



24th September 2025

Welcome back. The first three weeks of term are always busy and this year has been no exception and the Summer already seems a long time ago. It has been lovely to see everyone back, learning and enjoying themselves and a big welcome to our new Reception pupils (and parents) who have settled in really well to their school lives.

School Gates

A reminder that we are opening the school gates to parents at 3.15pm each day. This is because there are often lessons still going on in the playgrounds or other outside areas of the school up to that time and we were getting a lot of parents entering the playgrounds quite early. Please wait until that time before entering the school grounds.

Volunteers

We are always keen to have parents, or other family members, volunteer in the school, whether this is listening to pupils reading, supporting on trips or sporting events or bringing any skills you have into the wider school. If you do have any time to spare, please talk to your child's teacher about how you can help. An adult listening to children read each day can make a real difference to their reading progress, especially in KS1 and Reception. If you are going to regularly volunteer, the school will arrange for you to have a DBS check done.

KS1 Cross Country Success

We start this year as we ended the last, with victory in the first Waltham Forest sporting event of the year. Both the year 2 girls and boys team won the gold medals with individual gold in the girls race too. 270 runners from across the borough took part so well done to everyone who represented the school.





Secondary/Primary application dates – For the attention of Year 6 and Nursery parents

The deadline for applying for your child's secondary school place is 31st October. Applications can be made at www.eadmissions.org.uk

The deadline for applying for a Reception space at Yardley is 15th January. All nursery children must apply, as a place in nursery does not guarantee a place in the main school. Make sure you state on the application if you have an older sibling already attending Yardley.

Wraparound Care

Please note that the wraparound care email address is not monitored over the weekend. You are welcome to send an email during that time but it will not be responded to until Monday.

Sports games mark

Our continued sporting excellence in inter school competitions as well as our PE lessons and high level of take up of physical activities across the school have also been rewarded with the School Games Platinum award. This is the highest level that can be achieved and the first time the school has met its very high success criteria. Again, well done to all of those, staff, pupils and parent volunteers who contributed to this award.



Building works updates

There was a large amount of work carried out on the school over the summer holidays. The children's centre is now home to all three Reception classrooms which are larger and have more light than the previous rooms. The biggest job was the replacement of the whole heating system in the main building. The old system was removed and the new system installed ahead of schedule which meant no disruption to pupil learning.

The canteen rebuilding project has completed its public consultation period and the architects are finalizing the submission to go to the planning committee soon.



Parking

We didn't make it to the end of the first week before we had our first complaints about parking. It seems to be particularly bad at the top gate at the end of Hawkwood Crescent at the moment. It is particularly concerning to see parents blatantly parking on the Keep Clear zig zags. Those markings are there to keep the children safe and running late or not being able to find a parking space are not reasons to park on them. Consideration has been made about whether we stop opening the top gate but this would seem unfair to inconvenience the majority of our parents who either walk or park further away.

As a result, we have been in consultation with the WF traffic and enforcement teams and they have already seen their mobile CCTV van attend last week. They are also exploring longer term solutions.

Attendance

The only other area that was not so good on our return was attendance. It was disappointing to see that on the first day back, nearly 10% of the pupils hadn't returned. The first days of a new school year are really important for teachers to set routines, expectations and to get know their pupils and this isn't made any easier with children starting the term late, predominately because they were on holiday. Improving attendance is one of our school priorities this year and whilst we have traditionally refrained from fining parents if their children's attendance is below expectations, we may have to reconsider this.

Key dates coming up this term

Weds 1st Oct – KS2 annual cross-country race in school grounds

Thursday 16th Oct – Pupil workshops with NSPCC

Tues 21st Oct – KS2 Harvest Festival 9.15am

Weds 22nd - Class 9 and Reception classes Harvest Festival 9.15am

Thurs 23rd Classes 10, 11 and year 1 Harvest Festival 9.15am

Thursday 23rd Oct – Parents' evening

Friday 24th – SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET day)

Mon 27th Oct to Fri 31st – Half Term

Thurs 13th – Class 3 Assembly

Fri 14th Nov – Individual pupil photos

Fri 21st Nov – Class 4 Assembly

Fri 28th Nov – Class 5 Assembly

Mon 15th KS1 Nativity (classes 9, 12 and R1) 9.15am

Tues 16th – KS1 Nativity (classes 10, 13 and R2) 9.15am

Weds 17th Dec – KS1 Nativity (classes 11, 14 and R3) 9.15am

Thurs 18th – KS2 Carol Concert (PM – time to be confirmed)

We will try and stick to these times and dates as we know many of you will have to book time off work but occasionally circumstances beyond our control mean we may have to move an event.



Ann Finnis



In August, the school received the very sad news that Mrs Finnis had passed away suddenly. As well as being Mrs Stuart's Mum, Ann had been a teacher at Yardley for nearly 30 years before her retirement in 2016. For many years she was one of the year 6 teachers and the key stage 2 phase leader. I am sure many in the school community will remember her as either your child's teacher and, in some cases, your own teacher.

After a previous life as a trumpet player in a big band, she started out at the school as a midday assistant before being encouraged to train to be a teacher. Ann was a big part of the Yardley family with her three children attending the school and subsequently her grandchildren. For the teachers that have been at Yardley the longest, Ann was a supportive mentor and friend who showed clear dedication to making sure that the children left Yardley in the best place and ready for secondary school. She also enthusiastically ran the netball club/team for many years and organised many staff evenings out.

After retiring from full time teaching, she worked part time at the school for a couple of years before she moved to Suffolk. The news of her passing came as a complete shock and our thoughts are with her husband Dave, Mrs Stuart and her brothers, and her grandchildren.

Regards
Mr Evans
Headteacher