



5th December 2024

We are rapidly approaching the end of longest half term most of us can remember but we still have quite a lot coming up in the last 2 weeks.

The children have been busy recently creating some fantastic new hall and corridor displays based on the work of famous artists.



Christmas dates

Years 1 to 4 enjoyed a performance from a visiting theatre company of the Beauty and the Beast pantomime in the school last Friday. Soon it will be their time to perform to you. We have 4 separate Christmas performances coming up

Fri 13th – KS2 carol concert outside and including stalls and food being organised by the PTA. Event will start at 3.30pm, with the carol concert at 4pm and the stalls running afterwards as well. This will also be our Christmas Jumper day with a £1 donation with funds going to the PTA)

Mon 16th Dec at 9.15am – C11 (performing nativity) with C14 and year 2

Tues 17th Dec at 9.15am – C12 (performing nativity) with C15 and year 2

Weds 18th Dec at 9.15am – C13 (performing nativity) with C16 and year 2

The PTA will be doing teas, coffees and snacks at the KS1 events

Weds 18th Dec is also the school's Christmas dinner day. Pupils can wear their non-uniform/Christmas jumpers again but there will be no donation required on this day.

Thursday 19th is the pupil's last day of term and will be an early finish. Early years and KS1 finishing at 2.25pm and KS2 finishing at 2.30pm.

Sporting results

We had a large number of pupils due to take part in the Waltham Forest Cross Country race last month. The boy's race started and half way through was interrupted by one of those large cows that graze on Chingford Plain blocking the route! Most of boys safely navigated around the bovine obstacle and finished the race, with Hayden Benjamin finishing in second place, but as not everyone finished, the team competition was declared void and the girls' race was unable to take place. Thank you to all the parents and children who gave up their Saturday morning.

In better news, our indoor 'Sportshall Athletics' teams completed a clean sweep and won the gold medals in the year 2, year 3/4 and Year 5/6 competitions. Congratulations to all the pupils who competed and who represented the school so well. Our Year 5/6 team will now represent Waltham Forest at the London Youth Games.



Siblings Group

A couple of years ago, Mrs Leigh started up a SIBS group at the school. This is a group for a small number of children who have a sibling with a physical disability or additional needs in their family. Mrs Burke has taken over the baton since Mrs Leigh's departure and they meet once a week assisted by a parent volunteer, Mrs Jenkins. It is a space in the week where these children can share their experiences with other children. This week they had the opportunity to attend a performance of the pantomime Dick Whittington at Hackney Empire and it seems a good time was had by all. I would like to thank Mrs Burke and Mrs Jenkins for organising the trip and also express my gratitude to the four London black cab drivers – Sean, Marvin and the 2 Dannys – who gave up their time to drive them to and from the venue.



School Trips

The school firmly believes that school trips are an important way of enhancing children's learning and providing opportunities that they might not get outside of school. We have been looking at creating 'seven before seven', which are seven key experiences we think all children should experience before leaving primary school. Our current list of these seven experiences is visiting an art gallery, zoo, theatre and museum, taking trips to central London and the seaside and going on a residential. We are hoping to have this in place next academic year as well as each year group having at least one other trip to support an area of the curriculum

The school makes no money from parents from school trips. When we cost up a visit, we look at the price of the activity and the travel there and then we usually ask for approximately half of what the cost per pupil is as a voluntary donation. We know that even this cost can sometimes be a big ask for some parents and so we try and we try and absorb as much of the cost as possible. Recently we have been using public transport for more visits and sporting events to further keep the prices down as the price of coach travel has risen steeply in the last couple of years. However, on a couple of trips recently, less than 50% of the parents have made a donation, making the cost to the school much higher than anticipated. This is putting future trips at risk of not happening. When your child's class does arrange a trip in the New Year, please make the donation promptly if you are able to as it will help to ensure that future trips are able to go ahead. This will also help us in continue with other things we provide at no cost to parents such as after - school clubs, our daily fruit delivery and Year 6 camp.



Term dates for academic year 2025-26

Here are the term dates for the next academic year. The October half term is back in sync with the rest of the country.

Autumn term

Weds 3rd Sept to Friday 19th Dec

Fri 24th Oct INSET day

Half term – Mon 27th Oct to Fri 31st Oct

Spring Term

Mon 5th Jan to Fri 27th March

Half term – Mon 16th Feb to Fri 20th Feb

Summer Term

Monday 13th April to Thurs 16th July

Half term – Mon 25th May to Fri 29th May

Staff changes

As previously announced, Mrs Loftin retired in October. She has been replaced by Mrs Corbett as lower KS2 teaching assistant. In the school office, Mrs Beaseley left us recently and I would like to thank her for all her hard work in her 7 years at the school. Stacey, who is currently our pupil welfare officer, is going to take over Mrs Beaseley's administration role. In turn, she is being replaced by Mrs Winters, who some of you will know as a parent at the school.

We have also taken on a student social worker – Dilara Soylu – and she will be working with both pupils and parents over the coming months.

Food Bank Collections

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who generously donated to our recent food and pet bank collections. We were able to make substantial donations to Highams Park Food Aid, South Chingford Congregational Church foodbank and the Celia Hammond Animal Trust.

This will most likely be the last newsletter before the festive season, so I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Regards
Mr Evans
Headteacher