



Autumn Newsletter 2 8th September 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for the start of term assembly at school this week, and to Rev John Barr and Mrs Alexander from Waltham Church who led the service. They welcomed the children back to school after the summer break and helped us to get the Autumn Term off to a good start.

In Class this week

Beech Class

Beech class have been counting up to 20 this week, using their fingers to help. They have been learning to recognise the numerals 1-6. The children have been looking at how to count objects by putting them in a line and only touching each object once. In Phonics, Reception class have been learning the sounds a, s, d, m and t, and learning how to write these letters. In Literacy ('Magic Writing') they have been writing about the Gruffalo. In Science ('Understanding the World') the children have been discussing babies and parents, and how humans and animals change as they grow older.

Holly class

Holly class have been looking at the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Lauren Child and discussing how curiosity can get you into trouble! Year 1 have been sorting and counting objects and Year 2 have been partitioning numbers into 100s, 10s and units. The children had good fun finding the signs of Autumn during their outdoor learning in the woods this week.

Oak class

In Literacy, Oak class started reading their class novel, 'The Fox and Ghost King'. They discussed what it takes to write a good story opener. In Maths, the children have been learning how place value can help with addition and subtraction, using different methods. In Science, Oak class have been exploring healthy eating and how this can affect our teeth.

Sycamore class

Sycamore class have been undertaking some challenging Maths work on place value this week - one child even commented that Mrs Garnett had been frying their brains! In Literacy, the children have been writing wartime diary entries which are looking wonderfully authentic and descriptive. Each child also made a WWI aeroplane. In Art, the children made colourful paintings using shaving foam and food colouring! Sycamore class also wrote their own prayers for the start of term assembly this week.

Breakfast Club

The breakfast club run by Pre-school from 8am each day is now up and running. If you would like to book a place, please contact the preschool administrator Becky on Tuesdays or Thursdays, Tel. 01664 464089. Alternatively speak to Sian Morris, Preschool Manager. Booking forms have been sent home this week in book bags.

E-Safety

May I please remind you all, as we start this new academic year, to ensure your child is SAFE ON-LINE at home. Technology is frequently changing and often we are unaware that security settings in the home may change without us being aware. If you allow your child to use the internet, whether it is for academic work (e.g. searching for information) or socialising (e.g. Instagram, Facebook) please remember the age-restrictions that should apply and advice is always to supervise your child when they use it. Often gaming websites can link to other sites that you may not wish your child to see, so again, please supervise their use. It might also be necessary to check your parental-controls with security settings much more regularly.

We have copied the information sent out last term which is below as a reminder. If you need further support with this issue, please get in touch and we'll try our best to help.

Facebook Facts – Information for parents

- Facebook restricts membership to people 13 and older.
- Facebook has created an environment designed only for teens and adults. The rules, policies, protections and safety education that Facebook has in place are all designed for people 13 and older.
- But if they are going to continue despite the site's restrictions, it's even more important to help them configure their privacy settings to the most restrictive level possible, and be sure to "friend" them or otherwise monitor their online use.

What are the risks involved in social networking?

1. The most common risk young people face online is peer harassment or aggression – in other words hurtful, harassing, or defamatory behaviour.
2. Posting information about themselves that: a) could help strangers determine their physical location; b) could be used to manipulate them; or c) whether posted by them or others, could cause psychological harm or jeopardise reputations and future prospects
3. Harassment or online bullying ("cyberbullying") on the part of your children or others'
4. Spending too much time online, losing a sense of balance in their activities.
5. Exposure to inappropriate content
6. Potential for inappropriate contact with adult.

How to keep your child safe on the internet:

1. Set **restrictions / privacy settings** on the ipad/ tablet/ computers/ consoles/ wifi (For help see <https://www.internetmatters.org> or Miss Geeson)
2. Set a time limit for children using devices
3. Ensure they are ALWAYS in sight of a responsible adult when using electronic devices.

Maths Workshop Thursday 14th September

All classes will be attending Maths workshop sessions at the Village Hall next Thursday organised by Mr Jackson, who has provided the following information:

On Thursday 14th September at the village hall, each class will be take part in a maths investigation day, run by Subject Revolution. The day will enable the children to be involved in a series of interactive, practical maths challenges set by drama and media content. It will be a true adventure that will involve practical, hands-on maths! The day will be full of mathematical reasoning and problem solving that will require the children to work in teams and pass through each maths challenge zone, undetected by the invading Robotrons. Using their team work and maths skills the children will need to solve... The Dark Codes. Good Luck!

There will be no PE lessons that day, but multi-sports club after school will take place on Thursday as normal.

Holly class will be having their Maths workshop first on Thursday morning at the village hall, so will be met on the playground at 8.50am by Mrs Saunders. They will not go to their classroom but may leave their book-bags and packed lunch (if they have one) in the boxes provided on the playground.

Friday 15th September – PE lessons

All children should come to school in PE kits and bring waterproofs on Friday 15th September, as PE has swapped days for this week only. Please send a spare pair of socks and trainers with your child and a waterproof coat as they will be outside on the field (village hall not available).

NO SPECIAL ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER.

Cake raffle

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help with the cake raffle this term. This will be a great help in raising extra funds towards school trips.

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. Please come and support us!

Church Service and Harvest Festival

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

Congratulations

Congratulations to Isaac Small who had 100% attendance last year, during his first year of school. Unfortunately Isaac's name did not appear on the list at the end of last term, due to a system error. Apologies for this omission.

Roll of Honour

Libby Mears successfully passed her Grade 3 Musical Theatre LAMDA examination with a distinction. The examiner was impressed with her character awareness and how she portrayed the mood of each song. She also commented on Libby's accurate melody and rhythm, with her movement being appropriate for the songs. As well as performing 2 songs in character, Libby also had to answer questions on the character's feelings, the mood of each song and explain the difference between a 'head' voice and a 'chest' voice. A fantastic result; well done Libby!

Mrs Boylan

Our former Premises Officer, Mrs Boylan, has asked me to pass on her thanks for all the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes she received at the end of last term. She is now enjoying her retirement and has been able to collect some of her grandchildren from school for the very first time!

Miss Laura Smith

Welcome to Miss Smith who has started as our new Premises Officer this term. Please say hello if you see her around school in the morning or after school.

Messy Church – message from Mike and Chris Alexander

It's Messy Church this **Sunday - 10th September**, 10.20am at Waltham Church. Our theme is **Harvest - thanking God**.

We will have crafts and fun all on an harvest theme –including making fresh apple juice (with apples from the vicarage); making seed coasters; making a harvest collage with leaves, fruit and veg printing; table talk and we will have the usual worship time and tea, coffee and cake.

We do hope you can join us!

As well as thanking God for all the food we are fortunate enough to have, we'll be thinking of those who don't have all they need. **If you have any spare tins/jars/packets of food, e.g. dried pasta, soup, pasta sauce, etc. then please bring them to Messy church and we will get them to Storehouse in Melton who then distribute them to those in need.**

We also need some volunteers to help set up/put away before and after Messy church as well as people to help with activity tables - if you are interested and can help then please let us know - many thanks!

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful weekend. Also, good luck to Waltham parents Charlotte and Nigel Smith and Dannii Donovan who are taking part in the Great North Run on Sunday, to raise funds for the local charity Rainbows Children's Hospice. Hope the weather is kind for you all!

Mrs J V Hopkins
Executive Head teacher

