



## Yardley Primary School Newsletter September 2024



18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Hello and a slightly belated welcome to the new academic year and a big hello to all our new parents in the Reception classes who have recently joined us.

### **Mrs Loftin**

Mrs Loftin, one of our teaching assistants who has worked here for 20 years, is retiring to the countryside this week. Like many of our staff, Mrs Loftin started working for the school whilst her child was a pupil here and has stuck around long after he left. Aside from her work with the teachers and pupils, she has also filled the unofficial role of social secretary, organizing countless collections for leavers, weddings etc. Everybody at the school wishes her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

### **Building works**

The conversion of the IT suite into a classroom was completed this week. These works were a couple of weeks overdue so Class 1 have been camping out in the hall but will be moving into their very nice new room on Thursday.



The conversion of Class 15 into 2 new classrooms is progressing. Most of the big work such as foundations and the demolition of the external wall have been completed and there has been little noise or disruption to the pupils. These works are due to be completed in November. We are hoping that the builders' compound in the KS1 playground can be reduced soon so we can reclaim more outside space.

### **This year's term dates for those new to the school (or if you just misplaced them)**

#### Autumn term

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Inset Day (school closed to pupils) – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
Half term – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

#### Spring term

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
Half term – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

#### Summer Term

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
May bank holiday – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
May half term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May



### Attendance/October Half Term

Our overall attendance was slightly above national average last year for the first time since the pandemic. The biggest negative effect on attendance is term time holidays. You may be aware that the October 2024 half term in Waltham Forest, which is what the school went with when setting our term dates, is a week earlier than the majority of the country and begins Mon 21<sup>st</sup>. Coupled with this, Chingford Foundation School, have moved to a 2 week half term meaning they are also off the week beginning the 28<sup>th</sup>. Please try and book any holidays in the week that is Yardley's half term...if the Center Parc's website is anything to go by, they will be cheaper on those dates anyway.

### Reminders

The now traditional list of reminders to parents and pupils of things to do and not to do...

- No dogs are to be brought into the school grounds at anytime (with the exception of assistance dogs).
- No leather footballs in the playgrounds please. They can be used on the field after school.
- If your child comes by bike or scooter, please ask them to dismount when entering the KS1 or KS2 playgrounds. As part of the re-modelling works, there will be a brand-new scooter park at the lower end of KS1 playground which will be an improvement on the current area behind the canteen.
- Please, please, please label your child's clothing, shoes and other items (bags, water bottles etc) with their name. Pupils need a PE kit, including change of footwear, in school at all times.
- Earrings should be of the stud variety only and not hooped.
- Any pupils with long hair need to have a hairband on them to tie it back for PE.
- No nuts to be brought to school in packed lunches or as snacks.
- Parents should not be driving into school at any time during the school day. We do allow parents to drive in after 5pm if collecting from Wraparound care as after school clubs will have finished by then and pupils will not be on site.

### Tesco Strong Starts

A reminder that Yardley was selected for one of their Stronger Starts collections as part of the fundraising to go towards creating a sensory garden in the early years play area. The voting is open to the end of September and you can vote for the school in the large Waltham Abbey Tesco (and two Tesco Express stores in Hoddesdon). We always seem to be narrowly in second place when I pop in! The more votes we get the more money we can get with a maximum total of £1500 up for grabs. If you are doing your shopping in that Tesco please make sure you vote for Yardley!



Regards  
Mr Evans/Headteacher