



NEWSLETTER NO 6 – Monday 9th January 2023

	Term Begins	Finish		Return	Term Ends
Spring 2023	Thursday 5 January	Friday 10 February	Half Term	Tuesday 21 February	Friday 31 March
Summer 2023	Monday 17 April	Friday 26 May		Tuesday 6 June	Friday 21 July
Autumn 2023	Monday 4 September	Friday 20 October		Monday 30 October	Friday 15 December

Inset Days: 20 February 2023, 5 June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

A very Happy New Year to you; I trust you all had a good Christmas holiday.

Whilst we always hope to start the new year optimistically, with our Action for Happiness calendar for example, we know school families continue to face challenges around health and finance. As always, we encourage you to be open with the school about circumstances so we can support and signpost help as much as possible. Discreet and sensitive conversations can be organised with any member of staff you feel most comfortable speaking to.

Over the Christmas break, Mr Pilbeam, our Music teacher was sadly taken seriously ill but we understand is showing signs of improvement. No doubt some of the children will have mentioned Mr Wong who taught Friday's music lessons, however arrangements for Wednesday's lessons have still to be confirmed. I know you will join me in sending thoughts and prayers to Mr Pilbeam for a swift and full recovery.

On a positive note, Mrs Buysman has returned following an extended period of illness and I know the children have been very excited to see her; I know she is very grateful for all the well-wishes.

Illness in general unfortunately remains rife and although we ultimately want children in school as much as possible, guidance states that with an increase in flu and Covid nationally, children with a temperature should remain at home until the fever has passed. We would encourage any children who are feeling 'under the weather' to come to school as normal as we would contact you if we had any concerns.

Energy Costs

As we all remain wary of implications around cost of living and energy prices, the school, for example, has been projected a 400% increase in electricity costs alone, which stands to make a considerable dent in our budget. Despite being both a church and local authority school, there is no additional financial support for these rising costs - all our staffing, resourcing and maintenance costs come out of our assigned annual budget as dictated by the Department of Education.

For some time now, we have been exploring projects to reduce costs and minimise impact on the environment, more efficient LED lighting and solar panels for example, but finding financial support for such ventures poses an ongoing challenge. Ultimately, we are looking for ways to save rising costs without compromising the children's learning; although classrooms should be light and warm, we need the best staff and resources to support the best lessons. Several members of the community are already giving of their time to assist us with their experience and knowledge so please do contact the school if you or you know of someone who can assist also.

Library Project

We are now just a few weeks away from our final library installation, decoration and carpeting all having been completed before the end of the Autumn term. Once the shelving is in place, we can start the gradual process of cataloguing remaining and new books and aiming to have the children back in and using this great space as soon as possible.

Beyond the books, one concept we hope to include is a display of objects or artefacts of interest relating where possible to our termly topics – if you do have any such items, which you would be willing to donate or loan to our library for the children to respectfully explore, draw and investigate, please contact the school office. In the meantime, do check our website for photo updates and details of the grand opening when confirmed!

Cereal Bars & Nuts

Please can we remind parents that, due to serious staff and pupil allergies, we are a no-nut school; we continue to intervene with children who are provided with snacks or packed lunch items. Cereal bars, although an ideal healthy snack, often contain nuts so please do check the packaging before providing them to your children.

Climbing Frame, Tyres & MUGA Use

Please can we remind parents that pupils or siblings should not be using the MUGA, tyres or climbing frame in the large playground before or after school unless part of an official supervised activity. Once children have been dismissed by their teacher they should remain with you and closely supervised please. Although no longer in the care of school staff any accidents which occur on the school ground remain our responsibility. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Maple Reward Day

Following Maple House's success in filling their house tube at the end of term, their reward day will take place this Thursday 12th January. Children in Maple House can wear their own clothes to school that day but please remember lessons will take place as normal so attire should be suitable for school activities and the weather.

PTFA Thanks

A massive thank you to the PTFA and their team of helpers who supported the arrival and local tour of a certain jolly red visitor in December. We know this is an incredibly challenging event to organise but know the reaction of the children is well worth it - an amazing team effort. The gifts that every pupil received at the end of term were again generously provided by Cala Homes so thank you to them also.

Mr M Tomson
Headteacher

Congratulations

Well done to our latest Celebration Certificate recipients:

EYFS	Matilda, Joshua, Samuel, Lilly	Year 3	Ollie, Henry, Jonathan
Year 1	Zaggie, Akash, Oliver, Alex	Year 4	Jasmine, Jessica, Elsa, Alfie
Year 2	Annie, Isla, Orla, Thomas C, Jimmi	Year 5	Ellie, Elija, Elliott, Leo
		Year 6	Albert, Lydia

DATES FOR THE DIARY (New items or amendments in bold)

20 Dec Church Christmas service, 9.30 – 10.30am

20 Dec Last day of term

10 Jan Yr 3 swimming lessons start

10 Jan Drumming lessons start

11 Jan Piano lessons start

13 Jan Game On football clubs start

17 Jan Huzzah drama club starts

18 Jan SmartRaspberry cookery club starts

19 Jan Census Day

w/c 13 Feb HALF TERM

20 Feb Inset Day

21 Feb Children return to school

Jan/Feb (tbc) Learning Discussions
