



24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### World Book Day

World Book Day is on March 6<sup>th</sup> this year. As a school we don't tend to go down the dressing up as a book character route as it is expensive for parents and we end up with outfits that have some very tenuous links to books. Your child should have come home on the Friday before half term with a plain cotton drawstring bag which we would like them to decorate with a design based on one of their favourite books. This could be a picture of a story character (I'm expecting a lot of Dogmans this year!), the cover, a setting, a World Book Day 2025 idea or anything else that is book themed. The children will bring these in on the 6<sup>th</sup> and share with their classmates and then can keep them afterwards. We look forward to seeing their designs.

### Scooters

We had an incident after school recently where a pupil was knocked over by another pupil who was travelling quickly on a scooter. Luckily, they only suffered minor injuries. A reminder that no children should be using scooters in the school grounds before or after school. I do believe that scooting to school is a healthy way of getting here but children should be dismounting scooters (and bikes) once they reach the school gates.



Many children leave their scooters beside the canteen and this is fine but is not a particularly secure area. KS1 pupils may want to walk their scooters through the playground and leave their scooters in the new scooter parking that has been installed at the bottom of the KS1 playground.

### Wraparound Care

For many years, the breakfast and after school clubs were run by outside agencies and were never particularly busy. Since bringing them under the school's control they have been increasingly popular and whilst breakfast club can meet demand, we are oversubscribed for after school club. As the school takes on extra classes, we are looking into ways in which we can increase the capacity of after school club and hope to have these in place soon.

We have though been experiencing more parents arriving after the 6pm deadline to pick their children up from after school club. This is not fair on the staff, most of whom also work in the breakfast club, which



starts at 7.30am, and who are entitled to go home at the correct time. Because of this, the late collection fees will be going up from March 1<sup>st</sup> to £30 for the first 15mins and £30 for every ten minutes (or part of) after that. Persistent lateness may result in your child no longer being able to attend wraparound care.

You may have seen the government's pledge to offer a free 30-minute breakfast club, including food, to all primary school pupils. A small number of schools are trialing this starting in April but there is not a set date by which all schools are supposed to offer this. Yardley is not one of the trial schools and like every other primary school in Waltham Forest we have no idea how the government expect this to work. No school locally has a canteen that can possibly fit all its pupils in one sitting and we have no details regarding how this will be funded or who will run it. We will update you if this plan ever comes to fruition.

### **Sportshall Athletics**

Our Year 5 and 6 indoor athletics team comfortably won the borough competition earlier in the school year which meant they got to represent Waltham Forest at the London Youth Games. The quality of competition is noticeably higher at this level and our pupils did brilliantly to finish a very impressive 5<sup>th</sup> out of all the London boroughs.



### **PTA update**

The PTA has appointed 2 new chairs in Evelin Kiss and Zeliha Dag with Cristina continuing to be involved but in a different capacity. I look forward to the parent body supporting the initiatives and activities that the new team come up with.

### **Parents' evening**

The Spring term parents' evening will be spread over the two dates of Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> April.



## Yardley Primary School Newsletter February 2025



### **Pauline Golbourn leaving**

Many of you will know Pauline as one of our longstanding midday assistants. She has been helping children with their lunches for over 20 years at Yardley. She has been off work through ill health for a while and unfortunately it has been decided that she won't be able to return. The school would like to thank Pauline for all her hard work and care that she showed the children. In return Pauline has asked me to pass on the following message, "It's been a privilege to have been a part of the Yardley community for so long. I have truly enjoyed my time there and have so many fond memories of watching the children grow and flourish over the years including my own children and grandchildren. Just wanted to say it has been an absolute pleasure and thank you to all."

### **Punctuality**

Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> February there were 56 pupils that arrived late for school. That's over 11 each day. Each one of these pupils needs to be signed in and then in most cases, a member of the office staff has to walk them down to their classrooms. This is disruptive for everyone involved and most importantly, the child is missing out on learning time. We already try and make it easier for parents by having a 15 minute window in which the pupils can enter the school in the morning. Please ensure your child is in school on time.

This also applies to children being collected promptly at the end of the day. We are seeing an increase in children being collected late. As well as upsetting for the child it again prevents the office and other staff from fulfilling their work duties. If there is not an improvement, we may be forced to bring in a system where children who are persistently collected late may be put into after school club and parents will be expected to pay the related fees.

### **Toilets**

There has been an increase in children and adults wanting to come into the main building after school to use the toilets. As the school is not open to the public, parents aren't able to enter unaccompanied which means a member of staff has to escort them to adult toilets in the middle of the school, taking them away from their office duties. It also interferes with the cleaning schedule as the toilets are cleaned straight after school. In future we will not be able to grant adults access to the toilets. When the weather gets nicer and more children are staying in the school grounds after school, we will make the children's toilets at the juniors' end available but these will strictly be for children only.

Regards  
Mr Evans  
Headteacher