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**'Engage - Inspire - Empower'**  
**Head Teacher Newsletter**  
**November 2022**

I hope you all had a good half term break and welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term where already the children are hard at work on their new topics.

I was looking at my newsletter that was written a year ago and we were still having to take lots of precautions because of covid including not letting parents into school to see their child's POWER project, attend a performance or be able to put on a Christmas Bazaar. It is fantastic that we are now able to do all of those things.

One of the things I would like to bring back as well is for parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to come in and read with their children every Thursday morning starting this week. You are invited to come in with your child and read with them until 9.15am when the teachers will take the class register. This means if you come in at 8.55am you will have 20 minutes in the class and if you have children in more than one class you will be able to spend time in each classroom. (Reception and Year 1 parents will be able to leave by the Reception playground gate and Year 2 can leave through the front entrance as the playground gates will be closed at 9.05am as usual). We know that not all parents will be able to come in and read but don't worry as your child can read with their friends, with the teacher, support staff or with another parent. It does mean as well that as it's a Thursday morning you will be able to help your child carry their POWER projects into class and the last Thursday of every half term you will be able to look at the POWER projects in your child's class instead of reading. We look forward to seeing you in class when you can.

**What's new in school?**

We now have an incredible history timeline that starts with the Stone Age in 10,000 BC and ends with King Charles III and me! (Yes I really have been here that long that I make the timeline. In fact next year I will have been Head of Jenny Hammond for 20 years and it really has been a privilege). The timeline sweeps around the walls downstairs in the Victorian building and you can see photos of it under our History curriculum on our website. You will also be able to see it when you come in and read with your children.

To celebrate Black History Month the children took part in an assembly and workshops with Bigfoot Theatre Company called 'Hidden Figures.' The children learned about significant black people that aren't always recognised for their contribution to the way we live today. To recognise those significant people the artist, Sally Newton who painted our History timeline, is coming back to add them onto our wall so that they are recognised and known. Ask the children if they can remember who they learned about.

Finally as well, and I had been meaning to do this for the last couple of years, we have had the Victorian staircase refurbished and it now looks beautiful covered in a gorgeous Victorian red lino that doesn't look like anything like how I remember lino looked back in the 70s that's for sure.

## Book Fair

We are having a Book Fair again this half term starting on **Thursday 3rd November** and running until **Wednesday 9th November** where you will have an opportunity after school to buy books for



your children. From the money we take at Book Fair we are able to take a percentage of the total in books for our classroom collections. The book fair will be held in **The Hall** opening from **3.15pm to 3.45pm each day**. We can't take cards unfortunately but we do have a QR code you can scan to pay if you have your banking details on your phone. I am running it this year and I look forward to seeing lots of you there as there are some brilliant books for sale which will make a great gift for your child.

## National Online Safety

As a school we take online safety very seriously and with the ever increasing risk to children we want to make sure that as a school and as parents we keep up to date with the latest online information that is available to our children and how we teach and talk to our children about the online dangers. With that in mind I want to remind you that we are members of National Online Safety which provide resources and courses for our parents to do and to keep informed. In order to sign up please copy the link below and select Parent/Carer to start.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/jenny-hammond-primary-school>

## School Meals

The autumn menu started yesterday however it is not yet available on the Waltham Forest council site so yesterday we have sent you the cook's overview for weeks 1 and 2 through parentmail. We do have special menu days where the menu will alter however you will always be informed of the menu change by parentmail. This Thursday, 3rd November we are having a special menu to celebrate bonfire night. This was sent to you with the autumn menus.

## Harvest Festival Contributions

Thank you to everyone that was able to contribute to our Harvest Food collection, we are now ready to distribute the food to our school families and members of our local community. If you are struggling at all for whatever ever reason or know a family that is please do get in touch with the school so that we can support them. Not only will we be able to give you food and toiletries but we will also be able to help you access other services and foodbanks if necessary.

We are very discreet and recognise that in these difficult times families are struggling. You do not need to be eligible for Free School Meals to get help and we know it is often families that don't have access to this that can be struggling the most so please do get in touch.



## Anti-Bullying Week Monday 14th November to Friday 18th November – 'Reach Out'

The theme of Reach Out came about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England and Wales. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

Following the success of the campaign in 2021 – when 80% of schools marked the week, reaching over 7.5 million children and young people – Anti-Bullying Week will remind everyone whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need.

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week taking place on Monday 14th November. We will celebrate what makes us all unique and spread kindness! Children can come to school in their **odd socks** and school uniform please.

Throughout the rest of the week we will be doing different activities around anti bullying including an online theatre workshop called 'Hope' and our Unicef Ambassadors will be out and about in the playground at playtimes and lunchtimes playing with the children and supporting the children in their friendships and play.



## Children in Need

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

To end Anti Bullying week we would like everyone to participate in our **Children in Need** fundraiser this year which falls on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We're asking everyone to come to school in clothes with **spots on, animal print, in your pyjamas or all three**, you can even paint spots on your face! We would like every child to bring in £1 on this day so that we can raise lots of money for Children in Need.

**The staff will be joining in as well!**

## Year 6 Shakespeare performance

Anthony Glen from Shaking up Shakespeare will be in working with Year 6 children on the Shakespeare play Romeo and Juliet from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November for 5 days. The children last had an opportunity to work with him in Year 1. Year 6 parents are invited to watch their children perform their play on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm** in the hall.

## PE and Jewellery

Please remember that our PE kit is navy blue or black shorts, a plain white T-shirt and a navy blue tracksuit. Speedstitch, our school uniform shop do sell Jenny Hammond tracksuits however you can also buy plain navy blue tracksuits from supermarkets and bigger stores such as M&S and John Lewis where their children's tracksuits are cheaper. Can I also remind you that children **should not** be wearing necklaces and bracelets to school unless they are of religious significance, earrings should be studs or small hoops and make-up is not allowed including nail varnish.

## Cann Hall Ward Meeting

The last Cann Hall community meeting of local residents and our community police officers was held in the Fire Station on Leytonstone High Road and it was very well attended. So much so that there was standing room only and I offered that the next meeting could be held at our school. This is a community meeting for residents that live in Cann Hall Ward and will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm with doors opening at 6.45pm.

## Christmas, Christmas, Christmas (Already)



## Christmas Carol Concerts

This year we plan to hold our Carol Concerts in the last week of this term and more information about how you can get tickets will be sent out in a couple of weeks' time. The children will be practising their Christmas songs soon though so I'm sure you'll start to hear them at home going through their words!

Year 6 do not participate in the Carol concert as they do their Shakespeare performance instead.

## Christmas Parties

All the children will have a Christmas party with Father Christmas hopefully coming to visit them with a present for the class. This year the parties will take place on the last day of term, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. You will receive further details about this nearer the time.

## Christmas Bazaar

We did not hold a Christmas Bazaar last year but this year it is back on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at 3pm to 5.30pm. It will take place in the Year 5 and 6 block, the Hall and we are hoping for a special visitor who will be in The Lodge waiting to hear the children's Christmas wishes whilst I'll be looking after the reindeer!

To enable staff to get ready for the Bazaar our Chair of Governors has agreed for school to **finish early on the 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. Gates will open for you to collect your child at 1.50pm.** If your child goes to Early Rise after school club then they will be looked after as usual until the club ends at 5.30pm however because we are using The Lodge, the After School Club will be in the main building and children should be collected from the main entrance.

If you can't pick up your child at 2pm then please let us know and we will make arrangements for your child to be looked after.

To support one of our tombola stalls at our bazaar we are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. We are asking the children to come to school in non-uniform in return for bring in a full bottle for our Bottle Tombola. It can include any drinks and can include alcohol but please hand this into the school office rather than your child carrying it in. We are also holding a non-uniform day on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December where we are asking the children to bring in chocolate, sweets or treats for our Treats Tombola.

We are also in need of raffle prizes so if you have any connections with shops, organisations or companies that can donate a raffle prize we would be very grateful. We are not collecting bric a brac for the bazaar as we won't be having a stall due to space.

## Pantomime

This year we have paid for every child to watch a Christmas panto. We go every year and normally we would ask parents to pay for the tickets but as we did last year we have paid for all the children's tickets so there is no cost to parents and carers at all.

## Theatre Royal Stratford – Cinderella

Year 4 – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10am show, children in class by 9am

Year 2 – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 10am show

Year 3 – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 10am show

## Hackney Empire – Mother Goose

Year 5 – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm show and the children are back in school by 5.30

Year 6 – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. 1.30pm show

The good news is as I booked the tickets really early so we have excellent seats.

For Reception and Year 1 we have **Outside the Box Productions coming to us to perform Aladdin** to our children. Their show is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the morning.

## And finally

Thank you for your support with our fundraising in the first half of the term.

We raised £255 for the Jeans 4 Genes charity, an incredible £440 for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon where you also supported us by donating incredible cakes and of course we ended with our fundraiser on the last day of the half term with our wear red to Stand Up To Racism.

We do have some more fundraising to do with our Children in Need appeal and there will be a collection at the Christmas Carol Concerts which always goes to a local charity.

**Thank you for your continued support always.**

**Best wishes  
Deborah**

## Dates For Your Diary

### **Book Fair**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
School Hall, 3.15pm to 3.45pm

### **Year 6 Performance – Julius Caesar**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm in the School Hall

### **Early Help Coffee Morning, The Lodge**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 9.15am to 10.15am

### **Anti-Bullying Week – ‘Reach Out’**

**ODD SOCKS DAY**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November

### **NSPCC Coffee Morning**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2.15pm to 3.15pm



### **Children in Need**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November

**Wear Animal Print, Spots or Pyjamas and bring in £1.00**

**Non-Uniform day – bring in a bottle for our bottle tombola**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

**Non-Uniform Day – bring in chocolate or sweets for our treats tombola**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

### **Christmas Pantomimes**

See dates in the newsletter



### **Christmas Bazaar**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

### **Reception & Year 1 Carol Concerts**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at either 9.30am or 2.15pm

### **Year 2 & Year 4 Carol Concerts**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at either 9.30am or 2.15pm

### **Year 3 & Year 5 Carol Concerts**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at either 9.30am or 2.15pm

### **Children break up for Christmas:**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm

### **Children return to school**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**For individual class or Year group trips please see the class newsletters on the class pages of our website. The class tab can be found at the top of our home page alongside our curriculum information.**

[www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk](http://www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk)

# School Calendar for 2022/23

## Autumn Term 2022

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

**Year 1 to Year 6 Children Start – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Reception Children Start – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (Half days for the first week)**

Half term holiday Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022

**Children break up for the Christmas break on Friday 16 December 2022 at 2.30pm**

**Christmas Holiday Monday 19 December 2022 to Monday 2 January 2023**

## Spring Term 2023

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**Children come back on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Half term holiday Monday 13 February 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023

**Children break up Friday 31 March 2023 at 2.30pm**

**Easter holiday Monday 3 April 2023 to Friday 14 April 2023.**

## Summer Term 2023

**Children come back on Monday 17 April 2023**

**May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

Half term holiday Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023

**Children break up for the summer on Friday 21 July 2023 at 2pm**

**Gates open between 8.55am and 9.05am each day**

**1 Staff INSET Day still to plan**