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'Engage - Inspire - Empower'
Head Teacher Newsletter
October 2019

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. This half term is always very busy for the children with pantomime visits, Christmas parties and a Carol Concert alongside all of their school work.

In this newsletter you will find the dates for all of the events that have been arranged over the half term and the dates will also be included in our weekly newsletter that goes out every Friday by Parentmail, through our APP and is available on our school website.

Please note that we have arranged an **INSET Day for Monday 6th January** so school will be closed to children. This means we have now booked all of our INSET days for this academic year. The remaining 3 INSET days when school is closed to children are; **Friday 20th December 2019, Monday 6th January 2020 and Monday 20th July 2020.** The children will therefore break up for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 19th December at 2.30pm and return to school on Tuesday 7th January. This gives you an additional 2 days that fall either side of the Christmas holidays so please book your holidays within those dates.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, (SEND)

At our school we are committed to the equal inclusion of all children in all areas of school life. We recognise the diverse and individual needs of all of our children and take into account the additional support required for those children with SEND.

Our school is a place rich with children with a variety of needs. What has always been successful and wonderful is the understanding and compassion of our school community of those different needs. It is important that we continue to remember that if you notice a child displaying behaviour difficulties not to judge these children as being 'naughty' or 'spiteful' intentionally. There is always an underlying reason for that behaviour. This could be from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), they may be experiencing some form of trauma, the list is endless.

I know you will continue to support us in supporting all of our children at our school.

Saying goodbye to our Learning Mentor

Rosie Williams, our Learning Mentor, will be leaving her Learning Mentor role at Christmas however we are not saying goodbye. Rosie is a trained Counsellor and although she will be reducing her hours she will become our School Councillor continuing with the therapeutic work that already takes place.

Signing in at Breakfast Club

From Tuesday 29th October we are asking all parents that drop their children to breakfast club to tick the register against their child's name that is now kept at the front desk in the entrance hall. We are hoping that by doing this it releases the breakfast club staff to interact more with your children as they eat their breakfast and play.

Prams, Pushchairs and Scooters!

We recently had a Health & Safety audit and the auditors are returning to revisit as is their practice. One of their concerns and ours is around the amount of pushchairs, prams and scooters there are, particularly outside of Year 1 and 2, on a Tuesday and Thursday when parents are invited into school. The concern is around exits and corridors being blocked which could put our children and parents in danger if we needed to quickly vacate the building or move into a different space. We are looking into providing a pram shelter for parents to keep their prams and pushchairs outside but in the meantime they should be kept under the shelter of the roof outside of the children's entrance with you of course taking your younger child inside. If you have a new born or very young baby then please speak to your class teacher or me and we can make arrangements for the pram to be looked after inside of the school.

POWER Projects

Well done to all the children for the effort and hard work that went into their POWER projects last half term. The children were really enthusiastic in sharing with the other children, staff and parents, everything that they had done and what they had learnt during the process. It was lovely to hear about the children working together with their parents/carers or older brothers and sisters on their projects and everyone getting involved.

Anti- Bullying Week

This year's Anti-Bullying Week theme is 'Change Starts With Us' and we are supporting the theme by each class looking at what they can change to make things better for everyone and to confront bullying with a 'WEAR ODD SOCKS DAY' on Tuesday 12th November.



Children can also buy wristbands with messages saying 'Change Starts With Us' and 'United Against Bullying' for £1.00. Year 6 Ambassadors will be selling them in the playground in the morning during that week.

Poppy Appeal

In support of Remembrance Day on the 11th November, we are now selling poppies and other Remembrance Day gifts in the school playground in the mornings and at the school office in return for a donation. The children and staff will hold a 2 minute silence on Monday 11th November at 11am.



BBC Children in Need

We would like everyone to participate in our **Children in Need** fundraiser this year which falls on Friday 15th November. However as we are having individual school photos on that day we will take part the day before on **Thursday 14th November**. We're asking everyone to come to school in clothes with spots on even if they're on your pyjamas, 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.

Keeping Children Safe in the Online World – workshop for parents and carers of children in Years 4, 5 and 6

The Race Equality Foundation has been commissioned by Waltham Forest Council to deliver one off 2 hour online safety workshops to support parents of children up to the age of 18. They have developed the workshop from their accredited and evidence based 13 week parenting support programme 'Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities', which they have been delivering across the borough since January 2017.

The workshop on **Tuesday 12th November** at 9.15am is delivered by way of PowerPoint slides, group discussion and thought provoking activities. Parents do not need to worry about being computer savvy. This is more about getting parents to reflect on their values and parenting approach. Topics covered include privacy settings, creating boundaries around computer use, online grooming, fake news, bullying, sexting, peer pressure and body image. Refreshments will be provided and a letter will go out this week for you to sign up to the workshop.

Year 6 Shakespeare performance

Anthony Glen from Shaking up Shakespeare will be in working with Year 6 children on a Shakespeare play from Monday 4th November for 4 days. The children last had an opportunity to work with him in Year 1. The performance to parents, carers and friends will take place at **5.00pm, Thursday 7th November** in the hall. Year 6 children are asked to be back in school for 4.40pm on the day of their performance.

Book Fair

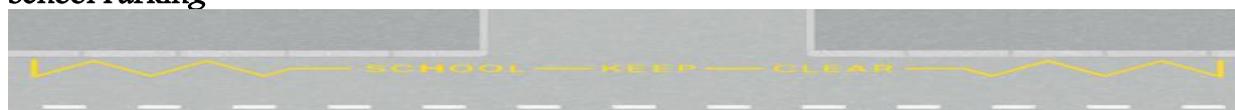
We are having a Book Fair again this term starting on **Thursday 7th November** and running until **Wednesday 13th November** where you will have an opportunity before and after school to buy books for your children. From the money we take at Book Fair we are able to take a percentage of the total in books for our classroom collections. The book fair will be held in **The Lodge** opening from 8.55am to 9.15am and again at 3.30pm to 4pm each day.



Dogs!

Can I remind parents that we don't allow dogs that can't be carried on to our school playground and we ask that you arrange for your dog to be looked after at the school gate if you bring your dog to school.

School Parking



It has been brought to our attention by several concerned parents, that there are an increasing number of cars either double parked outside the entrances of the school on Elsham Road and Worsley Road, or pulling up on the yellow zig zag lines for parents and carers to let their children out of the cars for school. This is a huge safety issue for us as a school. The safety of your children is of paramount importance to us and we are concerned that the inevitable will happen and there will be an accident. We do appreciate that parking around the school can be difficult, but if it means that you need to park a little further away and walk your child to school, at least they will not be in danger of crossing between double and incorrectly parked cars. Please be considerate to the safety of all our children by not parking on the Zig Zags or double yellow lines.

Double Yellow Lines

Double yellow lines indicate no stopping at any time. There are double yellow lines on the corner of Elsham Road and Cary Road and whilst we understand that if you hold a disability parking badge you are entitled to park on double yellow lines, we would ask you kindly to avoid this corner where possible as it makes it very difficult for cars to pass.

Theatre in your front room!

Local theatre company Blackhorse Arts are looking for families who live in the Cann Hall council ward to take part in an amazing project. They will pair you up with a local professional theatre-maker (it might be an actor, a puppeteer, a comedian, a dancer...), who will create a brand new performance inspired by you and your family, then come to your home to perform it, for you and any neighbours or friends you'd like to invite! And it's all free, supported by Waltham Forest Borough of Culture and the Mayor of London. You'd just need to be free to meet your theatre-maker on 23rd November, and for the performance on 30th November. Go to www.blackhorsearts.co.uk for more information or to sign up, or call / message Blackhorse Arts on 07780 672434

Christmas, Christmas, Christmas (Already!)



Christmas Carol Concerts

This year the children will be putting on a Carol Concert for your enjoyment. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will perform together and children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will perform together. Reception will perform separately. Year 6 will not be taking part as they took part in a Shakespeare performance in November. The Carol Concerts will take place in December and dates will be published in the next

weekly newsletter. Unfortunately due to space parents can only request 2 tickets. Letters will go out in November for you to request tickets.

Christmas Parties

All the children will have a Christmas party on **Friday 13th December** where hopefully Father Christmas will have time to visit! You will receive further details about this nearer the time.

Christmas Pantomime at The Hackney Empire (Year 5 and 6)

We are again taking the children to the theatre this time to see **Dick Whittingham** on **Tuesday 10th December**; Letters will be going out shortly with all the details.

Christmas Pantomime at Theatre Royal, Stratford (Year 2, 3 & 4)

The children will also be watching **Dick Whittingham** on **Wednesday 4th (Year 2)**, **Thursday 5th (Year 3)** and **Tuesday 10th December, (Year 4)**. Again letters will be going out shortly.

Christmas Show (Reception & Year 1)

We have arranged for our younger children to go to a performance of **'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'** at Stratford Circus on **Thursday 12th December, (Rec Conker & Y1 Sequoia)** and **Monday 16th December, (Rec Acorn & Y1 Holly)**. More information will follow in a letter.

Christmas Bazaar

The bazaar this year will be held on **Friday 6th December from 3.30pm until 5.45pm**. There will be plenty for your children to do and games for your children to play and of course Father Christmas will be there with his little helper. If you would like to become involved in helping to organise the bazaar and can help out in any way can you please see Sharon Joseph or Michelle in school who are always grateful for any help they can get. A meeting will be held on **Wednesday 6th November in The Lodge at 9.10am** for anyone that can help in any way.

Please note that school closes at 3pm on that day although you can wait in the playground for the Christmas Bazaar to open.

Raffle tickets will be on sale towards the end of November for you to win some great prizes however in the meantime donations for prizes will be gratefully received.

And finally

A quick reminder that you can find out everything about the school including curriculum information, newsletters, dates, Jenny Hammond TV and lots more on our school website at: www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk or on our App, just search Jenny Hammond in your App store



You can also follow us on Twitter at **@JennyHammondE11**

Best wishes
Deborah

Dates For Your Diary

Year 5 Trip – Docklands Museum

Thursday 31st October

Year 6 Shaking Up Shakespeare – 4 day workshop

Monday 4th to Thursday 7th November

Book Fair

Thursday 7th to Wednesday 13th November

Year 6 Performance to friends and family

Thursday 7th November at 5pm.

Anti-Bullying week – Wear Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 12th November

Children in Need – Wear Spots to School

Thursday 14th November

Individual Photos

Friday 15th November

Year 4 Trip – Tower of London

Friday 22nd November

Whole School Flu Nasel Spray Inoculations

Tuesday 3rd December

Year 2 Trip – Panto – Theatre Royal Stratford

Wednesday 4th December

Year 3 Trip – Panto – Theatre Royal Stratford

Thursday 5th December



Christmas Bazaar

Friday 6th December, 3.30pm – 5.45pm

School Closes at 3pm

Year 4 Trip – Panto – Theatre Royal Stratford

Tuesday 10th December

Year 5 & 6 Trip – Panto – Hackney Empire

Tuesday 10th December

Reception & Year 1: We're going on a Bear Hunt Stratford Circus

Thursday 12th (R Conker & Y1 Sequoia)

Monday 16th December (R Acorn & Y1 Holly)

**Children break up for Christmas:
Thursday 19th December at 2.30 pm**