

Dear Parents

A warm welcome back to you all at the start of this new school year.

I hope you all had a restful break.

Please remember I am at Ickleford on Tuesdays and Fridays only for this term when I will be happy to see you about any concerns or issues you may have. Just come and knock on my door or see me on the playground, I will endeavour to be on the playground on those mornings whenever possible.

The children have all settled back into school beautifully and it's lovely to see their eagerness and enthusiasm.

I would like to draw your attention to the 'dates for your diary' section. Please make sure you check this on each newsletter sent out as dates are often added throughout the term.

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you this year and getting to know all new parents.

BestWishes

Sue Dury



BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL RULES

- No riding scooters or bikes on the playground or down the school path, **including younger siblings.**
- No playing on the climbing equipment.
- No playing on the front lawn or in the bushes.
- No climbing on the school wall.

There will be 2 members of staff supervising at the end of the school day but please can you help by reminding your children that these are the rules. It would be very much appreciated.

Please also remember that the playground gates are unlocked at 8:45am, children therefore should not be waiting at the front of school before this time.



A MESSAGE FOR Y6 PARENTS

You will be aware that the open mornings and evenings for secondary school choices are approaching very soon. Please could you e-mail the office to let us know if you are taking your child to an open morning and which one.

Thank you.

Sue Dury

Email: admin@ickleford.herts.sch.uk

News from School Office – September 2017

ParentMail **School – Home Communication**

As a school, we are keen to work towards considerably reducing the amount of paper and photocopying that we undertake that is not curriculum related. We have therefore taken the decision to upgrade the functions available within our Parentmail system and will soon have the ability to send/receive parent consent for school trip/activities. By using Parentmail as our primary route for school correspondence, we can get information to you far quicker, reduce the risk of paper copies not reaching you and enable you to reply and provide consent electronically (i.e. no requirement from you as parents to print reply slips to sign and return). We have been very ambitious this week and sent the following letters which require parent response via Parentmail:

- Yr 1 – 6 School Clubs (Autumn Term)
- Year 4 Swimming
- Girls Football Club 2017/18
- Boys Football Club 2017/18
- Yr5/6 (Selected) Early Season Football Rally
- Yr5/6 (Selected) Homework Club

[Year 4 have received their class trip letter in paper format yesterday]

Establishing anything new always comes with a few teething problems – please do bear with us as we work through this transition.

££££ .. All things Financial!!

With so many transactions happening via the school office, we thought it might be useful to provide a quick summary of how, who and what requires payment:

School Gateway is the school's online payment facility and preferred payment method for school meals, milk, uniform, trips and music tuition. Cash and cheques in a marked envelope are also absolutely acceptable. Payments for PTA events, charity events and for external club providers will continue to be cash or cheque payments only via the school office.

School Meals: the cost of school meals is now £2.40 per day. Charge forecast letters for this term have been issued and we would very much appreciate payment for this half term by Friday 15th September. If you wish to pay on a weekly basis, please ensure payment is made each Monday. School meals do need to be paid in advance.

Cheques for school meals are payable to Herts Catering Limited

School Milk: is ordered on a termly basis and is in place for Autumn Term.

Nursery milk remains free of charge. This includes pupils in reception who are 4 for the whole of the term.

Only Infant and Junior aged children entitled to benefit related free school meals are also entitled to free school milk.

Cheques for school milk are payable to Herts County Council

Uniform: we hold a stock of school sweatshirts, cardigans, PE kits, bookbags and school caps which can be ordered via the school office or directly via school gateway. Order forms are available from the school lobby. Orders with payment can be left in the school post box and we aim to issue the order within a day or two.

Cheques made payable to Ickleford Primary School

Trips: are a valuable compliment to the curriculum and we continually look for new and exciting opportunities for the children to re-inforce their learning and development. At your Class Welcome meetings there will be information regarding potential trips planned for the year.

Sadly, trips do not come cheap but we will only request voluntary contributions to cover the basic costs and will aim wherever possible to keep day trips to a maximum contribution of £20. Where day trip costs exceed £20, classes will undertake class fundraising activities to offset the costs.

Cheques made payable to Ickleford Primary School

Music Lessons: If you child has music tuition an invoice will be sent out in the early weeks of each term are payable on a termly basis.

Cheques for music lessons are payable to Ickleford Primary School

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children look very smart in their school uniform. A gentle reminder that all uniform needs to be clearly labelled.

Please can you also ensure your child has a school sweatshirt or cardigan and a coat to wear at playtime and lunchtime whatever the weather first thing in the morning.

School uniform includes footwear and children need to wear black school shoes, not trainers. It is also school policy for the children to change into indoor shoes for in school. These should be a pair of plain black plimsolls, pumps etc. Not fluorescent trainers or multi-coloured laces please.

White, black or grey socks are also desirable and girls can also wear white or black tights.

Please can you make sure your child has a PE kit at school. This should be red shorts and a white t-shirt which will be worn in all PE lessons including the class lessons with Rising Stars. PE kits are available to buy from the school office if you would like to. Rising Stars take the classes outside unless it is very wet or extremely cold so a track suit and trainers for outdoors is encouraged. We will be asking girls to take off their tights for PE so a pair of socks would be essential to wear with their trainers.

Watches and earrings are the only jewellery allowed in school. Small gold or silver stud earrings only please, no brightly coloured or fashion designs e.g crosses, lightning bolts etc. All earrings must be covered or removed for sports activities.

Long hair (boys & girls) needs to be tied back at all times and hair bands and scrunchies should be in school colours or plain black or white, avoiding the competition of who can wear the biggest floral design. No shaved designs in haircuts please.

No nail varnish or temporary tattoos.

Notes will come home if children persistently forget to have their plimsolls at school or forget their P.E kit.

Incorrect footwear may result in staying in at playtime or lunchtime.

Autumn Term School Clubs

Apologies for the delay in releasing the selection of school clubs available for the Autumn Term, which all start next week. We have just finalised a couple of additional breakfast clubs which we hope will be of interest. Again, we have used the new Parentmail system to send you the selection of Clubs on offer and ask that you respond accordingly. Please do just take a note of which clubs are available to which Year groups.

Note for Reception – there are no clubs on offer this term as we allow the children to settle into school life.

WELCOME

I have the pleasure of welcoming Miss Lawther in a different role this year. She has returned as a teaching assistant in Reception class.

We also welcome Mr Towner who will be supporting in Y4 alongside Mr Martin and Mrs Granger.



Special Diets

Herts Catering Limited (HCL) are our current school meal provider.

Should your child require a special diet (food allergies or intolerances) or amended menu (religious or cultural reasons), please apply online via the HCL system – HCL website: <https://hertscatering.co.uk/allergy-menu-application>

Absence during term time

Most of you are aware of the school stance on holidays being taken during term time. This is in line with all Hitchin Schools.

It is important that we follow this guidance and therefore any requests for term time holidays will be **unauthorised**.

Please make sure that you are aware of the term time dates. These are available on the school website.

We have regular monitoring visits from the attendance officer who will issue a fixed penalty to a family if she feels it is required.

Hertfordshire have an unauthorised sessions policy of 15 sessions, which means a total of 15 or more unauthorised sessions (a session is half a day) **may** incur a fixed penalty and this is cumulative over 2 terms i.e any unauthorised absences from last term will be carried forward to this term.

If your child is ill please ring and notify the school office on the morning of the absence. If your child is regularly absent through illness the attendance officer may direct us to ask for a doctor's note in order for us to authorise the absence. Please try and avoid keeping your child off school if it is just a slight cold or snuffle. We will always contact you if we feel they are feeling poorly and need to be at home.

Please read the school attendance policy which can be found on our website
www.ickleford.herts.sch.uk



COLLECTING FROM SCHOOL

The end of the school day is **3:25pm** for infants.

Whilst we appreciate that occasionally you may be delayed we ask that you make every effort to be at school in time to collect your child. If you know you are held up please ring the school office. If a child is still waiting at the end of the day when everyone else has been collected they will be brought down to wait on the chairs in reception.

The end of the school day is **3:30pm** for juniors. We remind the children frequently of the procedure if someone is not outside on the green waiting for them. They return to the front of school and let a staff member know. Please reinforce this with your child

If your child attends an after school club please be clear on the finish time and be here ready to collect. Persistent lateness may result in your child being told they cannot attend the activity. Children come to the front of school with the staff member running the club. Please wait outside the front doors for collection or in the reception area if the weather is inclement.

Crossing Patrol

The road safety team at Hertfordshire County Council employ the road crossing patrol staff and sadly have not yet appointed a replacement for Mrs Lawton.

We have received this communication today by email via a parent who has been in contact with the authority.

"I can confirm that we are looking to recruit a new School Crossing Patrol to the zebra crossing on Arlesey Road. Recruitment leaflets will be sent into school next week followed by a door to door leaflet drop in the local area advertising the post. Please be assured that we will continue with this recruitment until an applicant comes forward. In addition to this we will look to advertise the position through noticeboards and local shops in the area."

Please contact Heather Hill @ HCC by email to express any concerns you may have.
 Email: roadsafety@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Dates for your diaries

September - Responsibility

Tuesday 12th

- 7:00pm – Y4 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Thursday 14th

- 7:00pm – Y1 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Friday 15th

- Y4 – Swimming

Monday 18th

- Y5/6 musicians visit to The Royal Opera House

Tuesday 19th

- 7:00pm – Y3 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Wednesday 20th

- Y5 & Y6 – Olympic Legacy –Knights Templar
- 7:00pm – Y2 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Thursday 21st

- Y4 visit to St Albans Abbey
- 7:00pm – Y6 – Parents Welcome Mtg & Isle of Wight Information

Friday 29th

- 9:30am – Harvest Festival @ St Katharines
 (sorry no parents)

October - Freedom

Tuesday 3rd

- Parent Consultations 4:00 – 7:00pm

Monday 9th

- Parent Consultations - 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday 11th

- Girls football ESFA competition

Thursday 12th

- Boys football ESFA competition

**Monday 23rd – Friday 27th
 – HALF TERM**

November - Humility

Wednesday 15th

- Individual/sibling photographs

Friday 17th

- Children in Need

Tuesday 28th

- 7:00pm – School Play Performance

Wednesday 29th

- 1:45pm – School Play Performance

Thursday 30th

- 7:00pm – School Play Performance

December - Happiness

Saturday 2nd

- St Katharines Xmas Fayre (tbc)

Monday 4th

- OCCASIONAL DAY

Tuesday 12th

- 6:00pm – Infant Nativity Performance

Wednesday 13th

- 10:00am – Infant Nativity Performance

Thursday 14th

- Xmas Lunch
- 2:00pm – Theatre Group

Friday 15th

- 2:30pm – Christingle Service

Tuesday 19th

- **1:30pm – FINISH**

January - Appreciation

Thursday 4th

- New Term starts