



# October newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all keeping well.

I will begin with taking a quick look back to September as it has been a very busy start to the year. The children came back to school as always ready and eager to learn and have settled in well into school routines.

Reading remains a school priority and we launched our Autumn Reading Challenge which has proved popular once again with children collecting incentives along the way. This will be ending just before half term so keep encouraging the children at home. As a busy parent myself I know how challenging it can be juggling your time but can I ask that you try very hard to find the time to sit with them as they practise their reading, sign their record book and read stories to them. This input from you now, will have a huge impact on their confidence and success at school.

This year we are determined that our children get to visit the local library and thank you to Mrs Pastirmacioglu for organising these visits for the children. Last week, a colleague from the Library Service joined our Reading Meeting for year 1 parents and we learned that the children can take up to 25 books out of the library for free in one go so please take advantage of this.

Last Monday, we held our School Parliament elections and the children enjoyed being part of the democratic process. We now have elected Class Councillors for years 1-5 and elected MPs from year 6 who will head up the 3 families. The classes are just in the middle of completing a pupil survey and the results of this will help shape the issues discussed at the School Parliament. The children spend over 6 hours a day at school so their views are very important to us and we will be listening to what they have to say. Last year we made changes to a number of areas in the school based on what they had to tell us.

Clubs both at lunchtime and after school have got underway and are very popular. We are always looking to enrich the experience for the children. This year we are offering coding club, street dance and STEM club in Years 5/6. Our two choirs in KS2L and KS2U are now rehearsing songs which we hope they will perform at the Young Voices concert at the O2 arena in January along with hundreds of other UK schools. The Galliard football club which trains every Saturday is going strong and are looking to expand soon. We will be sending out a letter in the near future inviting Year 3 children to attend.

The Rewards System I mentioned in my last newsletter is up and running in classes and the children are working hard to achieve the effort chart stickers. Some children will be reaching the first milestone in a few weeks and will be awarded the yellow badge during their Achievement Assembly.

Trips and experience days are also getting underway and last week Year 4 enjoyed being immersed in the culture of Ancient Greece. They thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and having a go at pottery and mosaics. Please keep an eye on the website where we keep a record of what is going on in school either in the recent events tab or through the year group page.

October is also a busy month with school photos taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> for Caterpillar and Nursery. Ms Dettmer will send out a text later this week to remind everyone of this. All children should

be in their winter uniform and PE kits, if required on Monday, should be brought in separately and changed into when needed.

We will be taking part in 'Plant one Tree' on Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> when children can come into school dressed in green or dressed as a tree to raise awareness of the importance of planting trees across our planet. Children are being asked to donate £1 and our Eco Councillors will be on gates in the morning to collect these donations.

On the Wednesday and Thursday before half term we will holding our parents' evenings which will be face to face. The appointments will be booked **online** and you will be getting some information this week about this. This is an opportunity to hear how your child has settled into class. Appointments for children in Years 1-4 will be in their classrooms and Years 5 and 6 will be in the Large Hall. Please make a note of the inset day on the Friday. **School will be closed for pupils on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October.**

Can I remind all parents that we must remain a secure site and this is to ensure our children and are staff are safe. Our gates are on timers to support us with this. If you need to come to collect your child before the end of the day, you need to buzz the office and they will let you in but this does not mean the gate is open for everyone to follow on behind.

Can I also ask that if you require medicine of any description to be administered to your child during the school day this **must be handed to Mrs Prygodzicz in person and the appropriate paperwork completed.**

Thank you once again for showing your continued support to the school.

Kind regards

Mrs Clifford

**Please take notes of the upcoming dates:**

<b>OCTOBER</b>	
<b>Tues 4th</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b> KS1 assembly 9am KS2L assembly 10.30
<b>Thurs 6th</b>	<b>Census day</b>
<b>Mon 10th</b>	Individual photos
<b>Tues 11th</b>	6M visit the National Gallery and Parliament Mary Seacole experience in school for Year 2
<b>Fri 14th</b>	Plant 1 tree for a £1 - come dressed in green and bring a £1 9am RWI meeting for Reception parents
<b>Mon 17th</b>	6W visit the National Gallery and Parliament Black History Month Competition launched Book Fair in Large Hall open Individual Photos for Caterpillars and Nursery
<b>Tuesday 18th</b>	6P visit the National Gallery and Parliament
<b>Wed 19th</b>	<b>Parents evening – face to face 3.30-7.30</b>
<b>Thurs 20th</b>	<b>Fun Run Event – Friends of Galliard</b> <b>Parents evening – face to face 3.30-5.30 (Year 5&amp;6 1.30-5.30)</b>
<b>Fri 21st</b>	<b>Inset Day – School closed</b>



Year 6 learning about Rosh Hashana

OBJ



Doing some learning in our new Forest Base Camp.



Casting their votes.



Placing their votes in the ballot boxes.



Our elected School Parliament.



Yr 4 enjoying an Ancient Greek Immersion day