



Newsletter 3 – Autumn October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your support this first half term. Your children have responded so positively to the new way of working in and around school. As I walk up and down the corridors, it is wonderful to see the enthusiasm for learning and the happiness exuding from everyone. This would not have been the case if all members of school staff had not embraced the full return to school with such positivity, energy and care.

I wish every member of our school community a relaxing and happy half term break.

Kind regards, *Sae Dary* Headteacher

Amended Start and Finish Times

Thank you for cooperating with us on the staggered start and departure times. It has ensured that the children remain safe and are in a positive state of mind for learning. In order to limit the amount of time that adults have to wait on the village green, I am taking the opportunity **to adjust the timings from Monday 2nd November, on our return after half term.**

Classes will continue to be called into school in the same order but this will start at 8.50am. There is **no longer a need to allow 5 minute intervals** between each class's entry as all the children have been ready to enter at their designated gate.

From the first Monday back, **each pair of classes will be called immediately** after the previous two classes have left the path or driveway.

It is essential that all families arrive on time. Please ensure your children are ready and waiting on the green to enter school from 8.50am. This means that Reception will be ready for collection just before 9:00am. The gate will be closed after 9:00am. Any families arriving late must phone through to the school office to be collected. **Red lettering infers time changes.**

Exit times will be as follows:

3.05pm – Reception

3.10pm – Year 2

3.15pm – Year 1

3.20pm – Year 4

3.25pm – Year 3

3.30pm – Year 6

3.35pm – Year 5

Reminder about Hair

Please be reminded of our school hair policy, which is inline with our partnership schools in Hitchin:

- Natural hair colour only – NO dyed hair (incl semi-permanent colours)
- NO close shaved hair or shaved patterns
- All long and mid length hair – irrespective of gender, must be tied back throughout the school day
- Hairbands should be simple, plain or school red - no bows, ribbons or flowers on hair bands or slides

School Uniform

As the children return after the half term break, please remember **we return to our winter uniform - grey long trousers and skirts/pinafores with black/grey socks or grey/red tights.**

Thank you to everyone who has purchased black round neck sweatshirts and jogging bottoms for outdoor PE. The children look so smart and more importantly are keeping warm. Our understanding is that Price & Buckland are almost up to date with their back orders now – thank you for your patience.

Please do not send your child with a hoodie for outdoor PE for health & safety reasons and also ensure that there are no branded logos on the black tracksuits. Finally, after washing PE kits check that it still named effectively. Children who wear tights must have a pair of socks in their PE bags.

School Meals

We have noticed an increase in the number of children who have not pre ordered a meal for lunchtime. Please be aware that a 'no preorder' will result in your child having a jacket potato. Please discuss the preorder with your children at the weekend for the following week.

Apologies to those of you who have a request for payment when your child has not had a school meal. This is due to the sensitivity of the screen and the need to wipe it in between classes during service. If you are asked for a payment for a meal that has not been taken please contact the school office who can rectify the matter swiftly.

School Time Appointments

The office staff are having an increased request for children to leave school during the day for appointments. With our current situation in school, this is very time consuming and we ask that you make appointments, wherever possible, out of school hours.

There will be occasions when we cannot bring your child down to the front gate to meet you in a timely fashion.

School Building Works

The site infrastructure building work will commence during half term week and continue until spring half term. There will be a short period of time when your child will move out of their classrooms, into the school hall, for their teaching day.

With the building works underway it is imperative that parents do not drive onto the school site for any reason, including breakfast club or Jousters. The gate may be open for contractors; this is not an invitation for parental access.

Parking

We have received several complaints this half term from our neighbours regarding parking. Please be courteous and ensure that our neighbours have access to their properties at all times.

Also, it has been noted that the children are playing around our neighbours' cars, climbing up trees and over benches, at the end of the school day. Please keep your children under close supervision on the village green and actively discourage them from running around the cars.

Poppy Appeal - November 2020

As you are aware, the British Legion are promoting The Poppy Appeal more fervently this year as they are concerned they may not raise as much money this year to Covid-19 restraints and local lockdowns etc. As always, Ickleford Primary School have agreed to support this worthy charity. However, we need to change our method of collection this year. The poppies have already been delivered to the school and are quarantined until we require them.

On Wednesday 11th November, we will commemorate Armistice Day at 11'oclock via a whole school Zoom collective worship. It would be wonderful to see all the children wearing a stick on poppy for the event. We request that on the day you send children in with a donation, which will be collected by Mrs Dury and Mrs Wright at the gates. The children will then be given their poppy prior to the service, by their class teacher, and hopefully they will return home with them. Families have always donated very generously every year and we hope we can maintain that level of support this year.

Sadly, this year, we will have to discourage the children in wearing poppies prior to this day due to Covid-19 guidelines.

Changes to the Summer Term 2021 dates. Red lettering implies date changes.

Monday 12th April INSET day for staff only School Closed

Tuesday 13th April Children return for Summer Term

Monday 3rd May Bank Holiday School Closed

Monday 7th June Occasional Day School Closed

Tuesday 8th June INSET day for staff only School Closed

Wednesday 9th June Children return for 2nd half of Summer Term.

Thursday 22nd July Finish at 1:30pm