

NEWSLETTER NO.1

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.

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 would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience regarding the numerous parentmails this week. It is inevitable that in order to offer your children the vast array of extra-curricular activities which they are so lucky to have at Ickleford it generates forms to return. Alongside this we have also tried to disseminate any other necessary information which may impact on your diaries.

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

Best Wishes

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. Do not be offended if we ask your children to climb down from the equipment or get off their scooter or bike.

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

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. 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 is an essential part of outdoor PE kit 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.

All uniform can be purchased online from Price & Buckland. You will see some additions to the selection available; stronger book bags, a ruck sack and a school coat. All these items are permitted as part of Ickleford School Uniform if you would like to purchase them.

FAREWELL & WELCOME

It is with sadness that we said goodbye to Mr George at the end of term. Many of you will know he had been quite poorly for quite a while and unfortunately was unable to return to us at Ickleford.

However, I have the pleasure of welcoming Mr Mackay as our new site manager. He has already proved a great asset to us all and we hope he will be very happy at Ickleford.

We also say farewell to Mrs Sheriff who has not returned after the summer break due to personal reasons. We will inform you of the new teaching assistant when he/she is appointed.

This year we have 2 trainees from The Pilgrim Partnership - Mrs Lenton will be with Mrs Hockett in year 3 and Miss Maw will be with Mr Horgan in year 1.

DOLCE CATERING

We have only had 3 days of lunches delivered by our new caterers Dolce and I have to say how impressed I am with the quality of the food being served to your children. Mrs Virdee is now cooking with all fresh ingredients daily and is cooking everything as you would at home.

Your children have embraced the new system of ticking themselves off on the hatch monitor with ease and thank you parents for signing up to the new system.

We have heard many positive comments from the children about the new lunches – “that smells so good” & “that smells delicious”.

If you have been reticent or disappointed with school lunches in the past or only used to have lunch on ‘pizza Friday’ I urge you to persuade your child to give it a try. I am confident they will be pleasantly surprised.

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 has just entered Y3 you may feel more comfortable collecting from the playground but I am sure your son/daughter will quickly ask you to wait on the green for them.

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. Please note that Hertfordshire half terms in October and February do not coincide with Bedfordshire. 2018-2019 term dates 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 15sessions, 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 sniffle. We will always contact you if we feel they are feeling poorly and need to be at home.

A child who is regularly absent from school due to illness will result in us asking for a doctors note to support the absence otherwise it will be unauthorised.

Please read the school attendance policy which can be found on our website

www.ickleford.herts.sch.uk

SCHOOL CAR PARK

Our car park can only accommodate parking for school staff and visitors not parents.

Please do not drive into the school grounds at the start or end of the day to drop off or collect. Mr Mackay will ask you to leave the site and park elsewhere.

If you are collecting from an after school activity (including Sparklers), you may park in the side bays but please do not drive up to the front of the school/ Our children are dismissed via the front door and it is not safe to have parents/carers driving in the immediate vicinity. Again Mr Mackay will ask you to move.

Dates for your diaries

September - Respect

Week beginning 10th

- Extra Curricular clubs commence

Monday 10th

- 6.30pm – Reception – Parents Welcome Mtg

Tuesday 11th

- 6.30pm – Y3 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Wednesday 12th

- 6.30pm – Y1 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Thursday 13th

- 6:30pm – Y5 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Friday 14th

- Y4 – Swimming

Tuesday 18th

- 6:30pm – Y4 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Wednesday 19th

- Y5 & Y6 – Olympic Legacy –Knights Templar
- 6:30pm – Y2 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Thursday 20th

- Y2 visit to Rye Mead
- 6.30pm – Y6– Parents Welcome Mtg & Isle of Wight Information

Friday 21st

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

Wednesday 26th

- Y4 visit to St Albans Abbey – Roman Tr

October

Monday 1st

- Y5 Harvest festival – St Albans Abbey

Wednesday 3rd

- Y6 Theatre trip – War Horse

Thursday 4th

- Y4 Parent Consultations 12.30pm – 6.00pm

Wednesday 10th

- Reception/Y1/Y2 theatre trip

Thursday 11th

- 4.00pm – 7.00pm – Parent Consultations (school hall)

Tuesday 16th

- 4.00pm – 7.00pm – Parent Consultations (school hall)

Thursday 18th

- Y3 – Celtic Harmony camp visit

Monday 29th – Friday 2nd - HALF TERM

November -

Friday 9th

- Individual/sibling photographs

Tuesday 27th

- 7:00pm – School Play Performance

Wednesday 28th

- 1:45pm – School Play Performance

Thursday 29th

- 7:00pm – School Play Performance

December -

Monday 3rd

- OCCASIONAL DAY

Friday 14th

- 2.30pm - Christingle

Monday 17th

- 7.00pm – KS2 Carol Service (mandatory)

Tuesday 18th

- 6:00pm – Infant Nativity Performance

Wednesday 19th

- 10:00am – Infant Nativity Performance

Thursday 20th

- Xmas Lunch
- 2:00pm – Theatre Group

Friday 21st

- **1:30pm – FINISH**

January -

Thursday 8th

- New Term starts