



Yardley Primary School Newsletter October 2026



Hello

A later than usual first newsletter of the year. Apologies in advance that it's a little bit of a 'moany' one in places.

Firstly, as we are going to be sending more things out electronically, can you make sure that the school has an up-to-date email address for each parent. Please email the office if you are not sure that we have one on record for you. Also, if you haven't done so already, please download the jigsaw app as all information will be sent out through that as well. Details of how to download it can be found in the July newsletter on the website.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival concerts will take place on the following dates, they all start at 9.15am:

Mon 19th Oct – Classes 10, 13 and R1

Tues 20th Oct – Classes 11, 14 and R2

Weds 21st Oct – Classes 12, 15 and R3

Thurs 22nd Oct – KS2

As usual we will start collecting items that we can donate to local food banks with next Fri 16th October being a non-uniform day to encourage donations. We would like families to donate dried and tinned goods such as tinned food, pasta, rice, cereal, biscuits, crisps etc. Please check the best before date before donating. We will also welcome donations of toiletries including baby products and sanitary products.

All dates for other school and class events are on the school calendar on the website. We will endeavor to stick to these dates unless circumstances force us to change them and if we do need to move any event we will try and give you as much notice as possible.

Phonics and reading/Volunteers

We had a very good turnout of Reception parents for the recent phonics/reading workshop that Mrs Samuels led recently. A reminder to all parents that regularly reading (or being read to) is one of the biggest contributors to pupil progress across all subjects. Our homework policy expects every child to either read to an adult or read independently each night. Please help us by making sure your child is finding time to read. Also, especially for the younger pupils, please keep a record of where they have read up to in their reading diaries.

We have a small number of parents who give up part of their week to come in and listen to children read. This really helps us out and we can also accommodate more so if you do have some spare time, please talk to your child's teacher about coming in. The school will arrange a DBS check to be carried out.

Bikes/Scooters on the school ground

There seems to have been an increase in pupils cycling and scootering to school, which is great, but it's not safe for them to be cycling around the busy playgrounds either before school or after school. If your child does come to school on a bike, please make sure that they dismount at the school gates. I will mention this to all the pupils in assembly next week.



Important allergen update



A quick but essential safety reminder: **Please do not send any items containing nuts into school in lunchboxes or for snacks.**

This includes **Nutella, peanut butter, spreads, dips, cereal bars containing nuts, and whole nuts.**

We have pupils across the school with severe, airborne nut allergies, and even trace amounts can lead to a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). In line with the new statutory **Benedict's Law** allergy guidance, we must strictly minimise allergen exposure on site.

Please check all labels carefully before packing lunches. If your child accidentally brings a product containing nuts, we will safely replace it and let you know. Thank you for your support in keeping all our children safe.

Pupil toilets

Whilst the weather is good and people are staying on the school grounds, we keep the toilets open at the junior end of the school. A polite reminder though that these toilets are strictly for children's use only and no adults should be entering them. We've had a couple of incidents recently where adults have been in the toilets and this is a potential safeguarding issue. If this continues then we may have to take the difficult decision to ask parents and pupils to leave the school grounds as soon as school ends which we don't want to have to do.



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Expansion update

As you know, Waltham Forest cancelled our full expansion to being a 3-form entry towards the end of last year despite demand for school places in Chingford remaining high. This was mainly due to the falling numbers in other parts of the Borough where in some cases, over 40% of classroom places are vacant. As a result, the first 2 school closures have been recently announced in Walthamstow and Leyton.

Whilst we are still earmarked to have our canteen demolished, and a new one built, we don't currently have a timescale for when this will be happening. Meanwhile, as recognition of the disruption that cancelling the expansion has caused the school, WF are assisting us in creating some small teaching areas as we no longer have any spare space in the school. The PTA have also assisted in purchasing this very nice ~~hobbit house~~ prefab-pod which arrived last week and gives us a bit of extra flexibility and we are looking in to possibly getting a second one.



Finally, the perennial issue of parking

Just like Christmas products appearing in the shops, the first complaint email about parents parking seems to come around earlier each year. This year it only took a couple of weeks before one dropped into my inbox. Please park considerately when dropping off or collecting your children and please take care that you are not fully or partially blocking resident's driveways. It is helpful if you can park a little further away and walk the last part of your journey, especially whilst the weather continues to be good. It is an offence to park on the yellow lines opposite the main school gate and at the top of Hawkswood. Doing so also significantly reduces the flow of traffic and make it more dangerous for everyone's children.

Regards
Mr Evans