



Engage – Inspire – Empower
Head Teacher Newsletter
June 2021

Welcome Back

Welcome back, you will have received a message from me last week to say that this newsletter had been delayed so that we could wait to hear what the Government announced about wider opening on Monday 14th June.

Unfortunately as expected further opening has been put back and with increasing cases of the Delta variant of Covid 19 in Waltham Forest and in schools there has been no change to school practice or our risk assessment. Therefore we continue with children remaining in class bubbles, staggered lunchtimes and staggered end times keeping the 10 minute opening times. This means as well that parents and carers should remember not to gather at the school gates, maintain social distancing and the rule of 6 people meeting up indoors still applies. Classes will still be asked to self-isolate at home if there is a positive case confirmed in your child's class which unfortunately has already had to happen in 6 Primary Schools across Waltham Forest in the last week.

The rise in cases in Waltham Forest also impacts on Year 6 transition days to Secondary schools unfortunately. The secondary schools are currently discussing with the LA about moving transition online and we will let Year 6 parents know as soon as possible of any changes. This may change from school to school and Local Authority

At the end of this newsletter I have included the calendar dates for the Academic Year 2021/22. You should already have these from my 2 previous newsletters but it doesn't hurt to have them again just in case!

Saying goodbye to two of our teachers

Not all of you will have had a chance to get to know Rosie Loveland who taught our Year 2 class in the last academic year as she then went on maternity leave. Rosie has had to make the difficult decision to leave the job and school that she loved to move away from London. Although she wasn't with us for long she made an impact on the school and the children in her class and will be missed.

The other teacher that is leaving is Stephen who is making a move away from London as well. No matter which route we looked at and on all different forms of transport it is way too far for Stephen to travel so we have to say goodbye! There is a very lucky Primary School on the south coast that will be getting Stephen as their teacher in September and we wish him all the very best at his new school. And sorry to the children who have already been telling me they want Stephen as their teacher next year, unfortunately it is not possible!

All the very best and good luck to both Rosie and Stephen.

Art Week

Art week started on Monday 14th June and runs for the whole week. This year the focus is around The National Gallery's Take One Picture. Each year the Gallery invites primary schools nationwide to focus on one of its paintings and respond creatively to its themes and subject matter, historical context, or composition. The programme aims to put art at the centre of children's learning across the curriculum, inspiring a lifelong connection with artists' work, museums and galleries. This year the National Gallery has selected The Battle of San Romano (painted probably about 1438–40) by Paolo Uccello as the source of inspiration. Last week our children took part last week in online workshops about the painting with the National Gallery so they may be able to tell you something about it already. Acorn and Conker have got slightly muddled with the weeks and they started Art Week last week so they're ahead of the rest of the school although they will be continuing with their art work into this week as well.

Leytonstone Arts Trail

Our children can also get involved in this year's Leytonstone Arts Trail which runs throughout July and the summer. All you need to do is display your children's art in your windows and gardens and you can also register your display on the Leytonstone Arts Trail map by going to www.leytonstoneartstrail.org

For inspiration and to look at previous displays go to www.letsfill.co.uk

School Streets – 8.30am to 9.30am & 3pm to 4pm

I have now been contacted by residents that live on both Worsley Road and Elsham Road who are concerned that our children and some parents don't appear to realise that anyone that is resident in these streets can drive in and out of their road at any time of the day and are exempt from the School Streets times. Some of our children have not been aware of traffic as it drives down and are in the middle of the roads oblivious to what is around them which makes them very unsafe.

Please can you make sure that your children are on the path when walking to and from school and if they are riding bikes in the road they are still using the same amount of vigilance as they would on any other road. The same goes for children crossing the roads, please remind them to always check both ways before they cross. We will also be reminding the children in school.

Music Lessons

If you would like your child to start music lessons in either the piano, violin or guitar in September 2021 then we hold one to one lesson with a company called Piano Fun Club. The lessons take place during the school day. Unfortunately we cannot offer these lessons for free and you will need to pay the company directly for any lessons arranged. More information can be found on their website at PianoFunClub.co.uk

Children's End of Year Reports & Parent Meetings

Children's reports will go out at the end of June and this year they will be sent out by email using the email we hold for the primary contact on our office systems.

We are also holding parent meetings so that you will get an opportunity to discuss your child with the class teacher and to ask any questions you may have about their report. We had hoped that we would be able to give you the choice of in person or online meetings but the Local Authority have been very clear that these meetings should be online only. We have bought into an online booking system for our parent meetings and we have put aside a day for each Year group for you to book your time. You will be able to book your meeting time through the class pages on our website and we will let you know as soon as this goes live.

The days for each year group are as follows and will run from 8am to 6pm so hopefully there will be a time that suits everyone.

Monday 5th July: Year 5 Parent meetings
 Tuesday 6th July: Year 4 Parent meetings
 Wednesday 7th July: Year 6 Parent meetings
 Thursday 8th July: Year 3 Parent meetings
 Friday 9th July: Year 2 Parent meetings
 Monday 12th July: Reception Parent meetings
 Tuesday 13th July: Year 1 Parent meetings

End of Year Trips

Unfortunately on the advice of the Local Authority there are no end of year trips to our usual destinations of Paradise Park, Chessington, Legoland etc. I have booked the pantomime though for all of our children in December so that is something to look forward to and the school is paying for all the tickets for the children in recognition of the difficult year they have had.



Farewell to Year 6!

It's that time of year again when we say goodbye to Year 6 who move on to their Secondary schools in September. They have worked hard this year and coped very well with some of the pressures that Year 6 can bring and particularly the pressures Year 6 can bring in the middle of a pandemic. We are very proud of them all and would like to wish them all every success as they move on.

There is of course still a little bit more for Year 6 to do. Alongside their work they will also be getting ready for their end of year performance at Jenny Hammond and of course we have the Year 6 graduation which we are still very keen to hold. Unfortunately these events now have to be virtual for parents, family and friends. The play will be recorded and a link will be shared with Year 6 parents and we are planning a graduation for the children which we hope to live stream to you which will follow by a party for the children.

School Uniform

School uniform for September can be bought from Speedstitch in Walthamstow where you can either visit their premises at Unit 32, Walthamstow Business Centre, Clifford Road, Walthamstow, E17 4SX or buy online at www.speedstitch.co.uk.

Please remember our uniform colours are **white** top, **red** jumper or cardigan and **navy blue** trousers, shorts or skirts. Dresses can either be blue and white or red and white check. Your child does not need to wear uniform with our logo on it and you can buy our uniform in the correct colours from most supermarkets.

PE Uniform

In September we are going to keep the practice of children coming to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. This is black or blue shorts, plain white T-shirt and a navy blue tracksuit. With that in mind we have asked Speedstitch to create a navy blue Jenny Hammond tracksuit which can now be bought from their website.

Swimming will hopefully resume in September for the current Year 3 and 4 classes.

Parentpay and Dinner Money

We are getting near to the end of the school year and we need to clear some of the dinner money debt on Parentpay before we break up. Can you please check your account to see that you are up to date. Dinner money is £11.50 a week if your child has a school dinner every day.

If you leave Year 6 in debt then your child's Secondary school, if using the same payment system, will not allow you to add any money to your child's account until the debt is cleared with us.

Consultation on changing the school day

Thank you to everyone that has responded to our consultation on changing the start and end to the school day, we have had a fantastic response. If you haven't returned your reply slip yet then you still have until the end of the week to do so. Once we have collated all of the responses and taken the results and comments to Governors on the 23rd June we will let you know the outcome.

And Finally – ARTSMARK GOLD!

We are delighted to say that having applied for ARTSMARK Gold we have been successful in our application, a process that takes over a year to complete and our Arts curriculum has been recognised at the highest level. Here are some of the things they said.

Your commitment to providing rich arts and cultural opportunities is evidently enriching the learning for all pupils through exciting cross-curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities, which are having a measurable impact children's enjoyment, achievement, attendance, and participation rates.

Your Artsmark journey has inspired staff to focus on developing high quality teaching of the Arts, with the effect of a more consistent approach to teaching and learning across the school. The appointment of a link 'governor for culture' is ensuring that there is strategic leadership of the Arts curriculum.

Despite the barriers that covid-19 have presented to your Artsmark journey, staff clearly rose to the challenge, moving arts lessons, performances and 'visits' to arts and cultural venues online.

Thank you to all the staff for continuing to be brilliant in bringing the Arts alive at school and ensuring it is intergraded into the children's learning across all subjects. Thank you to the children for your engagement and obvious love of the Arts whether it's been by practical lessons or participating well in our online workshops most recently with the National Gallery.

Most of all though thank you to Hannah, our current Year 5 teacher but also our Artsmark lead for working on this award over the last 2 years and keeping our Arts curriculum alive during a pandemic. Thank you also to Fran Gkotsi, parent governor and link governor for The Arts for her support and guidance in us getting this award. We are all delighted.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

We break up for the summer holidays on Thursday 22nd July at 2.00pm.

Best wishes
Deborah

School Calendar for 2021/22

Autumn Term 2021

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September

Year 1 to Year 6 Children Start – Monday 6th September 2021 at 9.05am
Reception Children Start – Monday 13th September 2021 at 9.05am (Half days for the first week)

Half Term - Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October

Children Break Up – Friday 17th December 2021 at 2.30 pm

Christmas Holidays - Monday 20th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January 2022

Spring Term 2022

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children –Tuesday 4th January 2022

Children Start – Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 9.05am

Half Term - Monday 14th to Friday 18th February 2022

Children Break Up – Friday 1st April at 2.30pm

Easter Holidays – Monday 4th April to Monday 19th April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Children Start – Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 9.05am

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term - Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Children Break Up – Friday 22nd July 2022 at 2.00 pm

There is one more INSET Day to be included, date to be confirmed.