



Newsletter – Friday 12th July 2019

Dear Parent,

Yet again we have managed to cram as many happy Ickleford memories into the last few weeks of term as possible. Children have been on exciting class trips; rehearsing and presenting class assemblies; engaging in drama workshops; running, jumping and balancing their way through Sports Day; and performing on musical instruments and singing their way around various venues. Whilst all these special events have been going on, the staff have continued to deliver a wide variety of engaging lessons across the curriculum, which were shared with our Governors last Thursday and will be shared with parents at our **Open Evening on Monday 15th July between 6pm & 7pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to visit your child's existing class to admire your children's work and say your goodbyes and thank yous. Then you can introduce yourself to your child's net class teacher and view some of the work/activities your child may engage in next year.

Hector: You may have noticed that sadly we no longer have Hector, our school dog. After a lot of reflection and discussion the staff decided that Hector was not being utilized effectively in the role we had originally planned for him. We felt that it was best for his wellbeing that he retired from being the school dog. You will be pleased to hear that he is now enjoying doggie daycare, where he is socializing with lots of other dogs and is very happy and well exercised.

Staffing in September: We are proud to say that we are retaining all our staff next year with one exception. We are delighted to announce that Miss Lawther, Reception TA and former Ickleford pupil, will be leaving us at the end of term to take up a place at Sheffield Hallam University to start her teacher training. We wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavours. We have made an additional appointment of Teaching Assistant who will be joining Year 4 in September.

Staffing for September will be as follows:

Reception: Mrs Newton with Mr McKechnie (F/T), Mrs Kitchener (P/T) & Mrs Mead (P/T)

Year 1: Mr Horgan & Mrs Giggle with Mrs Byrne

Year 2: Mrs Banbury with Mrs Parmar

Year 3: Mrs Hockett with Mrs Granger

Year 4: Mr Martin with Mrs Hayzen

Year 5: Mrs Wright & Mrs Giggle with Mrs Hart

Year 6: Mrs King with Mrs McCabe

SEND: Mrs Shafe with Mrs Walker

PPA cover: Mrs Kitchener – Reception, Mrs Giggle – Year 1 & 2, Mrs Orton – Year 3, 4, 5 & 6

Extra Curricular Activities: May I remind you there will be **NO extra-curricular clubs in the last week of term**. Clubs will resume at the start of the 3rd week back in September, offering a ten week program of events (excluding school play week)

Lunchtime changes: After trialing the lunch break to one hour this half term, which has been very successful, we will be making this a permanent arrangement from September.

School Uniform: Now it is hot and children have been removing sweatshirts etc, we have been noticing that some children are wearing red polo shirts, which is not part of our uniform policy. Before you purchase new uniform this summer, please refresh yourself with our preexisting school uniform policy, which includes white polo shirts/shirts/blouses. This can be viewed at <http://ickleford.herts.sch.uk/school-office/uniform>

Water Bottles: Sadly, we have noticed an increase in water bottle incidents from either spilt water bottles on work or spoilt reading books in bags. We request that you do not send in the fashionable water flasks and other open necked bottles. Please send in traditional plastic water bottles which have a quick fitting sports cap. Please do not put water bottles in bags.

Please carry them separately: not in school or book bags. Thank you.

Y6 Residential: You may be aware that the Year 6 children returned from the Isle of Wight having had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Whilst away there were a couple of incidents which caused concern. Please be assured that, after having consulted with various people, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors have robustly reviewed all safety procedures to prevent similar occurrences happening on future excursions.

Changes are happening: It is at that time of year where we would like to instigate considered changes to routines and procedures for the new academic year to ensure the school runs more smoothly, in September.

Firstly; staff have observed potential safety concerns at the start of the school day. When children are being sent into their classrooms for the day to start, despite polite requests for parents to go around the back of the class lines, parents are walking through class lines and disrupting the children's safe passage into the building. This matter seems to be getting worse recently. To ensure the continued safety of our children, we will now request that parents of Year 1 to 6 drop their children off at the playground gate. From there, they will be fully supervised. This will start from the second week back.—Monday 9th September.

Secondly; after listening to parental concerns regarding the unhealthy approach of giving out sweets, at the end of the day, to celebrate birthdays, the teaching staff have agreed to the request that we celebrate birthdays without sweets or treats, thus promoting a healthier lifestyle. We will of course continue to celebrate your child's special day in school. You will receive further information, regarding how your child's class will celebrate in an age appropriate way, in your Parents Welcome meeting scheduled in early September.

Fire Alarm: As you may be aware, we have had a series of evacuations from the school building. This is due to poor ventilation in the school kitchen, where on hot days residual steam is setting off the fire alarm. Please be assured that this is not a potential fire risk. The installation of new equipment is beyond our School remit and we have put a financial bid into Herts. County for the necessary improvements. However, County have declined our bid and said it is not a priority at the moment. If you would like to support our fight, please email: schoolsbmt.hertfordshire.gov.uk expressing your concerns and misgivings.

Wishing you all a fun filled summer
Kind regards, *Sue Dury*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Summer Term 2019

Date	Event
Friday 12 th July	PTA Family Party, School Field
Monday 15 th July 6pm – 7pm	Whole School Children and Parents' Open Evening
Thursday 18 th July	Year 6 and Reception Buddies Lavender Farm Picnic, 1:30-3pm
Thursday 18 th July 4pm	Year 6 Leavers' Bowling Party
Friday 19 th July 9:30am	Year 6 Leavers' Service, St Katharine's Church, Year 6 parents only
Friday 19th July 1:30pm	School closes for Summer Break
Monday 2 nd September	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 3 rd September	Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 3 rd September	Reception pupils start school. 8.55am – 12.00noon
Wednesday 4 th September	All pupils return to school for Autumn Term