



Newsletter – Summer 1 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter break.

We welcome a new member of staff this term. Mrs Laura Downie, joins as our Key Stage 2 PPA teacher. She will be following the same timetable as Mrs Orton did before she moved to work in Reception. Mrs Downie is an experienced teacher coming to us from a school in Stevenage. She has now met all the KS2 children and is looking forward to becoming a part of our school community.

You may notice another name being used around school. Mrs Shafe, our SEND Coordinator, has returned to her maiden name of Miss Castle.

We have made the decision to restart our annual Summer events that staff, children and parents have so enjoyed in the past, prior to Covid disruptions. These will include May day dancing, class assemblies, sports day, 'Spirited Arts' Gallery and open evening. For our new families who have joined us over the last couple of years and have not experienced these events (and for existing families who can't remember how we run them), details are explained below.

We have a request from the office staff, can you please be patient and polite with them as they work out our new 'Arbor' system. I was disappointed to hear that a few parents have been demanding and rude on the telephone as we endeavor to iron out a few teething problems.

Our new value for May is Perseverance.

Kind regards,

Sue Dury

Headteacher.





Whole School, May Day Dancing, 11am, School Front Lawn

Over the next few weeks, weather permitting, all the children will be rehearsing a traditional country dance routine which they will perform to each other and to parents. In the past, this has always been a joyous event (if a little fraught for the teachers!). You are welcome to join us around the edge of the front lawn, in front of school, to spectate. Year 5 and 6 are excited about learning a tricky May pole dance. Please note, if the weather is inclement, we may have to cancel the event, as it may not be safe for the children to dance on the grass as it can be very slippery and hazardous. Fingers crossed we can look forward to you joining us.

Summer Term Arrangements

We are now into our **summer uniform** dress code. Summer dresses and shorts may now be worn up until October half term, next academic year.

Please note, staff cannot apply **sunscreen** to children. Please apply sunscreen before the start of school and always provide your child with a clearly named **sun hat/cap**.

Please ensure that if your child has **hayfever**, they are dosed up with the appropriate medication before coming to school. We can not provide alternative playtime arrangements for those who experience symptoms and doors and windows will be open to provide ventilation throughout the day.

Can we also remind you about **rucksacks** in the cloakroom. In KS2, please provide a small rucksack if required that will fit on a peg and not encroach into other children's space.

Please ensure your child has a **school appropriate water bottle** every day for summer term. A vast array of water bottles are beginning to creep back into school. Our school rule is the use of a clear transparent bottle with a sports top only. We need to see it is only water in the bottle and ensure it is leak proof.

As the weather improves, children are starting to remove layers of clothing to cool down, both in PE and in class. We are discovering that many items of clothing are not named and we are spending increasing amounts of time trying to return stray items. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU NAME PE KIT AND SCHOOL UNIFORM** for your child.



SPORTS DAY - Monday 4th July, 9:30– 11:30 am, School Field

Mr Wylie, our sports coach, is organising a day full of competitive and fun events for each year group. We are inviting parents to join us for our competitive morning session where all the children take part in running and field events. In the afternoon, the children will be organised into mixed age groups and take part in a carousel of fun challenges. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot invite parents to attend the afternoon's events. A trophy will be awarded to the winning sports team at the end of the day.

After School Football Club for Years 5, 4 and 3.

To avoid any confusion, Mr Wylie has informed children that for this club it is advised that they wear kit other than their school PE Kit. Team football kits are permitted. Mr Wylie does request that children attending wear **shin pads and long socks** but football boots are not essential as long as they wear sturdy trainers.



Summer Term Class Assemblies

Towards the latter part of the term, each class will prepare and share a class assembly with the whole school, lasting no more than half an hour. This may involve the children sharing work they have achieved over the year both written and artistic but may also include the odd dramatic or musical moment and maybe a song or two! **Parents only** are invited to attend their own child's class assembly. We have limited space for numbers once the whole school is in the hall. We also request that **younger siblings including babies do not attend** as this can be off putting for the children as they perform and we do not have space for buggies etc. Sadly, class assemblies **cannot be recorded on a phone** or other devices for media consent/safeguarding reasons. We also have children in our school who are sensitive to sound. When congratulating the children at the end, we politely request parents and pupils just applaud the children and avoid vocal sounds of appreciation. This will greatly help our more noise sensitive children. Please respect these requests. Thank you.



Below are the list of assembly times and dates:

Tuesday 24th May, 9:30am	Year 3
Tuesday 7th June, 9:30am	Year 4
Tuesday 14th June, 9:30am	Year 2
Tuesday 21st June, 9:30am	Year 1
Tuesday 28th June, 9:30am	Year 6 (Whole School only)
Tuesday 28th June, 6:15pm	Year 6 (Parents only)
Tuesday 5th June, 9:30 am	Year 5
Tuesday 12th June, 9:30 am	Reception

After the assembly has concluded and the rest of school have vacated the hall, parents are then invited to personally congratulate their child before they leave. We look forward to seeing you at your child's assembly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1st Half Summer Term 2022

Extra-Curricular Clubs will not run on last week of term

Date	Event
Thursday 21st April	Year 6 and Year 5 STEM Knex Challenge, Hall
Mon 25th - Thurs 28th April	Year 6 Mock SATs Week
Friday 29th April	Ickleford vs St Andrew's cricket match, 3:30pm, Ickleford CC Ground.
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 3rd May	St. Ippolyts vs Ickleford cricket match, 4 pm away.
Wednesday 4th May	B Team Netball Rally, 1-3:30pm, Whitehill Junior School
Mon 9th May - Thurs 12th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 13th May	Mental Health Day, whole school collective worship, 9:10am
Friday 13th May	Ickleford vs Offley, 3:30pm, Ickleford Cricket Club
Monday 16th May	Class Mental Heath Awareness sessions with Miss Castle & Mrs Walker
Wednesday 18th May	Class Mental Heath Awareness sessions with Miss Castle & Mrs Walker
Wednesday 18th May	Under 9s Tennis Competition, 12:45-3:45pm , Letchworth Sports and tennis Club
Thursday 19th May	Whole School May Day Dancing, 11am, School front lawn, parents welcome
Mon 23rd - Fri 27th May	Year 6 Isle of Wight residential
Tuesday 24th May	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9:30am, School Hall
Friday 27th May	Platinum Jubilee, Whole School Church Service 9:30 am
Friday 27th May	Platinum Jubilee, Whole School Picnic/Street Party, School Field, 2pm
Friday 27th May	School closes, 3:25pm for Whitson Break

2nd Half Summer Term Dates on next page

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2nd Half Summer Term 2022**Extra-Curricular Clubs will not run on last week of term**

Date	Event
Monday 6th June	Children return to School
w/c Monday 6th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Assessment Week
w/c Monday 6th June	Year 4, National Multiplication Times Tables Test
Tuesday 7th June	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9:30am, School Hall
Wednesday 8th June	Class Photos
Wednesday 8th June	Year 5/6 Relationship and Sex Education Information parents, Y5 room 6-7pm
w/c Monday 13th June	Year 4, National Multiplication Times Tables Test cont.d
Tuesday 14th June	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9:30am, School Hall
w/c Monday 20th June	Sports Activities Week, to include whole school workshops,
Monday 20th June	Under 9 'Golfway' competition, 3:30-5:30pm, Letchwoth Golf Club
Tuesday 21st June	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9:30am, School Hall
Tuesday 21st June	Year 6, Phase Workshop Drug Awareness, 2pm.
Wednesday 22nd June	New Reception Intake Session, 10:30 am - 12 noon.
Thursday 23rd June	Year 2 Class Trip, RSPB Rye Meads, all day.
Thurs 23rd - Fri 24th June	Year 5 Big Camp Experience
Tuesday 28th June	Year 6 Isle of Wight Presentation, 6:15pm, School Hall
Tuesday 28th June	Under 11s Girls' Skateboarding Workshop, 10am-12pm TBC
Monday 4th July	Sports Day, 9:30 - 12 noon School Field, parents welcome.
Tuesday 5th July	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9:30am, School Hall
Tuesday 5th July	Spirited Arts Gallery, School Hall, 2:30pm - 4:30pm, parents welcome
Wednesday 6th July	School Governors Open Day, am, and Full Governors Meeting, pm.
Thursday 7th July	Year 6, Phase Workshop 'It's Your Move', 2pm.
Thursday 7th July	Reception and Key Stage 1 Annual Reports, sent via Arbor.
Friday 8th July	Year 6 Class Trip, TBC.
Friday 8th July	Key Stage 2 Annual Reports, sent via Arbor.
Monday 11th July	Reserve Sports Day
Tuesday 12th July	Reception Class Assembly, 9:30am, School Hall
Thursday 14th July	Secondary School Transition for Year 6 Pupils.
Thursday 14th July	9:15 am - 12 noon, 'Moving up morning' to including new Reception intake.
Tuesday 19th July	Open Evening, 6 - 7pm. Parents and children welcome
Thursday 21st July	Leavers' Service St Katharine's Church Whole School and Year 6 parents only
Thursday 21st July	School closes for Summer Break , 12:00-12:30 Timings TBC
Monday 5th September	Staff INSET Day – School closed
Tuesday 6th September	Children return to School