



Newsletter – Autumn (1) 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to you all at the start of this new school year.

Our first two days back has been a positive experience for the children and staff alike. It is wonderful to see so many smiling faces and lots of hard work going on around the school. The teachers have all commented on the children's joy at sitting in table groups in class and mixing socially with other classes at playtimes rather than sticking to their zone or bubble.

I would also like to thank the entire school staff for their hard work and dedication in re-establishing their classrooms and making them stimulating places for the children to learn over the summer break. Their preparedness has meant the children's start has been happy and safe.

The children have been entering school in a positive way at the start of the morning. Mrs Wright and I are so proud of their positivity and their politeness as they greet us with a cheery 'good morning!'. Occasionally, the gate area, on the front green, is getting a little congested as parents load their children up with bags and coats etc. Please, encourage your child to be independent, carrying their own belongings, checking they have all their belongings on them before you walk over to the gate area. Thank you

Below are several important messages that will enhance the smooth running of the school, including in person teacher/parent Welcome Meeting dates and times for each class. I appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Kind regards,

Sue Dary

Pick up Arrangement– Safeguarding

Reception - adults collecting are asked to line up on the pathway outside the classroom door.

Key Stage 1, Year 1 and 2 - adults collecting are asked to wait on the playground in the proximity of their child's classroom. When the classroom doors are opened, staff will only release children when they can recognise a familiar face. Please help the staff out by steadily moving closer to the classroom door or waving when your child appears. This process will speed up as staff become more familiar with faces etc.

Key Stage 2, Year 3 to 6 - all children will be escorted to the front gate on the green, including those who have siblings in Reception through to Year 2. Again, it helps if you monitor the classes as they walk down the path and are dismissed, looking out for your child and waving to help staff get the correct child to the correct adult. Again, this will take a little longer until we all become familiar to each other. Children, who have younger siblings, will be supervised by the gate by a member of staff, if parents are not on the green as collection from KS 1 classrooms have taken a little longer than anticipated.

Snack for morning playtime.

Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children may bring fresh fruit or vegetable snacks for break time. Children will not be permitted to eat other products including Fruit Winders, chocolate coated fruit or cereal bars. We ask that children keep it safe in their bag. We continue to wait for news regarding the restart to the free National Fruit and Veg Scheme run by the government post Covid –19.

Ickleford Primary School is a nut free site.



Please note:

we do have children with severe nut allergies.

Please ensure that all packed lunches are free from any products containing nuts. Please pay particular attention to the nut content in cereal bars which are permitted in home packed lunches.

School Uniform Policy

Can I please remind parents that dyed hair and shaved patterns is not permitted under our school uniform policy. Despite parents using semi-permanent dyes on their children during the holidays, there are still a few children with inappropriate hair colour. Please ensure it is washed out as soon as possible.

Our children look very smart in their clean PE kit. Can we remind all parents that we requested round neck **black** sweatshirts and **no hoodies**. This is to ensure your child's safety during highly active PE lessons. All PE kit must be free from team or sport manufacturer logos.



We continue to see rucksacks that are too large and inappropriate for the limited space we have in our cloakrooms. Please ask your child if they have been spoken to and advised to find something smaller. We want to eradicate this matter before children start to bring in big winter coats. However, it is good to see children bringing appropriate clear, sports capped water bottles into school. Thank you.

Respectful Parking within the Village

Within the just the first two days of returning, we have received a number of complaints from our neighbours regarding disrespectful and dangerous parking. Please park within the legal requirements of The High Way Code and park considerately, i.e. not parking on double yellow lines or blocking off access roads and driveways.

Scheduled Welcome Meetings

It is with great delight that we are now allowed to offer face to face meetings in school. This now means school can offer our annual Welcome Meeting and invite you into your child's classroom to meet your child's teacher and TA. The meeting will be led by each class teacher upon which they share their timetables, learning expectations for the year, behavioural expectations and dates for the diary. There will be an opportunity to ask general questions within the meeting.

This forum is not an appropriate time to discuss your children individually with the class teacher after the meeting has concluded. If you have concerns regarding your child, our traditional avenues of communication are always open, via email or phone call to the office to schedule a meeting or a chat after school, when all children have been dismissed at the gate or the classroom door. If you could inform the class teacher in advance as to what your concerns are about, this helps us manage the situation more speedily.

Year 1 Welcome Meeting with Mr Horgan - Monday 13th September, 7pm-8pm

Reception Welcome Meeting with Mrs Seddon - Tuesday 14th September, 7pm-8pm

Year 2 Welcome Meeting with Mrs Banbury - Wednesday 15th September, 7pm-8pm

Year 3 Welcome Meeting with Mrs Wright - Thursday 16th September, 7pm-8pm

Year 5 Welcome Meeting with Mrs Hockett - Tuesday 21st September, 7pm-8pm

Year 6 Welcome Meeting with Mrs King - Wednesday 22nd September, 7pm-8pm

Year 4 Welcome Meeting with Mr Martin - Thursday 23rd September, 7pm-8pm

We are also looking forward to face to face parent consultations before half term. Please refer to the dates for you diary section below.

Instrumental Music Lessons

Please be advised that school continues to offer individual, paired or group instrumental lessons for the following instruments: violin, brass (cornet/trumpet, tenor horn or trombone), piano, voice, guitar (electric and acoustic) and woodwind (clarinet or flute). These lessons are taught by highly qualified and experienced instrumental teachers, from Hertfordshire Music Service, who visit school and utilise our music room. If you are interested in your child, from Year 2 up to Year 6, commencing lessons please explore the link below for availability and pricing.

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/register



Absence During Term Time

Family Holidays

You will be aware of the School Policy regarding family holidays being taken during term time, which is in line with all Hitchin Primary and Secondary Schools. This means that any requests for **term time holidays will be unauthorised.**

Please note that Hertfordshire holidays may not coincide with other neighbouring education authorities. Term Dates for 2021-2022 are always available on the school website.

Please note:

We have regular monitoring visits from the attendance officer who will issue a fixed penalty to a family if required.

Hertfordshire have an Unauthorised Sessions Policy where by 15 sessions or more unauthorised absences (a session equating to half a day) may incur a fixed penalty. This is cumulative over 2 terms, i.e. any unauthorised absences from the previous term will be included to the current terms calculation.

Sickness Absence

If your child is ill, please notify the school office before 9:30 on the morning of each days absence. The office staff prefer this to be done via Parentmail 'absences'. However, you may also use email to the admin account or a phone message can be left on the answerphone.

If your child is regularly absent through illness, the attendance officer will direct us to ask for a doctor's note, in order for us to authorise the absence. We will always contact you if we feel your child is too poorly to be in school.

Late Arrivals

We have had a positive start to the punctuality of children so far. Please be reminded, the school bell rings at 8.55am. If your child arrives after the children have left the playground and gone into class, we will need to sign them in at the school office. However 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

PUPIL CONCERNS AND COMMUNICATION

Our SEND Co-ordinator, Mrs Shafe, has asked me to remind all parents that any concerns about your child must always be raised with the class teacher in the first instance. If necessary your concerns will be shared with Mrs Shafe, if they have not been done so already. Thank you.



Ickleford Primary School Harvest Festival

Thursday 23rd September 2021 St Katharine's Church

Please send in any suitable donations, with your child, in the morning. All donations of tinned, packet or boxed non-perishable foods will be gratefully received as harvest gifts on behalf of the North Herts. Sanctuary, Nightingale Road.

Sadly, due to limited space in the church, parents are unable to attend this celebration.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Autumn Term 2021	
Date	Event
Monday 13th September	All breakfast and after school clubs commence
Monday 13th September	Year 1 Welcome Meeting 7pm - 8pm
Tuesday 14th September	Reception Welcome Meeting 7pm—8pm
Wednesday 15th September	Year 2 Welcome Meeting 7pm - 8pm
Thursday 16th September	Year 3 Welcome Meeting 7pm - 8pm
Tuesday 21st September	Year 5 Welcome Meeting 7pm - 8pm (including Big Camp info)
Wednesday 22nd September	Year 6 Welcome Meeting 7pm - 8pm (including Isle of Wight info)
Thursday 23rd September	Harvest Festival, St Katharine's Church (no parents)
Thursday 23rd September	Year 4 Welcome Meeting 7pm - 8pm
Friday 24th September	Year 5 Swimming lessons at Hitchin Pool commence
Wednesday 13th October	Parent Consultations, School Hall, 4pm - 7pm (no school children or younger siblings except Y6)
Tuesday 19th October	Year 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony Camp
Tuesday 19th October	Parent Consultations, School Hall, 4pm - 7pm (no school children or younger siblings except Y6)
HALF TERM BREAK Monday 25th October - Friday 29th November	
Monday 8th November	Flu vaccinations for all year groups
Monday 15th November	Anti Bullying Week
Wednesday 17th November	Prospective Reception Class Open Morning 9:30 am –10:30 am (see website for booking details)
Tuesday 23rd November	KS2 Play Performance, School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 24th November	KS2 Play Performance 1.30pm
Thursday 25th November	KS2 Play Performance 7pm
Monday 29th November	SCHOOL CLOSED - OCCASIONAL DAY

Wednesday 1st December	Prospective Reception Class Open Afternoon 1:30pm - 2:30pm (see website for booking details)
Friday 3rd December	Year 5 Swimming Lessons - final swim session
Thursday 9th December	Christingle Service, School Hall (parents welcome) 2.30pm
Friday 10th December	Santa Fun Run - Fund Raising Event
Monday 13th December	KS2 Carol Service St Katharine's Church 7pm (attendance mandatory)
Wednesday 15th December	Infant Nativity, School Hall 6.15pm
Thursday 16th December	School Xmas Lunch and Theatre Production
Friday 17th December	School Finishes at 12 noon for Christmas Break
Wednesday 5th January	Inset Day - Staff only
Thursday 6th January	Spring Term starts, 8:55am