



Head Teacher Newsletter April 2023

Welcome Back

I hope you have all had a lovely break and enjoyed the sunshine and the rain! The children, as always, have come back into school ready to learn and walking around the school and going into the classrooms the children have made an excellent start to the new term.

Some of you will be aware that we have a few teacher pregnancies at the moment, in fact we have 4 which means we have 4 new Jenny Hammond babies on their way. Nafisa in Year 3 will be the first to go on maternity leave in a few weeks' time and Reuben will be teaching the class. Reuben has already started at our school and will be team teaching and planning with Nafisa and getting to know the children, parents and the school routines before Nafisa goes.

After the May half term and towards the middle of June, Fenella, in Year 2 will also go on maternity leave followed by Sakina in Year 3. Ashleigh, the other Year 2 teacher will be going on maternity leave at the end of the academic year so as you can see its all change at Jenny Hammond, for a little while anyway.

We have a couple of other changes as well. As you know we said goodbye to Georgia at the end of last term and Alyson has decided to step away from teaching for a little while longer so she can spend more time with her baby. We wish her all the very best and look forward to seeing more of her and baby Reuben when she continues to visit the school.

As we move into the summer term we have been fortunate to recruit 2 new teachers. Daniel you may already know as he is teaching in Reception whilst Gilly is on maternity leave and we are really pleased to welcome him as a permanent member of our teaching team. Amelia, an experienced teacher currently teaching in a school in the Isle of Dogs, will also be joining us on our teaching team in September. Gilly will be back by the end of the summer term ready to have a new class in September which we look forward to.

Ofsted

We had our ungraded OFSTED inspection at the end of February and yesterday afternoon the report was sent to school and we are now able to share it with you. We have sent the report to you on Parentmail and we have also put it on our website today. As this was an ungraded inspection we don't have a change in judgement and we remain a 'Good' school. We are very proud of everything we do at Jenny Hammond and in particular the children and staff. We were really pleased that the inspector and the report recognised the good practice at our school, the education, care and experiences given to your children and the support that we get from the parents. We were overwhelmed with the positive comments made on the parent survey by you and the recognition you gave to the school so thank you and as always thank you to our school Governors for your continued support and time you give to the school.

Let Girls Play & Let Boys Play

After having to postpone the Let Girls and Let Boys play events before the break because of the bad weather they are now taking place tomorrow for the girls and on Thursday for the boys. Could you please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit on the appropriate day. The girls will spend the morning on different sporting activities related to football and the boys will be learning the skills of netball.

Strike Action

There are 2 more teacher strike days planned as the pay offer to teachers was overwhelmingly rejected by the members of the National Education Union. The first strike is planned for **Thursday 27th April** and the second day is planned for **Tuesday 2nd May** which follows on from the Bank Holiday on the Monday. As yet we don't know who will be taking strike action but we will inform you of whether we are open to all children as soon as possible.

Shaking Up Shakespeare



Anthony Glen from Shaking Up Shakespeare will be working with Year 1 classes on 2 different plays this year. Each class will have 3 days of working on the play and will perform it in the hall in front of friends and family and other classes.

Holly class will be working on The Tempest with Anthony from **Monday 24th April to Wednesday 26th April** and will perform their play in the afternoon of the **26th April at 2pm** in the school hall. **Please note this is a change of date from my last newsletter to avoid any potential strike action being taken.**

Sequoia class will work with Anthony on **Wednesday 3rd May to Friday 5th May** performing their play in the afternoon on **Friday 5th May at 2pm**. **Again this is a change of date.**

Parents and carers will be able to come and watch their child perform with doors opening at 1.50pm. You will be able to take your child home when the performance finishes and their siblings.

POWER Projects – Change of hand in and exhibition days

Each class from Year 1 to Year 5 will again have a POWER project to complete this half term and the children should have taken home their POWER project sheet before the break.

The handing in date can be found on the sheet however we have changed this to give children an additional weekend to work on their projects. Each half term projects will now be handed in on the last Monday of every half term, so this half term the hand in day is Monday 22nd May and the exhibition day to parents is now on the last Wednesday of every half term so that it doesn't clash with parents and carers coming in to read on the Thursday morning. The children should bring their work into school on the last Monday of this half term where they will present their projects to the class in a presentation lasting no more than 10 minutes. The parent exhibition then follows on the Wednesday of the same week when you are invited to come into school with your child and go to their classroom where all the children will share their work with you.

If you need another copy of the POWER project sheet then please email your class email and the teacher will be able to give your child a copy or check the class page on our website.

Year 6 will be given a POWER project to complete after their SATs.

There is an expectation that all children complete **at least** one of the suggestions on the POWER project sheet with older children completing more. Handwritten work is encouraged and projects should not be given on USB sticks as we cannot use them on our computers to share with the class.

Summer Term Newsletter

It is also expected that children continue with daily reading and KS2 complete their Reading and Writing journals.

Year 6 Easter Booster Classes

Every year we hold Easter classes for Year 6 as revision for the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) they take in May. This year the majority of children in Year 6 were able to attend over the 3 days and we are really impressed with how hard they all worked. Very well done Year 6, I am very proud of your work ethic and great behaviour for learning. I would also like to thank the teachers for giving up some of their Easter holiday to give the children that last minute boost in learning prior to their SATS.

Year 6 SATS

Year 6 tests will start on **Tuesday 9th May** for 4 days and the children are invited to come to school early from **8.15am** over the 4 days where the teachers can help them with any last minute revision in their classrooms and where they will be given a breakfast to start their day off. The children will take a Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test on Tuesday, Reading on Wednesday, 2 Maths papers on Thursday and 1 further Maths paper on Friday.

Assessments in other Year groups

In June other assessments take place in certain Year groups. Year 4 will take an online multiplication test during a 3 week window from Monday 5th June and Year 1 will also be carrying out the phonics assessment from Monday 12th June to Friday 16th June. Year 2 will be carrying out assessment throughout May which support the teacher's assessment in their end of year report.

Parents' evening and children's reports

There are no parent consultations this term as the teachers are using the time after school to write the children's reports. However if you need to speak to the teacher about something of importance then please phone the school office or email your teacher directly through their class email.

Parents' evening takes place in July with dates to follow.

School Menu

We have moved to a Summer lunch menu which rotates over 2 weeks. As always there is a vegetarian option every day and there is a vegan option as well. Tuesday is meat free and when we do serve meat it is halal. It is fish on a Friday. We are currently waiting for the menu to be published by the council so we can add it to our website and share it with you.

We will be celebrating the **King's Coronation with an outdoor picnic** where any child having a school lunch will be provided with a picnic box to enjoy outside with the other children having packed lunch. This is taking place on **Thursday 4th May** and the menu was emailed to parents yesterday so you can choose whether you would like your child to have a school lunch on that day.

Trips

You will see on your class newsletters whether your class has a school trip this half term. When a school trip is arranged you will receive a letter from your class teacher with a slip to complete and return giving permission for your child to go. Without that permission we cannot take your child unless it is considered a local trip which you sign permission for in the entry profile document completed when your child started here. Whilst we do try and keep the cost of trips small and often subsidise them or fund them completely we can't always avoid a cost particularly if we have booked the children to take part in workshops as well. Trips are paid on parentpay and will appear on your account once the trip has been booked by the school.

For class trips please check the individual class newsletter that you can find on our school website.

Summer Term Newsletter

Monster Phonics Online Reading

As a school we are using the Monster Phonics program to support the children's early reading development and as you know your children take home a Monster Phonics book relevant to their current levels each week along with a Core Book for you to read together.

You also have access to e-books which give your child the opportunity to practise reading books in their current stage. This will also give you the opportunity to revisit books and give the children more confidence.

Please find below the link for the Monster Phonics e-books:

<https://monsterphonics.com/register/ebooks-whole-scheme/?ca=65c5d869b2f5f2a758f3da0fd07a5a05>

We are in the process of resetting access to the e-books suitable for where your child is currently at. When you set up your account please use your child's first and last names in the log in process along with the email account you will use to log them in on, this will enable us to do this process more efficiently.

Please do let us know if there are any issues.

School Streets

Thank you to all who took part in Street Tag, you were all brilliant! We did so well and it was wonderful to have everyone so engaged with the programme. Unfortunately we didn't win but we came a very close 2nd to George Tomlinson Primary in the Waltham Forest group. Everyone made a fantastic effort! The Street Tag leaderboard has restarted and is still active if you would like to continue to take part. However, the competition we were involved in has now closed. The end date for the table to reset is in March 2024 so as a school, we will not continue but it is a fun addition to being outside! Thank you all again for your continued support with P.E!

And Finally

This year, Eid ul Fitr 2023 is expected to be celebrated on Friday, 21st of April 2023, or on Saturday, 22nd of April 2023. However, the exact date is subject to the sighting of the moon of Shawwal, 1444, the 10th month of the Islamic Calendar.

To all of our families celebrating Eid this weekend, have a wonderful time celebrating and if you are celebrating on Friday please let us know so we can mark your child as religious observance. Eid Mubarak.

Best wishes
Deborah

Dates For Your Diary

Earth Day

Friday 21st April

The teachers and children will not be using electricity throughout most of the school day so we hope the sun is shining brightly through the windows!

Here are some useful links you may want to share with your children

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52357230>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/green-planet>

<https://www.bbcearth.com/earth-day>

Shaking Up Shakespeare Workshop

Holly Class Performance

Wednesday 26th April at 2pm

May Day Bank Holiday– School Closed

Monday 1st May

Shaking Up Shakespeare Workshop

Sequoia Class Performance

Friday 5th May at 2pm

King's Coronation – School Closed

Monday 8th May

Year 6 SATS

Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May

We are bringing our Sports days forward so that Fenella can be here before she starts her maternity leave! More details will follow nearer the time.

KS2 Sports Day

Thursday 18th May

Reception & KS1 Sports Day

Friday 19th May

POWer Project hand in

Monday 22nd May

POWer Project Parent Presentation

Wednesday 24th May

Children Break Up

Friday 26th May at 3.15pm/3.20pm

Half Term

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Children Return to School

Monday 5th June

Children break up for the summer

Thursday 20th July at **2.00pm**

School Calendar for 2023/24

Autumn Term 2023

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September 2023

Year 1 to Year 6 Children Start – Wednesday 6th September 2023

Reception Children Start – Wednesday 6th September 2023 (Half days for the first 3 days finishing at 12 midday)

Half term holiday Monday 23rd October 2023 to Friday 27th October 2023

Children break up for the Christmas break on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 2.30pm

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Thursday 21st December 2023

Christmas Holiday Friday 22nd December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

Spring Term 2024

Children come back on Monday 8th January 2024

Half term holiday Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024

Children break up Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 2.30pm

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Thursday 28th March 2024

Easter holiday Friday 29th March 2024 to Friday 12th April 2024.

Summer Term 2024

Children come back on Monday 15th April 2024

Bank holiday: Monday 6th May – school closed to children

Half term holiday Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st 2024

Children break up for the summer on Tuesday 23rd July 2024 at 2pm

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Wednesday 24th July 2024