



Yardley Primary School Newsletter July 2026



16th July 2026

Hello all

The school year is at an end. It has been a challenging year starting with the news of our former colleague passing away suddenly during the summer holidays, Mr Reddick and Mrs Roberts suffering serious injury and illness, a parent passing away and then the tragic death of Ayleen in May. I don't think many of us here will be sad to see the back of 2025-26.

On a much less important level, Waltham Forest pulling the plug on the planned expansion at such a late stage will cause a number of logistical problems to solve. We have given up all our spare inside teaching areas in the expectation that we would be getting spare spaces in the new building. Discussions are ongoing with WF about what can be done to create some additional teaching spaces as well as the new canteen build.

Ayleen Update

Ayleen's family have their roots in Pakistan and they wanted something positive to come out of the loss of their daughter. They have paid for 8 water pumps (because Ayleen's birthday was on the 8th) to be fitted in a remote area of Pakistan. These 8 pumps will bring clean, safe water to at least 60 people.



The pumps cost around £125 each and next year we will have our own fundraising to raise money for some of these to be installed as well more fundraising for Great Ormond Street hospital in her memory. We will also look at the locations in Geography to look global issues that some children face.



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Year 6

We bid a fond farewell today to this year's Year 6. They treated the school and parents to a fantastic end of year show this week and today we received their SATS scores which are also very impressive. Have a great Summer Year 6 and good luck at secondary school.



	Yardley pupils achieving expected level	National average for pupils achieving expected level	Pupils achieving greater depth levels
Reading	100%	75%	83%
Maths	95%	75%	83%
Grammar and Punctuation	97%	74%	83%
Writing	93%	73%	53%
Combined Reading, Maths and Writing	93%	63%	50%

As you can see, once again we are significantly above national average in all areas. We had an external moderator in for one of the days who observed that the tests were all done in accordance to the guidelines. Well done to the pupils and all the staff in the school who help achieve this and put Yardley pupils in the best place possible for their Secondary education.

Staffing updates

Mrs Ahmed will be on maternity leave for the next academic year and Mr Reddick will be off continuing his recovery from his injury. We have two new teachers joining us. Miss Motlieb was a trainee teacher here 2 years ago and she will be joining us permanently in Year 5. Mrs Hizlioglu will be known to some of you as she is a parent of pupils at the school. She was previously a special needs assistant but has spent last year training to be a teacher with us and will be joining us in Year 2.

The only staff departure is of Sue Arnold who is taking a very well-deserved retirement after nearly 30 years of service to the school. Most of those years were as part of our excellent Nursery team making sure that the children got the best possible start to the educational journey. She took semi-retirement a few years ago and has been working part time providing targeted phonics lessons to our Year 1's. She has had a real impact on a countless number of children who have come through the school. We hope she enjoys a long and happy retirement.

Sporting Events and trips

All the sports days were able to go ahead and they all went well and there were lots of positive comments from parents. The teachers maintained the unbeaten winning streak against the year 6's this week in the annual Tug-o-war competition this week. We have a new Ann Finnis trophy, named after our former



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colleague who died last Summer, to award the winning pupil team as it was Mrs Finnis who introduced the competition many years ago.

Unfortunately, we only managed to enter the KS1 Quad Kids athletics competition as the heatwave caused the KS2 event that we had entered to be cancelled. The good news though is that our Year 2 team were the team winners. Well done them.



After postponements due to Ayleen's passing and then the heatwave, Year 6 camp, Year 1 trip to the Young V&A and the Year 4 trip to Southend were all able to go ahead. Unfortunately, it was not safe to run the Year 2 trips to the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge or the Lee Valley farm due to the extreme heat and the lack of shade at the venues. Both of these have been rescheduled for the autumn term when they are in Year 3.

One other excursion that went ahead despite the heat was Year 6 going over to Walthamstow for the Soho Theatre's Junior Playwright performance. All the year 6 pupils spent 6 weeks in the autumn term working with a professional playwright to write their own play. The theatre then chose some from each school which were then performed very enthusiastically by a troupe of professional actors in the Soho Theatre Walthamstow. Congratulations to our 2 winning playwrights. Also, a massive thank you to all the Year 6 parents who came to our aid when we got back to the station and found there were no trains running for the next few hours. It was too hot to consider the buses. The parents accompanying us did a great job of coordinating a flotilla of cars to come and rescue us and get everyone back safely.





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Parent Questionnaire

107 parents completed the questionnaire. At the moment it does not look like there is a need to go to a 2-week October half term. 58% were in favour but there were a large number of written comments who expressed real concerns about the cost of child care this will burden them with. We will continue to monitor what the schools around us are doing and maybe come back to it in the future.

There were lots of positive comments to the question of what we do well. There were no real noticeable trends to the question 'What can we improve?' but the 3 most common comments were about more clubs, more trips and improved communication.

We already run a decent number of clubs but this is tricky because we only have one hall so scheduling 2 after school sports clubs, which we have done in the past, proved problematic if the weather was bad with children needing to be collected at short notice. Traditionally we have provided all our clubs for free. This year we have trialled the paid for afterschool clubs run by Organic Lea and the chess club and these have been successful so we will look at what over paid for clubs we might be able to introduce.

Trips – The June newsletter had an item on the difficulties we face regarding trips. It can be found on the website.

Communication – From September we will be looking at all letters going out via email and the App and no longer sending paper letters. It is really important that we have your up-to-date email address if you want to receive this information. We will send out a message about that in the new term. We are also changing the provider of our school App. There is more information on the final page of this email.

All that is left is to wish everyone, a safe and happy summer holidays and we will see you on September 7th.

Kind Regards
Mr Evans
Headteacher

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE ABOUT NEW SCHOOL APP



IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS

The app we use daily as our primary method of communication, 'School App for Parents' is being closed down by its developers effective 31st July. This means that it will not be in use at all when we return in September.

We have sourced a replacement app called, 'Jigsaw' and it works in the same way. **It is essential that you download the new app as soon as possible.**

Jigsaw School App

To download, visit the Apple or Google Play Stores and search for 'Jigsaw School App'



<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/jigsaw-school-app/id1490695440>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.jigsawapps.container&hl=en_GB

Once you have downloaded 'Jigsaw School App, 'you will be able to select Yardley by either doing a search or by finding us in the list of schools.

In *settings* then *filters*, you must **only** select **both whole school AND your child's current year group**. This way you will get general info such as newsletters, plus everything specific to your child and their class.

A reminder will go out for you to change the year group each September, as your child progresses up through the school. **Please enable your phone notifications.**