



Engage - Inspire - Empower
Head Teacher Newsletter
January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back, I hope you all had a lovely break and were able to do everything you had planned.

It is great to see the children back in school and every class has settled straight back in and have already started their new topics. Information on the curriculum and the different subjects can be found on our website by clicking on Curriculum tab on our home page alongside the class newsletters on the individual class pages.

I would like to officially welcome 3 new members of staff to our Jenny Hammond team who have joined us in January. Helena Fiedorova and Laje Gjana have joined us as mid-day assistants supporting your children both in the dining room and playground. Some of you may already know Helena as she is a parent at our school and is an experienced mid-day assistant having worked for another Waltham Forest school. You may also know Laje who was a mid-day assistant at Redwood nursery for many years before joining us. Deeba Bukhari has also joined us as a cleaner, Deeba is already known to the school and the children as she already works in the school kitchen supporting our cook Pauline. All 3 started last week have got to know the staff and children well and they are already very much part of our school team. Welcome to you all.

We are saying goodbye, for a little while anyway, to Gilly who goes on maternity leave on Monday 23rd January. Gilly teaches in Acorn class which will be taught by Daniel Johnson for the next 2 terms. Daniel spent some time with us before the holidays however he is now teaching in Acorn class alongside Gilly and the team and is familiar with the school practices and is getting to know the children well. When Gilly goes Daniel will have access to the class email so please continue to use this. You will also see Gilly quite often as she will come to pick up her daughter in Year 1 which will be lovely for the children as they still get to see her.

We wish Gilly all the very best and can't wait to meet her new little girl when she is born in February.

Safeguarding Email

Safeguarding@jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk

A reminder of our safeguarding email for parents and anyone in the community to email if they have a safeguarding concern about one of our children or their family. It is important that this email should only ever be used to report a safeguarding or child protection concern and if school is open always phone the school office first and ask to speak with Diana Williams our Designated

Safeguarding Lead or Andrew Warren, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. When phoning always let the office know it is a safeguarding concern.

The email will be checked every day of the year so you will be able to contact us in all of the school holidays. If you are unsure about whether it is a safeguarding matter then it is always best to email or phone so that we can look into it and take the correct course of action if necessary. The email has restricted access so the information in the email will only be shared with the appropriate professionals.

Calendar Dates

At the end of this newsletter are the remaining dates for this academic year. Please note there are 3 changes to the calendar. The King's Coronation has been added as an additional bank holiday and all schools will be closed on Monday 8th May. This moves the start of the Year 6 SATs which now start on Tuesday 9th May for 4 days. The 3rd change is the 5th INSET day which is now planned for Friday 21st July. **This means the children now break up for the summer holidays on Thursday 20th July at 2pm.**

Attendance

As you are aware children should be attending school every day unless they are unwell. You should report your child absent every day that they are unwell before the start of the school day. You can do this by phoning the school office on 020 85193977 and pressing 1 or by clicking on the school jotter link on our website that sends a message directly to the school email.

Attendance measures have now returned to normal in that your child is expected to have 96% attendance or more. If attendance falls below 90% then this is classified as persistent absence and could trigger a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) and in some cases lead to a fine given by Waltham Forest.

If there is an exceptional circumstance where you need to take your child out of school then you will need to complete an Exceptional Circumstance form detailing the reason for the request for absence. Unfortunately not all absences will be authorised and each request is considered within a few days of being received. Holidays will not be authorised. Forms can be asked for at the school office.

Waltham Forest BACME (Behaviour, Absence & Children Missing in Education) service are working very closely with Waltham Forest schools and the EWO meets with our attendance officer, Marie every fortnight. During these meetings children's attendance is looked at and any child whose attendance is under 90% is a concern. We have now also been asked to provide proof of a child's illness by asking to see confirmation of a doctor's visit for example or the medicine you are giving and that is also looked at. Thank you to everyone that has been able to do this, we do appreciate it's not always easy to have written or physical proof that your child has been ill.



JHPS Number Day - Friday 3rd February

Last year we celebrated our first NSPCC Number Day which was very successful and children had a day full of exciting and challenging maths activities. This half term we are doing it all again on Friday 3rd February. We are asking that the children come to school dressed as a famous mathematician or as a number, the staff will be joining in as well. This is in aid of

raising money for the NSPCC so on the day we will be collecting money for the charity by asking for a donation of £1.00. Again the children will have a fun filled day of practical maths activities and challenges.

Sports for Schools

On Tuesday, 21st February, we are very excited to be welcoming a top professional athlete (all will be revealed closer to the time!) to our school to lead a fantastic day full of fitness and inspirational talks. The aim of the day is to encourage the children to pursue their passion, engage with fitness and the positive well-being it brings and also to reinforce the Jenny Hammond message of Engage, Inspire and Empower. The children will be taking part in the fitness events throughout the day and these events will be sponsored by family and friends. All money raised will be for encouraging

physical activity in various ways for the school and to support the company Sports For Schools itself continue it's fantastic work of linking schools with professional athletes and para athletes. Sponsor forms and more information will be released closer to the time as will the finer details of the day. We can't wait to welcome our secret, surprise athlete and have a fantastic day of fitness to get us all moving! Please don't forget your P.E kits!

Children's Mental Health Week – Monday 6th to Friday 10th February

This year's theme **Let's Connect** is about making meaningful connections **for all**, during Children's Mental Health Week – and beyond. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing.

When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging our children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

Reading in school with your child

Last term we reintroduced parents and carers coming in with their children on a Thursday morning to read with their child. We would now like to extend this to the whole school so if you would like to come and read with your child on a Thursday morning then you are very welcome. Reading is from 8.55am to 9.15am. The playground gate on Elsham Road will be kept open until 9.20am every Thursday. On POWer projects parent presentation days then reading won't take place but of course you are welcome to come in on that day to see all the children's projects.

Don't worry if you can't read with your child, the teacher, support staff or other parents will always be there to share a book with them.

Reading Volunteers

Thank you to the parents that were able to put themselves forward as reading volunteers in our school. We will be in touch shortly to invite you in to complete a volunteer DBS check online form. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is a non-departmental public body of the Home Office who carry out criminal record checks to ensure the safety of our children. A DBS check will allow you to hear children read on a one to one without teacher supervision however you will be introduced to the child and have a briefing with the class teacher before you start.

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March

It's coming round again to World Book Day which is celebrated in schools across the country. This year we want to make things a little easier in terms of dressing up – for staff and children – and this year we would like the children to come to school in their pyjamas, dressing gowns and with their favourite book. (The children can also wear their slippers if they want and bring in a teddy



they take to bed when they are having a bedtime story at home). Staff will do the same, (including their teddies I'm sure)! I'm already thinking about my book and I'm a little bit torn over what my favourite children's book is. During the day the children will be doing activities based on reading but they will also have some chill out time to read their favourite books and to have a hot chocolate whilst they're doing so.

Monster Phonic Online Books and Bug Club

Children have access to online Monster Phonics books at home to read in addition to the books that we send home. If you have not accessed these yet then please go to our website and click on the curriculum link and then English. You will find the link to register for the books there. This is free and there is no cost to you signing up as the school has already paid for this service.

We have also continued to give children in Year 2 to Year 6 access to Bug Club online. Bug Club is an online reading program, if you haven't got a login or have forgotten it then please email your class teacher who will remind you of the login details.

There are over 360 expertly chosen fiction and non-fiction books, phonic fiction books, comics and graphic novels available in digital formats to support our children, wherever they are. The books feature inside front and back cover notes to advance learning and support parents.

The digital books are assigned to the children by their teacher and feature automatically marked quizzes linked to all taught comprehension skills which assess children's understanding of the content. Your child's teacher will be able to see the books your children have read and how well they are doing in Bug Club and will keep updating the books.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations happen on a Tuesday where you can sign up to meet with your class teacher to discuss your child's progress and see their work in their books. Each meeting is for 15 minutes and teachers have 3 meetings a week. You can sign up for an appointment in class when you come in to read on a Thursday or email the class teacher to make the appointment. You are also able to sign up for a meeting through your class page on our website. You may also be contacted by the class teacher and invited in. Parent consultations are run differently in the Reception classes and you are given an appointment for your meeting.

Primary School Applications September 2023

If you have a child that turns 4 years old this academic year, (1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023), then you only have until the end of this week to apply for the Reception class starting in September 2023.

The application form can be found on the Council website and the closing date to submit the form is the **15th January 2023** so please do not be late with your application.

And Finally

As always thank you so much for all the support you give to Jenny Hammond School. We have had a great autumn term and look forward to the rest of the academic year. We will shortly be sending out a questionnaire to parents and carers to ask you a few questions about how you think we're doing so please look out for that next week. In the meantime I hope that 2023 brings you all good health and happiness.

Happy New Year!

*Best wishes
Deborah*

Website:

www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk

Twitter:

@jennyhammondE11

Download the Jenny Hammond App from your app store. Please note that if you get an App message from us you need to swipe down on the message rather than click on it otherwise it just disappears!

The Remainder of the Academic Year

Spring Term 2023

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

Children come back on Thursday 5th January 2023

NSPCC Number Day – Friday 3rd February

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

Sports for Schools - Tuesday, 21st February

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March

Children's Mental Health Week – Monday 6th to Friday 10th February

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 1st May 2023

The King's Coronation – Monday 8th May 2023 – School closed
(Additional Bank Holiday)

Year 6 SATS

Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May

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

Children break up for the summer on Thursday 20th July 2023 at 2pm

Staff INSET Day – Friday 21st July

Gates open between 8.55am and 9.05am each day

Please check class newsletters for more dates related to your child's own class.

Please note that the school academic calendar dates for 2023/24 is being taken to Governors on the 25th January to be ratified and will be sent to all parents via parentmail and paper copy at the end of January.