

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 will see you at any time if I am available 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 as many mornings as I can.

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 may be added throughout the term.

If you are not signed up for parent-mail please consider doing so. It is a way of communicating with you electronically which obviously cuts down on the use of paper but also helps to prevent letters getting lost at the bottom of book bags for weeks on end! If you have more than one child at school please register for each one. Speak to Mrs Grist in the office if you would like to register.

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

Best Wishes

Sue Dury



NEW MORNING ROUTINE

You will have noticed we have changed our routine for entering school in the morning. As a staff, we have decided to ask Y1 – Y6 children to line up as they would at break and lunchtime on the playground. When the school bell rings this is the cue to say goodbye, go to their line and for parents to leave the playground.

The children will then be sent to their classes by the teacher on duty.

If you have something you need to urgently speak to Y1 or Y2 staff about, please tell them briefly on the playground. If it needs more time please see the member of staff at the end of the day.

Parents of reception children still need to wait with their child to enter reception when the classroom door is opened.

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 me directly to let me know if you are taking your child to an open morning and which one.

Thank you.

Sue Dury

Email: head@ickleford.herts.sch.uk

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.



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 nail varnish or temporary tattoos please.

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.

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY PHOTOS



The photographer will be in school on Friday 16th September.

If you would like photographs with younger siblings please wait on the playground from 8:50am to be called into the hall.

The photographer aims to begin photographing at 9:00am

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



School Lunch Choices.

Please note that the yellow option for school lunch this half term is a jacket potato with a choice of fillings.

We are hoping that Herts Catering will provide updated menus to send home to you soon

WELCOME

I have the pleasure of welcoming Miss Lawther as our Sports Apprentice this year.

Miss Lawther will be supporting all the PE activities in and out of school and when she is not involved in PE she will be supporting in Reception class.



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. Please remind your child to come back into school to wait in reception if you have been delayed meeting them on the green.

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.

Dates for your diaries

September - Honesty

Tuesday 13th

- 7:00pm – Reception – Parents Welcome Mtg

Wednesday 14th

- 7:00pm – Y1 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Thursday 15th

- 7:00pm – Y4 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Friday 16th

- 9:00am - Individual & Family Photographs
- Y4 – Swimming

Monday 19th

- 7:00pm – Y5 – Parents Welcome Mtg & PGL Information

Tuesday 20th

- 7:00pm – Y2 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Wednesday 21st

- Y5 & Y6 – Olympic Legacy –Knights Templar
- 7:00pm – Y3 – Parents Welcome Mtg

Thursday 22nd

- 7:00pm – Y6– Parents Welcome Mtg & Isle of Wight Information

Friday 30th

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

October - Respect

Monday 3rd

- Y5 – Harvest Service @ St. Albans Abbey

Monday 10th

- Black History Month Drama Sessions – KS2

Tuesday 11th

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

Wednesday 12th

- Girls football ESFA competition

Thursday 13th

- Boys football ESFA competition

Tuesday 18th

- Around the World Drama Workshop – R/Y1/Y2/Y3

Wednesday 19th

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

**Monday 24th – Friday 28th
 – HALF TERM**

November - Peace

Saturday 5th

- PTA Firework display

Tuesday 22nd

- 7:00pm – School Play Performance

Wednesday 23rd

- 1:45pm – School Play Performance

Thursday 24th

- 7:00pm – School Play Performance

Saturday 26th

- St Katharines Xmas Fayre

Monday 28th

- OCCASIONAL DAY

December - Love

Wednesday 14th

- 6:00pm – Infant Nativity Performance

Thursday 15th

- 10:00am – Infant Nativity Performance

Friday 16th

- 2:30pm – Christingle Service

Monday 19th

- 7:00pm – KS2 Carol Service

Tuesday 20th

- Xmas Lunch
- 2:00pm – Theatre Group – Sleeping Beauty

Friday 18th

- 1:30pm – Assembly
- **2:30pm – FINISH**

January - Hope

Thursday 5th

- New Term starts