



Yardley Primary School Newsletter June 2025



5th June 2025

Welcome to the final half term of this school year. Despite only being 5 weeks long, the previous half term was jam packed. Here are a few of the highlights...



Year 3 visited The Roman Museum in St Albans

Year 2 went to the Lea Valley Park in Waltham Abbey



Rec had a lovely day in the Forest and Organic Lea

Year 1 had the Suntrap animals visit



The Year 5 girls' football team got to play on the pitch at Leyton Orient!



Year 6 had great weather for their camping trip...



...as did Year 4 on their trip to Southend!

Some of these trips are only continue to be possible due to parental donations so thank you to all those who contributed.

This half term will also be very busy. Some key dates for June include:

Tues 10th – Yr6 public transport workshop (in school)

Weds 11th – 9.15am keyboard musicians assembly

Thurs 12th – Yr6 visit to Soho Theatre Walthamstow

Fri 13th – Whole Class photos/KS1 Quad Kids athletics

Mon 16th to Fri 20th – Years 3 to 5 Outdoor activities with Clive/Yr6 First aid training/New Reception pupil visits

Mon 23rd - KS2 Sports Day 9.30am

Tues 24th – KS1 Sports day 9.30am

Weds 25th – Nursery Sports Day 2.45pm

Thurs 26th – Waltham Forest Consultation meeting on expansion (see below)/Reception Sports Day 9.30am/KS2 Quad Kids athletics

Sun 29th – Yardley PTA Summer Fayre

School Expansion Update

Around 3 years ago the school was asked by Waltham Forest to expand from 2-form entry to 3-form entry due to the demand for school places in the Chingford Green ward. We are currently 2 years into this process with both Reception and Year 1 having 3 classes in each year group. So far, the building work to create 2 extra classes in the main building has all been completed. This summer, some minor work will be carried out in the Children's Centre building so that all the Reception classes will be in that building from September.

There has been a lot of work going on regarding the major building project to complete the expansion and Waltham Forest are getting ready to share these designs with you before it goes to the planning application stage. The work will see the canteen demolished and a new 2 storey building in its place with a new canteen/kitchen on the ground floor and 3 classrooms which will be occupied by Year 6, a Design/Science room, a multi-purpose learning area, 2 small teaching rooms and staff working area. The proposed timeline for the build is April 2026 to June 2027. We have been working alongside the architects to make sure that the school gets the most suitable building that will meet our children's needs in the future

Representatives from Waltham Forest will be in school on Thursday 26th June to share the designs and to answer any questions. From 8.30am to 9.15am they will be in the main hall. From 3pm to 7pm they will be in the canteen.



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Our current canteen is over 80 years old and is no longer a particularly welcoming environment. The school would never be able to afford to replace it without the input from Waltham Forest. The facility that we are going to get in return will be one of the best in London. It will considerably transform our indoor teaching space; it will greatly improve the children's lunchtime experience and increase our breakfast and afterschool provision. I've also been keen all through the process that it is designed so it becomes a community venue available to weekend and possibly evening lettings, something we can't use the current canteen for as it doesn't have any toilets

I know some parents will have concerns about the project and it will obviously require the school to operate differently during the construction period with school meals and our PE provision being the 2 most affected areas in the short term. Some of the common questions I imagine you will have are below.

Will there be any disruption to pupils' learning?

We don't envision any significant disruption to pupil's learning as the construction will be taking place on a self-contained site away from the main school.

How will school meals be provided during the construction?

Waltham Forest are going to install a fully equipped mobile kitchen on the field opposite the school hall and the hall will be used as the dining area for the duration of the build with packed lunches eaten in one of the classrooms or outside if the weather is nice.

Longer term, the new canteen has been designed so that there is an effective one-way flow around the building so that children will be able to queue up for their food, go to the table and then back out into the playground so that even with the additional pupil numbers, this better system should see pupils all fed in a timely manner.

If the hall is being used as a canteen, what will happen to PE and assemblies?

For the period of construction our PE provision will be affected due the hall being used as a dining area and the field having a kitchen on it. We will adopt a flexible approach to timetabling so that teachers can use their own judgement as to when to do PE in the week depending on when weather allows. We are also exploring some online exercise programs that can be done in the classrooms. We will also need to review the after-school sporting activities but will aim to retain as many as possible.

Day to day assemblies will still be able to take place. We will be looking at creative ways that the class assemblies, harvest festival, Christmas concerts etc can hopefully still go ahead.

Will the Breakfast/After school clubs be affected?

These will both take place in the school hall once the build begins, which means that we will be able to increase our after-school club capacity from our current set up. Once the new canteen is open, both clubs will be hosted in there and capacity will be able to increase further.

Will the playgrounds be over crowded as the school increase capacity?

Our school is set in what is a very large site and pupil capacity has been much higher in the past. At one point there were 723 pupils with over 40 in each class! The KS1 playground is only 30 pupils short of what will be its final capacity and as we have been able to use more of the outside areas there is still plenty of space. As the classes move up into KS2 we will consider whether having separate Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 playtimes if we think that will be better.

If any other questions or queries come to mind, please pop in on the 26th or grab me in the playground before school.



Parent cars driving in to the school grounds



Despite regular reminders in newsletters and a sign on the main gate that says 'Parent vehicles cannot enter the site at anytime', we have seen a significant increase in parents driving their cars into the school grounds, some as early as 4pm. During the Spring and Summer there still lots of children playing in the school grounds or in after school clubs. Parents driving into the school is putting their safety at risk. Because of this we have had to purchase the signs in the photo above and these will be put out on the drive once Steve the lollipop man has finished his afternoon shift to help remind those that might not read the newsletters.

School book returns

Recently 2 parents have returned 2 bags of books to the school that were all from our corridor reading boxes. One of the bags had 32 school books in it! Whilst we are grateful for their return it does make us wonder how many more school books are lurking in children's bedrooms. Please have a look for Yardley books at home that can be returned, they are identifiable by a coloured sticker on the spine and return them to us so that all pupils have a wider choice of books.

Change to the last day of term – This news went out as an APP message but is repeated here.

The hot water boiler for the main school has passed its expected operational life cycle and is probably unrepairable should it fail. Because of this, the Trust put in a grant bid to the Department of Education last year to replace not only the boiler but the entire heating system in the building. We found out yesterday that the bid was successful and the school has been granted significant funds to carry this work out. Due to the scale and urgency of the work – if the boiler was to fail in the Winter it would cause a long-term school closure – work is scheduled to start on Monday 21st July. This means that the pupils' last day will now be Friday 18th July and not Tuesday 22nd as originally planned. The staff will still be in as planned on those days to help prepare the school for the works. I hope this doesn't inconvenience too many of you.

Finally, I'd like to wish Eid Mubarak to all of our families, pupils and staff members who are celebrating Eid al-Adha on Friday.

Regards
Mr Evans
Headteacher