



Mary Exton News



Autumn Term Newsletter 1

5th September 2018

Dear All,

Welcome back to school, and welcome to the Mary Exton Community to those of you who are joining us for the first time. It was lovely to see you all this morning looking very smart indeed! We hope you have all had an enjoyable break away and are now eager to start the autumn term. As usual there is a great deal planned for the term and we hope you are able to join us for as many of the events as possible. Attached are the diary dates which have been updated over the holiday.

School Day Times

As a reminder for the start of term

	Reception	KS1 & KS2
Starts at:	8.50am	8.45am
Ends at:	3.10pm	3.20pm

School Office News

Unfortunately Miss Barik will not be joining the Office Team. We are currently recruiting, and Mrs Standing has kindly agreed to carry out additional hours in the interim. We will keep you all posted. As mentioned in July, we have a change in email address for the school office. For any day to day queries, including attendance, school dinners, uniform, trips and any changes to pick up arrangements, please use office@maryexton.herts.sch.uk as this is the address that Mrs Standing will be accessing on a daily basis.

New Uniform & Badges

Mrs Standing has sent home order forms and instructions for applying the new badges, which arrived with us over the holiday. They are iron on badges and once we have received an order we will process as soon as we are able to, usually on a Wednesday. Any bag or badge orders need to be processed with an order form so that we can keep track of stock and for audit purposes. They were sent home yesterday and can be found in the main entrance.

Diary Dates & Website

Diary Dates will be sent out with each newsletter and are also being added to the school website. Currently the website is up to date for diary dates until Spring 2019, and I will shortly update for the remainder of the academic year.

GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations

You will shortly receive a copy of our updated Privacy Statements which conform to the new GDPR requirements. On the 25th May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force in the UK and are new data protection regulations built upon the Data Protection Act of 1998.

The GDPR require public authorities and businesses to identify the lawful basis for storing personal data, audit information we already hold and take a 'data protection by design and default' approach to personal data. We take data protection very seriously at Mary Exton School and in line with GDPR requirements, we appointed two Data Protection Officers, Sue Hughes & Chris Roblett, to oversee our approach to data management and protection. Over the summer, we have been reviewing our current policies and practices to ensure that we meet all these requirements. All documents will shortly be added to the school website and sent out for your reference. We have also been reviewing our consent forms in line with these changes, as a lack of response

cannot be interpreted as implied consent. These forms will be re-issued at the start of next week and we ask that you return all paperwork to us promptly to ensure that valuable admin time is not spent chasing responses.

Snacks

Please can you ensure that any snacks which are provided at break times are either fruit or vegetables. Please also remember that we are a nut free school.

Reading Books

Over the summer we have had an audit of our reading books. For consistency we have adopted the colour book banding system which is used by the majority of schools and educational book publishers. This means we have dispensed with the old animal banding system. Teachers will match children to the relevant colour band of book based on their previous animal band.

Secondary School Visits

As it is the time of year for the Secondary School Tours for our current Year 6's, Miss Pope has sent a letter and form home indicating which tours you will be attending and for you to indicate the meal choice for those returning in time for school lunch. Please can you complete and return to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Swimming – Year 3 and Year 6

Year 3 will start their swimming lessons on Tuesday the 18th September. You will shortly be receiving a letter from Mrs Thompson with further details. Year 3 will continue swimming until the end of the 1st half of the Summer term. Year 6 will then focus on Water Safety until the end of the Summer Term.

Lost Property

Lost Property is now located in the main entrance should you need to check for any mis-placed items.

Premises News

Thanks go to Mr Woolston for all the work which has been carried out over the school break. There are many areas which have had a re-vamp, and thorough audits have taken place. The school hall and dining room have been painted and various office spaces have been adapted to allow for parent meetings to take place. The work on the area outside the dining room has started, so that Year 1 can enjoy the use of an additional learning area.

School Clubs

Tomorrow you will receive the Autumn Term Clubs letter. Please return this to the office as soon as possible. Clubs will then be allocated and will start week beginning the 17th September. In addition to the weekly clubs, we will be starting a Running Club which is open to all. Mrs Taylor will be organising the club that is open to all children from Reception to Year 6. The club will run at lunchtimes three times a week. It is very informal club where the children can come for as many sessions as they wish each week. The children will be able to track the number of kilometres they run over the term and will be rewarded with house points at specific milestones. The challenge is to run a marathon (42km) over the term.

PTA AGM

The provisional date for the PTA AGM is 26th September. The AGM is held in the school hall and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible come and join us.

SEND

Please be aware of a slight change to SEND Surgeries, the revised times are Tuesdays at 2.45pm-3pm or after school and Wednesdays before 12pm.

Angharad Paterson

Headteacher