



Happy New Year 2023

A very warm welcome back to everyone at the start of this new term; I do hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. On behalf of all the staff in school, a huge **thank you** for your kind wishes, Christmas cards and thoughtful gifts at the end of term, they were very much appreciated by us all.

This term we have some busy times ahead of us and a spring term diary date list went home on the last newsletter before Christmas; it is also available on the school website and included at the end of this week's newsletter too. We have also set the term dates for 2023-2024 so if you are looking to book holidays, please use these to make sure you avoid school days.

IMPORTANT: Sickness and illness reminders

Sickness and diarrhoea: Children need to stay off school for **48 hours** after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea to avoid the spread of tummy bugs.

Covid: Children need to stay off school for a **minimum of three days**; this is the current government guidance: ***If a child or young person aged 18 or under tests positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This starts from the day after they did the test.***

Coughs and colds: If your child has a **light** cold and is otherwise ok to be at school, please remind them about good hand hygiene and ensure they have tissues in their bookbag.

Reception places 2023

Parents wishing to apply for a Reception place commencing September 2023 are reminded that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2023**. Copies of our SIF (Supplementary Information Form) can be collected from the office or downloaded from the website. Please note that applications **MUST** be done using the Hertfordshire online system as well as our paper form.



SPRING TERM CLUBS

Today, children in Years 1-6 will bring home a paper copy of the clubs on offer this term. Please return this by next Tuesday 10th January. Clubs will then start the following week, from Monday 16th January. Young Worship will continue as before so there is no need to sign up for this club again; the choir group will also continue although there are some spaces available.

Office update

Mrs Rule has now started her well-earned retirement and we wish her all the very best with her new adventures after a long association with St Ippolyts School as a parent, then a TA and finally Office Manager. She will, however, be coming back into school in a couple of weeks so that we can give her a traditional 'St Ipps send off!'

We have been trying to appoint a replacement Office Manager for some time now but have been unable to recruit so far. This means that for the time being, Mrs Stansbie will be manning the office on her own. It would therefore be really helpful if you could:

- ☺ Be patient if the phone is not answered immediately
- ☺ Send an email to admin@stipps.herts.sch.uk rather than make a phone call if possible
- ☺ Be aware that uniform items will only be on sale on Monday-Thursdays
- ☺ Be aware that the office will not be open before school on Fridays as we have a staff meeting. There will be someone to help from around 9am on Fridays.
- ☺ Please bear with us if things are not quite as slick as usual!

Thank you for your help; I will keep you posted of any developments.

Important: Our new timetable

This term we have introduced a new timetable across the whole school to help us to maximise learning time.

One of the changes is that all classes will be doing Maths for their first lesson every day. It is therefore important that **children arrive punctually for school each day** so that they don't miss the crucial start of the session; if children arrive late and miss the beginning of a lesson, it can be really difficult for them to follow the thread of the learning. Many thanks.



SWIMMING: YEARS 3 AND 4

Swimming lessons start again next week
on Wednesday 11th January.



Open Session Monday 30th January 3.30-5.30pm

We do hope you can come along to the next Open Session and that you will enjoy seeing your child's classroom, their books and teacher. A reminder that these are informal 'drop ins' and you do not need a set appointment.

Classes 3, 5, and 6: Use the Class 5/6 doors

Classes 1, 2 and 4: Use the main entrance

Please be aware that buggies and prams cannot be brought into the building.

Year 6 Parents: a date for your diary

On Wednesday 8th February, Miss Walker will be holding Y6 consultations to discuss your child's progress towards their SATs in May. These meetings, designed to have parent and child attending together, will begin at 1.30pm and appointments will be available throughout the afternoon and after school. You will receive a booking letter in a couple of weeks, but for now if you could make a note of the date, that would be very helpful.

Bag2School collection

Tuesday 17th January



Collection bags are coming home today, but do remember that you can also use bin bags if you have more to donate. We get paid by the weight, so the more we collect, the more we raise!

We accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

Items that are NOT accepted:

Duvets and blankets
Pillows and cushions
Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
School uniforms with and without logo
Corporate clothing and workwear
Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Leave your bags on the village green by 9am on the morning of Tuesday 17th January



New games or devices for Christmas?

It is not unusual for children to want to access material that is not suitable for them, particularly in gaming and social media.

Accessing material that is not age appropriate can be distressing and damaging for children, exposing them to sometimes violent, explicit content and offensive language. This can negatively affect their behaviour, moods, ability to concentrate at school and their sleep patterns. Not only can it impact the child themselves, but also their relationships with other children, especially through inappropriate online messaging and bad language which can spill into school life.

The following pages outline some of the age restrictions you need to be aware of as parents. We do hope that you find it a useful resource for knowing what your child should and should not be accessing.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Under 13



Roblox

PopJam

FaceTime

13+



Twitter

Facebook and Messenger

Viber

WeChat

Monkey

Yubo

Dubsmash

Instagram

TikTok

Skype

Google Hangouts

Reddit

Snapchat

Pinterest

16+



WhatsApp

Telegram Messenger

Tumblr

17+



Line

Sarahah

Tellonym

Age Restrictions for Video Games

3

PEGI 3

Games with a PEGI 3 rating are suitable for all ages.

They may have:

child-like settings

comical violence

language more suitable for young children

For example:

Just Dance

FIFA

DiRT Rally

Animal Crossing

For further information regarding the video game age restrictions mentioned in this resource, please see the official [PEGI](https://www.pegi.info/) website.

7

PEGI 7

Games with a PEGI 7 rating are suitable for ages 7 and above.

They may have:

some scenes or sounds that could be frightening

mild forms of violence (non-realistic or with no detail)

For example:

Minecraft

Roblox

Among Us

Lego Series



Age Restrictions for Video Games

12

PEGI 12

Games with a PEGI 12 rating are suitable for ages 12 and above.

They may have:

violence of a slightly graphic nature involving fantasy characters

suggestive activities or language

gambling

mild bad language

For example:

Sims

Fortnite

Dragon Ball FighterZ

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate

For further information regarding the video game age restrictions mentioned in this resource, please see the official [PEGI](https://www.pegi.info/) website.

16

PEGI 16

Games with a PEGI 16 rating are suitable for ages 16 and above.

They may have:

violence and adult content that looks like real life

bad language

scenes demonstrating the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal substances

For example:

Marvel's Avengers

Battlefield 2042

Halo Infinite

Marvel's Spider-Man



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Age Restrictions for Video Games

18

PEGI 18

Games with a PEGI 18 rating are suitable for ages 18 and above.

They may have:

extreme violence

explicit adult content

the glamorised use of illegal substances

For example:

Call of Duty: Warzone

Grand Theft Auto V

Far Cry 3 Blood Dragon



For further information regarding the video game age restrictions mentioned in this resource, please see the official [PEGI](https://www.pegi.info/) website.

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Date	Event	Information
JANUARY		
4 th	INSET Day	No school for children
5 th	Spring Term begins	
16 th	After school clubs start	
17 th	Bag2School	Collection of unwanted clothing etc
18 th & 19 th	Arts Days	
27 th	Class 4 Cake Day	
30 th	Open Session	3.30-5.30pm
FEBRUARY		
3 rd	Class 4 Assembly	9.15am in the hall for Class 4 parents
6 th	Movie & Munch	
8 th	Y6 Parent Consultations	1.30 – 5pm
10 th	Finish for half term	Usual time of 3.15pm
20 th	Back to school	
23 rd & 24 th	Book Fair	Before and after school
MARCH		
2 nd	World Book Day	Costume needed!
3 rd	PTA Spring Disco	5.30 – 7pm
6 th – 10 th	ASSESSMENT WEEK	Years 1-6, avoid absence please
10 th	Class 3 Cake Day	
15 th & 16 th	Science Days	
17 th	Red Nose Day	Charity event
20 th – 24 th	Parent Consultations	Face to face appointments available on Monday 20 th . The rest of the week will be video and telephone calls.
24 th	Class 3 Assembly	9.15am in the hall for Class 3 parents
31 st	End of term	Early finish of 2pm

SUMMER TERM 2023	
17 th April	Summer term begins for children
1 st May & 8 th May	Bank Holidays
29 th May-2 nd June	Half term week
18 th July	END OF TERM 2pm
19 th July	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
20 th July	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
21 st July	<i>Occasional Day. School closed to staff & children</i>



Term dates 2023 – 2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023	
1st September	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
4 th September	Autumn term begins for children
23 rd – 27 th October	Half term week
19 th December	END OF TERM 2pm
20th December	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
SPRING TERM 2024	
4 th January	Spring term begins for children
19 th – 23 rd February	Half term week
28 th March	END OF TERM 2pm
SUMMER TERM 2024	
15th April	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
16 th April	Summer term begins for children
27 th - 31 st May	Half term week
18 th July	END OF TERM 2pm
19th July	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
22nd July	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
23rd July	<i>Occasional Day. School closed to staff & children</i>

ALL CHILDREN ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN SCHOOL UNTIL 2pm on 18th July 2024. No absence for any reason will be authorised at the end of the summer term.

Very occasionally, term dates and INSET days may need to be changed. We will notify parents well in advance should this be the case. **Holidays should not be taken during term time; such absences will not be authorised. This includes days ‘tagged on’ to the beginning and end of school terms; these absences will also not be authorised.**