



Newsletter

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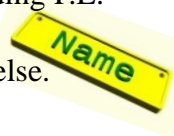
October 2018
12/10/18

As we get further into October, I'd like to ask everyone to please carefully consider the weather forecast. We currently are seeing some unusually warm days with some cold days. With nearly 500 children on site we do tend to ensure we go outside on most days – so please ensure that on the colder days everyone has a coat.



The Early Years curriculum certainly expects Nursery and Reception children to explore activities outside, and I have noticed several parents tending to take coats back home again after dropping children off at 8.45am.

Please ensure your child's name is written (or label sewn) into coats and all uniform (including P.E. kits). We will always return 'found' items to children – items without names go into the lost property box near the office and become almost indistinguishable amongst everything else.



Jeans for Genes

Thank you for all your support. Your £1 donations raised £353.85 for the charity.



Harvest Festival



We celebrate our Harvest after half term with the children having a non-uniform day (no football shirts – it's too emotional!) on Wednesday 31st October. Instead of bringing £1 for charity we ask everyone to bring a food item (tins, packets – in date!) or a non-food item (shampoo, toilet rolls etc.) for our Harvest collection. All the donated items go to families in the Rainham area via the Trussell Trust Foodbank. Some classes have already started collecting their donations. Please help us to help our community.

Attendance and Medical Conditions

As you are aware this term we have followed Havering Safeguarding guidance and where necessary conducted home visits (or informed Children Services/Police) if we have not been informed of a reason for your child's absence and have been unable to contact you. We all want all of our children to be safe – please ensure you phone in to tell us if your child is off unwell. We currently have a few cases of Chicken Pox and the coughs and colds have started.



It is important that when you ring in to inform us of your child's absence, you explain why your child is off sick. This allows us to track any common symptoms – for example we can then identify viruses like Norovirus/flu/chicken pox etc. and inform the relevant authorities. From time to time we have children who are in the process of receiving medical treatment which may affect their immune system. It is then vital that we tell these parents so the hospital conducting the treatments can be informed.

One of our pupils is currently receiving medical treatment which puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles and I have been asked by Great Ormond Street Hospital to ask for your co-operation in the following: "the best way to protect our pupil from measles is for all children at school to be immunised against measles. Please would you discuss measles immunisation with your GP if your child has not already received it. If your child is suspected of having chicken pox you should let us know immediately. It is also important that you let us know if there is shingles in your household. Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and well-being of our pupil who is at risk, does depend on the co-operation of all other parents and we hope you can help us".



Epi-pens

The other major medical information to bring to your attention concerns Epi-pens.

There is currently a nationwide shortage of Epi-pens.

Obviously the pens are vital for children and adults on our site who are likely to have a severe reaction to an allergen.

Whilst the school is able to purchase our own Epi-pens as a 'back up' resource, our current Epi-pens are now out of date and we have not been able to resource any replacements.

I ask everyone to please check all food products for children with allergies. Ensure school has a pen if your child needs one! We would always dial 999 in case of an emergency – please help to prevent us being in this situation.



Attendance and Punctuality

A reminder that as we move towards half term, we move towards everyone entering the building between 8.45 and 8.55am. You have been lucky to have

a few minutes leeway over the past couple of weeks as we've waited for KS1 parents to walk back around the playground (and I've not had to rush in for Assembly every day!!)

Please note we will be locking the gates at 8.55am promptly from half term as everyone will be going straight in one door (and inside the building Assembly starts for everyone at 9am promptly!)



After School / Lunch Time Clubs

We were inundated with requests for Clubs! A reminder that staff run these voluntarily, receiving no additional pay. We have had to introduce a charge for Cookery and Crafty Makes – however, some schools are now charging for all clubs. We shall try to continue to offer free activities. We have waiting lists for several clubs now – so please be mindful that if your child fails to attend or you are not prompt collecting them, then they will lose their club place to a child on the waiting list. Similarly, if your child has changed their mind about the activity then please let us know so another child can take their place.



Trips

We have booked various trips out and school based workshops for the year. For this term we have:

Yr R: "People who help us" visitors

Yr 1: Dogsworthy Magic Show (Road Safety) & Rainham Library visit

Yr 2: Dogsworthy Magic Show (Road Safety) & Rainham Hall visit

Yr 3: Cat Nine Lives Theatre Road Safety Show & Colchester Zoo

Yr 4: Cat Nine Lives Theatre Road Safety Show & Viking Day

Yr 5: National Gallery Visit

Yr 6: Duxford Imperial War Museum Visit

We currently pay for the in-house workshops and visitors, asking for Parental Contributions towards external visits only. Please ensure you return permission slips and contributions promptly. We have to pay for coaches, tickets, etc. by deadlines – it is very upsetting when children are unable to go on a trip because a permission slip is returned after a deadline. Your contributions are very important for the viability of the trips. Last term's shortfall for trip costs meant the school contributed **£2,271.17** towards the trips. This will not be sustainable as budgets become tighter. We value trips and visitors – and need your support to keep them alive please!



Staffing

Mrs Paice (nee Miss Hart) was able to remain with us over the Summer and postponed her return to Canada until October half term. I take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and commitment whilst she has been with us and we wish her every success back home. Bon Voyage!



Building Works

As you will see in the KS2 playground, our new EYFS block is developing well. We hope to have the building completed just after Christmas, so we can begin to fit out the interior. Once the new gates and path (through the Recreation Grounds) are completed we will move our main entrance, closing our current black gated entry on Upminster Road South. I thank you for all your continued support when entering and exiting. We are all aware that the pavement there is not wide enough for a school of almost 500 pupils. Thank you for remaining vigilant and careful when entering/exiting.

Dates for your Diary

Class Assemblies – we hope you can join us for the 15 minute assembly.

All Class Assemblies start at 9.00 a.m.

17/10/18: Class 6KV	07/11/18: Class 5MM	14/11/18: Class 4LHu	21/11/18: Class 6/5BH
22 nd – 26 th October:	HALF TERM		
Tuesday 30 th October:	Yr 6 Duxford Imperial War Museum trip		
	Yr 3/4 Cat Nine Lives Theatre Road Safety Show		
Wednesday 31 st October:	Harvest Festival (non-uniform, donate items)		
Friday 2 nd November:	Homework Projects due in		
Tuesday 6 th November:	Yr 1/2 Dogsworthy Magic Show (Road Safety)		
Wednesday 7 th November:	Class 1CT visit to Rainham Library		
Monday 12 th November:	Class 2JH visit to Rainham Hall		
Tuesday 13 th November:	Class 2LL visit to Rainham Hall		
Wednesday 14 th November:	Yr R/1 Dental Health Team in – Fluoride Programme		
	Class 1LH visit to Rainham Library		
Thursday 15 th November:	Yr 3 trip to Colchester Zoo		
Monday 19 th November:	Yr 5 visit to Rainham Library (Ade Adepitan)		
Tuesday 20 th November:	School Nurse Drop In session for Parents 9.00-9.30am		
Thursday 22 nd November:	Yr 4 Viking Day in school		
w/c 26 th November:	Assessment Week		
Saturday 1 st December:	Rainham Christmas Fayre & Christingle Service		
Wednesday 5 th December:	9:15am Christmas Concert – Yr 6 & 6/5BH		
Thursday 6 th December:	9:15am Christmas Concert – Yr 5		
Friday 7 th December:	9:15am Christmas Concert – Yr 4		
Monday 10 th December:	Yr 5 National Gallery trip		
Tuesday 11 th December:	9:15am Christmas Concert – Yr 3		
Wednesday 12 th December:	9:15am Christmas Concert – Yr 2		
	11:00am / 2:45pm Christmas Concerts – Nursery		
Thursday 13 th December:	9:15am Christmas Concert – Yr 1		
Friday 14 th December:	9:15am Christmas Concert – Yr R		
	Christmas Jumper Day		
	Flu Immunisations – Yr R-6		
Tuesday 18 th December:	Friends of Rainham Village Christmas Fayre		
Wednesday 19 th December:	Christmas lunch –top up your child’s sQuid Account in advance!		
	Last Day of Term		
Monday 7 th January 2019:	First Day of Spring Term.		



S.E. Carter,
Headteacher