

# Newsletter



Newsletter 1

September 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

Assembly Themes: Next week: Rules and Obedience Week after: Responsibility

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I always look forward to our school family being re-united, and never more so than this year! It is fantastic to have our children and staff in school EVERY DAY! They have been amazing and we have enjoyed a very happy start to the term. Staff have been busy putting all of the arrangements in place to keep everyone safe; I am really grateful to our lunchtime and kitchen staff who are kindly working extra hours, to accommodate the staggered lunchbreaks. Thank you for everything you have done to prepare the children so well for coming back – they have been really organised and confident in managing the school day, including all the handwashing and looking after of new pencil cases!

Those of you with newsletter/email fatigue will be pleased to know that this letter is much shorter than usual for the first newsletter of the school year. We are waiting for the green light to start some activities again – as we are able to resume clubs, start class assemblies etc, we will let you know.



## Happy News

It is always lovely to start the year with good news, and I am delighted to share that our wonderful Office Manager, Jo Pearce married her long term partner Rob Frowd during the holidays. We wish them every happiness for the future and are pleased that Jo will remain Ms Pearce at school, so that we don't need to teach the children (and each other!) a new name!



## Welcome!

A very warm welcome to the new families who have joined the school, and to our returning staff. We have new children in Nursery, Reception and Years 1, 2 and 4. We hope that they feel part of our school community very quickly. It is lovely to have Mrs Ogle and Mrs Mason back from their maternity leaves, and Miss Clark back teaching Year 3 again.



## Year 6 Leavers

Thank you very much to our generous Year 6 (now Year 7) families, who bought us a beautiful Sports trophy. It is a little known secret that for a number of years we have had to substitute a trophy from the cabinet to stand in as the Sports cup! This is a lovely way to mark an exceptional year group and I know the children will be a great success at their new schools – we look forward to seeing them return in their Year 7 uniforms to visit us!



### **Useful contacts**

If there is anything you would like to discuss with me, I am always pleased to meet with you. All of the teachers are happy to speak to you too, regarding any concerns or issues you may have.

As well as your child's class teacher, I thought it would be useful to list other people with key roles in the school. All of these people can be contacted via the School Office, and will be happy to help you:

- Ms Pearce: Office Manager
- Mrs Day & Mrs Bundy: Office Staff
- Mrs Martin: School Cook
- Mr Blackwell: Caretaker
- Mrs Pollard: Head
- Mr Browne: Deputy Head
- Miss Grainger: Senior teacher
- Mrs Gloyn: Special Needs Coordinator
- Mrs Mansell: 326 After School Club Coordinator
- Mrs Williamson: Chair of Governors



### **326 After School Club**

It is lovely to have our 326 children back at after school club. We are able to provide care for pre-booked children, at present, from 3.15 - 6.00 p.m. . Mrs Mansell will be happy to discuss availability with you.



### **Diary Dates**

I have included the term dates at the end of this newsletter, so that people can plan their holidays accordingly – fingers crossed... We have pencilled in dates for events such as school plays in the diary, understanding that it is very uncertain as to whether these will be able to take place. However, if they can, we do not wish to miss the opportunity! We plan to hold Parent Teacher consultations either face to face, or online if this is not possible.



### **Harvest Festival Service**

We plan to mark Harvest in school, with children sharing their contributions via Google Classroom, as we are currently unable to go to St. Giles.



### **Secondary School Visits**

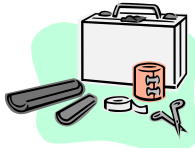
The Online application system for Secondary places for September 2021 has now opened. Secondary Schools will be holding their open evenings over the next few weeks. Parents of Year 6 children will need to make their applications for Secondary places by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Information has been sent home regarding the process involved. Due to visitors not currently being allowed in school, open evenings are not being held on site, but

there are online presentations and virtual open evenings via links on the schools' websites. The dates for some local schools are as follows:

School	Date
Hitchin Boys School	To be advised - No details currently available
Hitchin Girls School	Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> September
Monks Walk School	To be advised - No details currently available
The Priory	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October

Details about all schools in Herts is available [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). Information about specific schools is available on their websites.

As ever, if you would like any support with making your application, please do not hesitate to contact me.



### Allergies, Asthma, Medical Conditions and Epi-pens

We are currently updating our information sheets for children with any condition which might require additional care or support. If this applies to your child, please could you return the form at the bottom of the newsletter, so that we can make sure that the information is shared with all relevant staff, and any necessary arrangements are put into place. We display this information in relevant locations around the school, to ensure that all staff are aware, and can respond effectively to any situation where the child may need additional care. Under GDPR laws, we need your expressed permission to be able to share this information.

Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,  
Liz Pollard  
HEADTEACHER

### Dates & Events Autumn 2020

Dates	Time	Event	People involved
17.9.20	7.00 p.m.	Governors' Meeting	Governors
18.9.20	All day	Jeans for Genes Day	Everyone
25.9.20	9.00 a.m.	Harvest Festival	Everyone
1.10.20	All day	National Poetry day	Children & Staff
21.10.20	5 – 7 p.m.	Parent Consultations	Parents & Staff
22.10.20	3.15 – 5 p.m.	Parent Consultations	Parents & Staff
23.10.20	All day	INSET day	Staff – holiday for children
26.10.20		<b>Half Term</b>	
27.11.20	All day	Occasional Day	School closed
11.12.20	a.m.	Panto!*	Children & Staff
14.12.20	p.m.	Years R, 1 & 2 Parties	Children & Staff
15.12.20	12.15 p.m.	Christmas Lunch	Children & Staff & volunteer parents
16.12.20	p.m.	Years 3 & 4 Parties	Children & Staff
17.12.20	p.m.	Year 5 & 6 Parties	Children & Staff
18.12.20	a.m.	Nursery Party	Children & Staff
18.12.20	1.15	Term ends	Everyone!

\*Booked, awaiting further advice.

## Pencilled in dates

We have arranged these dates, although the likelihood of being able to hold the events is very uncertain at present.

Dates	Time	Event	People involved
7.12.20	p.m.	Reception Dress rehearsal	Children & staff
7.12.20	a.m.	Year 1 Dress rehearsal	Children & staff
7.12.20	a.m.	KS 2 Dress Rehearsal	Children & Staff
10.12.20	10.30 a.m.	Reception Play	Children, Parents & Staff
10.12.20	2.15 p.m.	Year 1 Play	Children, Parents & Staff
8.12.20	7.00 p.m.	Year 3 & 4 play	Children, Parents & Staff
9.12.20	7.00 p.m.	Year 3 & 4 play	Children, Parents & Staff
10.12.20	7.00 p.m.	Year 5 & 6 play	Children, Parents & Staff
11.12.20	7.00 p.m.	Year 5 & 6 play	Children, Parents & Staff
15.12.20	a.m.	Year 2 & 6 Service in school	Children & Staff
	6.30 p.m.	Year 2 & 6 Service in school	Children, Parents & Staff
14.12.20	10.00 a.m.	Nursery Play	Children, Parents & Staff

## Term Dates

<u>2020 - 2021</u>	<u>2021 - 2022</u>
<p><b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2020</u></b>            Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020            (Half term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October)  <b>Inset Days: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>  <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>  <b>Occasional Day:</b>  <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b><u>SPRING TERM 2021</u></b>            Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021            (Half term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February)  <b>Inset Day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><b><u>SUMMER TERM 2021</u></b>            Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021            (Half term Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June)            May Bank Holiday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  <b>Inset Days: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b>  <b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>            The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>	<p><b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2021</u></b>            Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021            (Half term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October)  <b>Inset Days: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>  <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>  <b>Occasional Day:</b>  <b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b><u>SPRING TERM 2022</u></b>            Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022            (Half term Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February)  <b>Inset Day: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><b><u>SUMMER TERM 2022</u></b>            Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022            (Half term Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June)            May Bank Holiday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  <b>Inset Days: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>  <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>            The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>

On INSET days, staff are working, but it is a holiday for children (used to be a holiday for staff too, before the days of Lord Baker), and the occasional day is a holiday for everyone. If any of this is unclear, please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Pearce, or me.

**Allergies, Asthma, Medical Conditions and Epi-pens**

**Child's Name:**

**My child has:**

- **An epi-pen**
- **Inhaler**
- **Asthma**
- **Medical condition**
- **Allergy**

**(please tick and provide details as appropriate)**

**I give permission for their photograph and allergy details to be included in a poster displayed in relevant locations around the school – e.g. classrooms and dining room**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Please return this form to the school office**