

11 September 2020

## Welcome Back!

It has been a lovely to welcome our children back to school. Following the challenges of lockdown, we look forward to an exciting and hopefully more settled year ahead. A very warm welcome back to all our parents and families – old and new!



## A Message from Mrs Fenner

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all of our children and families back to school and have a different and yet familiar sense of normal return to our setting. The smiles each morning and, indeed, at the end of the day have been hugely appreciated and a clear indication of the positive start to this term. Thank You for the many kind and supportive messages we have received. We also appreciate your understanding as we continue adapting to the ever changing situation and guidance. Most importantly, thank you for continuously working with us to ensure we are able to reset and restart the learning journey for all our children. They have returned to school with great demonstration of resilience and have been able to adapt to new routines brilliantly. I am so proud of them all! We continue to deliver the wide curriculum we have always strived to provide, with exciting learning opportunities and enrichment where safely possible. You may notice that our Diary Dates look a little sparse compared to previous years. Please be assured that we aim to include key events as usual, although again, this might be very different than in previous years and we aim to provide adequate notice of these. We will be considering the best way to hold our Parent Consultations this term and details will be shared as soon as possible. There are also likely to be small changes needed to the current systems in place as we progress through the term. Please ensure that you have access to Parentmail, as this will continue to be the main method of communication used by school.

I would also like to personally say Welcome to our new Reception children and families and a number of new families who have joined the school community this year. I look forward to meeting you all on the school playground and more formally as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

On behalf of the Pirton staff team, thank you all again and we look forward to working together with you and your children in the year ahead. Stay safe and well.

## Robins Staffing News

We also say welcome to Mrs Liz Ewen who joins our Robins class as class teacher on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Shaw will continue to teach in Robins class on Thursdays and Fridays.

## Primary & Secondary Admissions 2021

The application process for Secondary School admissions is now open with the deadline on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Please note that this date is in the October half term holiday.

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 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 opens on Monday 2 November 2020 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2021.

We are reviewing how we can hold any **Open Morning** sessions for prospective parents whilst continuing to follow Covid 19 guidance. Further information to follow and further details of this will follow.

## One Way Entry & Exit System

Thank You to everyone who co-operated with our arrangements for the start and end of the day. Please be reminded that we are running **a one way system across the school site. Directional signs are in place and we would ask everyone to follow these arrows. This will ensure that everyone is moving in one direction and help to avoid congestion.**

**Entry to the school site should be made via the turning circle only with movement across the playground to classrooms and exit via the gates near the school office.**

We realise that if you live at one end of the village this may cause you to go 'long way round' on your entry or exit, but we would emphasise the need to adhere to this guidance in order to keep pupils, parents, grandparents and staff safe.

## Attendance and Illnesses

We were delighted that we have had almost 100% attendance for each day this week in each class! It is usual at this time of year for many of our children to have colds and coughs. Whilst some schools are not accepting children in school with any symptoms of any illnesses, we feel that is important that children attend school regularly and wherever possible. If your child demonstrates any of the Covid 19 symptoms, please **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. Please follow the steps in the attached guidance. We will continue to ask parents to keep their child at home for a period of 48 hours following a bout of diarrhoea or vomiting and this will commence from the last episode of illness. We will continue to contact you if your child becomes unwell at school and needs to be collected to go home. This will obviously include when we feel a child may be demonstrating Covid 19 symptoms. In this case, we will ask for you to arrange for your child to be tested as soon as possible and not return to school until we have confirmation of negative test or your child has self-isolated for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If your child is generally unwell, please also consider if it is in their best interest to be at school. Please contact the school office if your child will be absent from school for any reason – please use the 712370 phone number and then Option 1.

## Information for Parents and Carers

Curriculum information and class timetables are being distributed with this newsletter – these enable parents to see what we will be teaching this term and how the days will be structured. The timetable also allows you to see when the children will be having PE lessons. On PE days children should come to school in their PE kit.

As described in previous correspondence before the start of term, we are operating in class 'bubbles' and restricting movement around the school as much as possible. This means that the **office staff will unfortunately no longer be able to accommodate passing on forgotten items such as book bags, music bags, snacks, water bottles, etc once the school day has begun.**

## Online Safety News

The Autumn edition of Herts for Learning's Online Safety News is being distributed with this newsletter. Although some of the information is aimed at older children, it may be useful for families with older siblings. Please feel free to pass the information on to friends and family who may also find the content useful.

# Online Safety News

## After School and Lunchtime Clubs

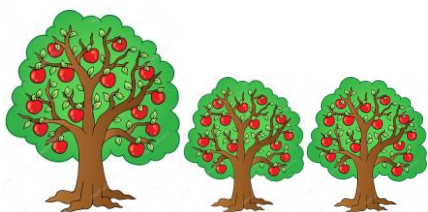
We have arranged for Premier Sport to continue with their After School clubs on Monday and Friday evenings – see separate information for signing up and payment details. Initially these clubs will be for Key Stage 2 pupils only.

We are currently working with other organisations with a view to resuming Football and Ickledrama after the October half term break. This will obviously be subject to any changes in government and local authority guidance.



## Apples in the Orchard

There are several apple trees in the orchard area and in the Key Stage 1 outdoor area. Please help yourself and pick the fruit if you wish.



## Asthma and Allergy Register

Mrs Keech will shortly be updating the Asthma and Allergy Register for this academic year.

If your child suffers from asthma and has an inhaler, we need to place them on our Asthma Register. Any child suffering from an allergy should also be recorded on our files. Those pupils with EpiPens will need to update their Health Care Plans. Please liaise with the school office.

## Nut and Sesame Food Allergies

We have several children with severe food allergies which necessitate having EpiPens in school in case of medical emergencies. Can we please ask parents to avoid sending nut products into school in your child's snack box or lunch box. Allergies also include sesame so foods such as hummus can be dangerous. Food from lunch boxes can easily be dropped on tables or transferred by sticky fingers, which then creates a major hazard for some of our pupils. Please bear this in mind when packing lunch boxes and help us to keep the school a safe environment for all our pupils.

Please can you remind children that their snacks should not be shared with other children due to possible allergies.

## Playground Equipment

Can we politely remind parents that the school field and play equipment are out of bounds to school children and younger siblings both before and after school. This is particularly important due to the need for stringent Covid cleaning protocols. Please keep younger siblings with you and use the social distancing markers on the playground whilst waiting for your child to be released at the end of the day.

Can we also politely remind parents that dogs are not allowed on the playground.

We value your support in helping to keep the school a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

## Summer Reading Challenge

Children are invited to share their success in completing this summer's 'Silly Squad' Reading Challenge during Friday class assemblies throughout September.



## Parent Consultation Meetings

We are considering how best we can hold this year's Parent Consultation Meetings. These usually take place around the end of October or beginning of November. A separate letter will be sent out via ParentMail as soon as we have finalised our arrangements.

## 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, please visit the following website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) or click on the following link [Free schools meals](#)

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 Fenner or Mrs Bailey in confidence.

Schools across the country are reporting an increase in Free School Meal applications due to the effects of lockdown and subsequent job losses and reduced working hours. If your circumstances have changed and you would like help in applying for Free School Meals, please speak to Mrs Fenner or Mrs Bailey in strict confidence. We would also like to reassure parents that Free School Meals information is dealt with sensitively and on a need to know basis.

## Autumn Term Dates 2020

Monday 14 September	Parent Governor Election Nominations
Monday 28 September	Parent Governor Election Ballot
October	Black History Month
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October	October half term holiday
Saturday 31 October	Secondary School application deadline
Monday 2 November	Primary School application system opens
Friday 6 November	Whole School Flu Immunisations
Friday 27 November	Occasional Day – School closed
Friday 18 December	End of Term

## Term Dates 2019-2020

### Autumn Term 2020

Wednesday 2 September - Friday 18 December 2020  
Half Term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2020  
**INSET Day: Wednesday 2 September 2020**  
**INSET Day: Thursday 3 September 2020**  
**INSET Day: Friday 4 September 2020**  
**OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 27 November 2020**

### Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January – Friday 26 March 2021  
Half Term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2021  
**INSET Day: Monday 4 January 2021**

### Summer Term 2021

Monday 12 April – Thursday 22 July 2021  
Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021  
**Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021**  
**INSET Day: Friday 28 May 2021**