



Autumn Newsletter I 1st September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the summer break and I hope you are all feeling rested and refreshed and that the children are ready for lots of exciting learning this term. Thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts for the teachers at the end of term and to all the children who had worked hard on their summer homework tasks.

A big welcome to our 17 new Reception class children: Ruby, Oliver, Molly, Niall, Niamh, Rose, Martha, Bobby, James, Eliza, Charlie, Phoebe, Lily, Aisling, Noah, Rosie and Bobby-Grey. We hope you will all enjoy many happy years at our very special school! We also welcome Miss Scott as our new Oak class teacher for this year. Please say hello if you see her on the playground and introduce yourselves. Thank you.

In Class this week

Beech Class

Beech class have been busy settling in to school this week, making friends and learning about each other's families and pets. They have been exploring and learning in their new classroom and the outdoor learning area. Some have been dressing up as 'people who help us' and others have been having fun with water, sand and glitter goo!

Holly class

Holly class have had a great start to the new term and have agreed their class rules. They have been painting and collaging pictures of their favourite fairy tale characters. In Maths the children have been looking at ordering and sequencing numbers. As mentioned in Mrs Saunders' letter to parents, Holly class children should be collected from the upper playground after school from Monday onwards. Thank you.

Oak class

Oak class have been getting to know their new novel – The Fox and Ghost King - and predicting what it might be about, ready to start reading the book next week. They have begun planning their project-based learning topic about 'Who Helps Us?' In Literacy they have been recounting their summer holiday experiences and in Maths, the children have been working on place value.

Sycamore class

A big thank you from Mrs Garnett for the amazing medals the children created in the holidays and their super summer project work. Some are now on display in the classroom if you would like to pop in and see them. This week, the children have been looking at strategies to help them when they find things difficult or tricky. In Maths, Sycamore class have been working on place value.

Swimming

No swimming this term. This will resume in the Spring term.

Timetables - Woodland Adventures and PE Kits

Each class has been sent home a separate letter detailing their weekly timetable, to help with deciding what they need to wear or bring in each day. Please put these up on your fridge or somewhere safe so your child can help with getting themselves organised each day. Thank you.

Earrings

For any child who has recently had their ears pierced, earrings must be removed for health and safety reasons. If they cannot be taken out, then please you can provide micropore tape to enable them to cover their own ears up for protection if you wish. Please be aware, this won't be allowed for swimming (in the Spring Term) as it is not thoroughly waterproof.

Singing and Piano Lessons

Mrs Donnelly has advised that she currently has a couple of vacancies for singing or piano lessons at Waltham, following transition of pupils to high school. If you are interested in lessons for your child, please contact Mrs Alison Donnelly at artsrelief@outlook.com or tel. 07813 806823.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair tonight, as a case of head lice has been reported to us at school. Information received from the School Nurse tells us to apply hair conditioner to damp hair and thoroughly comb through from the roots with a fine-toothed comb (**preferably a head lice detection comb**), available from most chemists. Comb in sections if the hair is thick.

If you find head lice:-

- Carry out this procedure on everyone who is affected in the household **as soon as possible**, preferably at the same time. This **must** be carried out **continuously for at least a fortnight**.
- Tell everyone who has been in recent head to head contact with those in your household (friends, relations, visitors – adults as well) and ask them to check for lice too.
- Inform the school as soon as possible and ensure girls with long hair tie it back.

We do need your support so **please** check your child's hair regularly. Thank you.

Changes to Addresses and Phone Numbers

If you have recently changed address or phone number, please let the school office know so that we have the correct contact details for you, especially in case of an emergency. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

Waltham Pre-school will be offering limited places for school children to access our breakfast club from Tuesday 5th September. We are open from 8 o' clock providing cereal, toast, fresh fruit, yoghurt, etc. Preschool staff will deliver the children to the school in time for their school day to begin.

The charge for this is £5 per child per day with no extra charge for food. There are limited places so please request a booking form from the school office or the preschool staff from Monday 4th September. Please do not telephone the school office with regards to availability of spaces but kindly speak to preschool administrator Becky on Tuesdays or Thursdays, Tel. 01664 464089. Alternatively catch Sian Morris, Preschool Manager, as and when. Thank you.

Volunteer Walkers

If the weather is poor, dance on Tuesday afternoons and PE on Thursdays will take place at the village hall. If you are available to help with walking on either of these days, please let the school office know. We will ring current volunteers on the rota to help with walking as the need arises. Thank you.

Cake Raffle

Thank you to the parents who have offered to provide a cake for the weekly raffle this term. Mrs Palmer has asked if any parents or grandparents would be available to help children from Sycamore class to sell cake raffle tickets on the playground on Friday mornings between 8.40 and 8.50am. If a few parents volunteer, we will organise a rota. Thank you.

Waltham Charter Fair

Waltham Charter Fair is on Saturday 16th September, commencing with a family parade from the top of Waltham High Street at 10.45am down to the Fair which takes place at Waltham Village Hall. All children, parents, grandparents and friends are welcome. The school is leading the parade so please try and come along if you can. Children may wear fancy dress or anything bright and colourful and bring something noisy to rattle, shake or bang!

The Charter Fair is a fun event for the village and wider community and helps to raise funds for school, pre-school and other local groups. Extra volunteers are needed so if you are able to help, even just for one or two hours, please contact Tina Morris or Kerry Mota. Flyers have been sent home in book bags.

Church Service and Harvest Festival

There is a church service at Waltham next Thursday morning 7th September at 9.15am to celebrate the start of the new school year. All welcome.

Please keep the following date free for our School Harvest Festival: Thursday 28th September, 9.15am at Waltham Church.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 16th September – Waltham Charter Fair (Village Hall)

Thursday 28th September – School Harvest Festival at Waltham Church, 9.15am

Saturday 18th Nov – Friends of Waltham School (FOWS) Black Tie and Tiara Ball (Village Hall)

Tuesday 5th Dec (afternoon and evening) – School Nativity at Waltham Church (TBC)

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend after the busy first week back!

Mrs J V Hopkins
Executive Head teacher

