Sports Afternoon
Wednesday 24 July	Leavers' Assembly – 9am End of term