



Newsletter – October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for all your generous donations to our Harvest Festival collection. St Katharine's Church were delighted with the amount of dried or tinned goods that they were able to donate on to our communality's local homeless shelter this year. It was lovely that we were able to all congregate together in the church. It is a beautiful tradition that is part of our school makeup and it felt wonderful to be together as a school community at church once again.

It was also wonderful to see so many of you face to face at parent consultations. Thank you for making the effort to come and discuss your child's progress with their class teacher and following our request to wear a face mask.

Our staff would like to thank everyone for keeping our community as safe as it can be. With the rise of cases being reported on the media and closer to home amongst my headteacher colleagues, I can only be thankful for your diligence in informing the school office of positive cases amongst your family and helping us all to keep as safe as possible.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a good half term break whatever your plans may be.

Kind regards,

Sue Dary

Weather Related Matters



We have been incredibly lucky with the weather during this first half term but the temperature has definitely decided to drop over the last couple of days with a distinct 'nip' in the air. **Please ensure that your child is prepared for outdoor activity and always wears a suitable coat on arrival.**

Their coat must be able to shield them from wind and rain so they do not have to sit in damp uniform during lessons. We will always send them out to play for fresh air and exercise even if the weather is inclement. Obviously, we would not send them out if it is heavy rain. However, they always need protection, at the end of the school day, in case the heavens open.

In the event of downpours, as we experienced earlier this week, children will be directed to go straight into class to prevent parents having to wait too long on the green.

PE KIT

With the weather in mind, it is very important that all children have their outdoor PE kit (**round neck black sweatshirts and black jogging bottoms – no branded logos**) along with their shorts and t-shirt at school everyday. Mr Wylie decides at the last moment whether a class will have PE inside or outside based on the changing weather. If it is outside, children will be expected to wear their joggers and sweatshirt over their PE t-shirt from now on. If the weather is too bad, PE will take place in the hall where red shorts and white t-shirts are needed. A reminder that tights are not allowed to be worn **at all** so a spare pair of socks needs to be brought in. Please ensure your child has all the appropriate kit. **Kit must be in school every day as there are occasions when Mr Wylie may be called upon to take an impromptu PE lesson to cover staff absence.**

It is also essential that the children keep a pair of trainers at school for outside play as well as PE. We are finding some children are taking their trainers home and not bringing them back to school. **Please leave a pair of trainers** at school for your child to use.



Late Arrivals

Please be reminded, the school bell rings at 8.55am. If your child arrives after the other children have left the playground and gone into class, we will need to sign them in at the school office. The number of minutes late your child is, will be recorded and monitored. Any child arriving after 9.10am, when the register closes, (15 minute after the school bell has rung) will be marked as an **unauthorised absence for the entire morning session.**

For full details please refer to Ickleford Primary School Attendance Policy which can be found on our website: www.ickleford.herts.sch.uk

When a child arrives late it can be very distracting for the class to have someone enter after learning has started and it also means your child is trying to catch up with the learning that has already happened.

There are occasions (like this Thursday), when the traffic is 'backed up' on all routes for no explanation. On these occasions, we ask that you arrive as soon as possible and safely with your child. Please do not worry. We are usually aware of situations like these but a call or message to the office, if possible and safe to do so, would be appreciated.

SCHOOL WINTER UNIFORM

When we return after half term, we change over into our winter school uniform. This means pupils can no longer wear summer dresses and shorts but must wear either grey/black tailored trousers, skirts and pinafore dresses etc, with their red sweatshirts and cardigans.

Please also ensure your child's uniform is still clearly named.

SCHOOL MILK

Further to enquiries made about school milk, we can confirm that we will resume offering milk across the school from January 2022. We will be organising this provision in house. Further details will be sent towards the end of the Autumn term.



British Legion Poppy Appeal and Armistice Day



After half term, in the run up to Armistice Day, Year 6 will be bringing round the poppy box and collection tin, to all the classrooms, on a daily basis so children can purchase a stick-on-poppy. We request a minimum donation of £1. Please ensure your child knows they have money for a poppy and it is kept in a safe place in their school bag until it is needed. As is our tradition, we will commemorate Armistice at 11am, on Thursday 11th November with a whole school collective worship. **Our value for the month of November is PEACE.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Autumn Term 2021

Date	EVENT
HALF TERM BREAK Monday 25th October - Friday 29th November	
Monday 8th November	Flu vaccinations for all year groups
Saturday 6 th November	Ickleford Firework Display , The Sports & Recreation Club
Thursday 11 th November	Year 5 STEM Day
Friday 12 th November	Children in Need – Non Uniform Day (min. £1 donation)
Monday 15th November	Anti Bullying Week
Wednesday 17th November	Prospective Reception Class Open Morning, 9:30 am –10:30 am
Friday 19 th November	PTA After School Cake Sale (details to follow)
Tuesday 23rd November	KS2 Play Performance, School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 24th November	KS2 Play Performance, 1.30pm
Friday 3rd December	KS2 Play Performance, 7pm
Monday 29th November	Occasional Day - School Closed
Thursday 2 nd December	Year 4 Roman Verulamium Visit
Friday 3rd December	Year 5 Final Swimming Lesson
Friday 3rd December	PTA Christmas Disco (details to follow)
Tuesday 7th December	Year 6 Phase Workshop
Thursday 9th December	Christingle Service, School Hall, 2:30pm. Parents welcome but no siblings
Friday 10th December	Santa Fun Run
Monday 13th December – Friday 17th December, NO Extra Curricular Clubs	
Monday 13th December	KS2 Carol Service, St Katharine's Church, 7pm
Wednesday 15th December	KS1 And Reception Nativity, School Hall, 6:15pm
Thursday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 16th December	Whole School Pantomime, 2pm
Friday 17th December	School Finishes, 12:00 noon