



NEWSLETTER



Issue 1: Thursday 5th September 2024

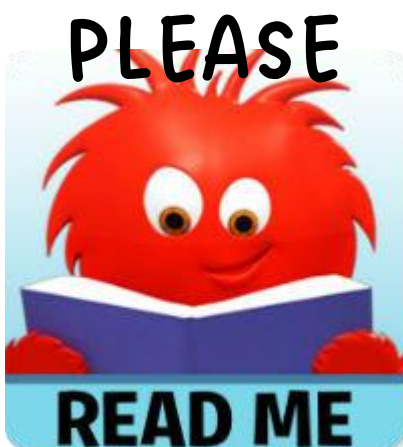


A very warm welcome to you all, especially to those children and families who are new to St Ippolyts Primary School. Everyone is settling in brilliantly; we have just some more Reception children to start next week and then we will be a full house once again. We look forward to a long and happy partnership with you all throughout the years ahead.

We would also like to welcome some new faces to our staff team; Miss McGrath as Class 2 teacher and Miss Walker (a different one!) as a temporary Teaching Assistant. I am sure they will be made to feel very welcome and hope they will be very happy here at St Ippolyts.

We have had a lovely first week in school; everyone has settled into their new classes and our new Year 6's are looking particularly grown up, ready to embrace their final year at St Ippolyts.

There is always a lot of important information in this first newsletter of the year so please do find a moment to read it through (please be assured that they aren't always this long!)



Newsletters go out on Thursdays via email and they are your 'go to' place for all you need to know, the latest news and important reminders. We also put a copy on the school website. If you would prefer to receive a paper version, please just let the office know and we will make sure your child brings one home in their book bag. You would be amazed how many times parents need to ring the office with queries and questions that have been covered in several editions of the newsletter so it would be really helpful if you could get into the habit of reading them each week. Thank you!

Years 5 and 6: permission to walk home

Earlier this week, parents of Y5 and Y6 should have received an email about giving consent for children to walk home alone after school. Please could you respond to this as soon as possible, many thanks.

After School Clubs

Today children in Years 1-6 will bring home a paper copy of this term's clubs letter. Please return the forms by next week, Tuesday 9th September.

Clubs will begin w/c 16th September.

Summer Works

It has been a very busy summer in school! Our roof is finished, classrooms have had new LED lighting installed, there has been decorating, repairs and lots of cleaning!

We also have a new waiting area at the front of the school which looks fabulous too! A huge thank you to our site manager Mr Dickens and his premises team for all their hard work this summer.



Reception curriculum evening

Miss Ingle and Mrs Holmes will be holding our annual Reception Curriculum Information evening on **Thursday 19th September** at 6pm in the main hall. The session will give you lots of useful information about how children learn in Reception and how you can support your child at home so we do hope you can make it. Parking is available on the school playground for this.

Class 1 Parents Coffee Morning Friday 13th September 9.00-10.00am

Class 1 parents are warmly welcomed to join us for a coffee after morning drop off on Friday 13th September. This is a lovely opportunity to chat informally with the class 1 staff and get to know other parents and families. Younger siblings are very welcome to come along too.



SWIMMING: YEARS 3 AND 4

Swimming lessons start next week, Wednesday 11th September.

Please make sure your child remembers to bring their swimming kit and that all items of clothing and belongings are named clearly. Please consent via Arbor, thank you.



Year 6 Parents: secondary applications

Applications for secondary schools are now open. All the information you need to apply can be found online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk.

The deadline for secondary applications is 31st October 2024.

Homework

We will be once again using our online platform, Google Classroom, for setting homework. This will be starting from next week. Your child will receive and invite to join their new class via their Google account and teachers will be doing refresher sessions in school so that children can log on independently at home.

All spellings and homework tasks will be set on Google Classroom on a Tuesday, with the deadline being the following Monday, allowing plenty of flexibility for completing things.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Daily reading	Daily reading	Daily reading	Daily reading
Bug Club Phonics 10 mins twice a week	Bug Club Phonics 10 mins twice a week	Bug Club phonics and reading	Bug Club
	Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday	Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday	Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday
	From the spring term one short task per week either English or Maths, around 10 mins	From the autumn term, one short task per week either English or Maths. 15 mins	From the autumn term, one task per week either English or Maths. 20 mins
		Times Tables Rockstars	Times Tables Rockstars
Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	
Daily reading	Daily reading	Daily reading	
Bug Club	Bug Club	Bug Club	
Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday	Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday	Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday	All homework tasks will be uploaded onto Google Classroom on a Tuesday and will be due in the following Monday.
From the autumn term, one task per week either English or Maths. 25 mins	From the autumn term, two tasks per week, one English and one Maths. 20 mins per task	From the autumn term, two tasks per week, one English and one Maths. 30 mins per task	Children may submit completed tasks at any time over the week before the deadline.
Times Tables Rockstars	Times Tables Rockstars	Times Tables Rockstars SAM learning	



Packed lunches

Please ensure that packed lunches are healthy and balanced for your child so that they have a good meal to get them through the afternoon.

- No chocolate or sweets
- No hot foods or flasks
- Unlimited drinking water is provided, cartons of juice/fizzy drinks should not be included
- **No nuts or nut products (including things like peanut butter, cereal bars and Nutella)**
- If your child will need a spoon or cutlery for their lunch (yogurts/salads etc), please provide this for them in with their lunch

If you would like any advice on lunches or ways to encourage your child to eat well, please talk to Mrs Stewart who would be happy to help.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS: watches, jewellery & hair

A polite reminder of the following:

- Children can wear a simple analogue or digital watch for school. **Smart watches, Fitbits etc are not permitted.**
- If your child has pierced ears they may wear simple stud earrings which need to be removed for swimming or PE. If they cannot be removed, please supply your child with a roll of micropore tape in their PE bag so that they can cover them for sports. **Hooped earrings of any kind are not permitted.**
- To avoid the spread of head lice, please ensure that hair beyond shoulder length is tied back for school; plaits are particularly effective for this.
- Nail varnish and make up are not allowed.

Book recommendation

For our first Collective Worship of the school year, we listened to the story of 'The world needs who you were made to be'.

It is a lovely story, celebrating how we are all different, we all learn in different ways and have different talents, but together we make the world beautiful – just like a sky full of hot air balloons!

I hope that you know and love who you are for all of the beautiful and unique and magical gifts you have to offer to the world.

May you always look at life with your eyes wide open. Be quick to learn from others and see and celebrate the differences in all of humanity.

Be kind to others and to yourself.

And may you always believe that the world needs who you were made to be.

LOVE, *Joanna*

THE WORLD NEEDS
Who You Were Made to Be

JOANNA
GAINES

illustrated by
JULIANNA SWANEY



COMMUNICATION

Here is a reminder of which staff to contact in school when you need assistance		
Your query	Who you need to talk to	How to get in touch
Anything to do with your individual child ...their progress, behaviour or something that has happened in school or on the playground	Your child's Class Teacher is always the first port of call for any of these queries; they may then involve the Senior Leadership Team or the Headteacher if necessary.	Make an appointment via the office or drop them a short note; each teacher will have different times available due to after school clubs and meetings etc. Please try not to 'catch' your child's teacher in the morning as they need to make a prompt start to the day. Class email accounts: class1@stipps.herts.sch.uk class2@stipps.herts.sch.uk etc
Anything to do with your child's Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision or any concerns you may have about possible SEND	The ' Inclusion Manager ' Mrs Stewart	Make an appointment via the office or email senco@stipps.herts.sch.uk
Any queries with administration , for example pupil records, dinner money, school trip payments	Office Manager: Mrs Joyce Office Administration: Mrs Islam	Pop in, telephone or send an email 01462 432080 admin@stipps.herts.sch.uk Office Post box in the main entrance for reply slips, letters etc (Not cash)
Any queries about fundraising in school such as ideas for events and to volunteer to help	Chair of the PTA or any PTA Committee members	Leave a message via the office or send an email to pta@stipps.herts.sch.uk
Anything to do with whole school issues or ideas for the future or to give some feedback	Headteacher: Mrs Peddie Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Stewart Chair of Governors Mrs Luxton	Make an appointment via the office or write a short note Email head@stipps.herts.sch.uk OR governors@stipps.herts.sch.uk
Any concerns regarding child welfare or family circumstances which we need to be aware of or to discuss serious issues or concerns . For Child Protection or Safeguarding matters	Safeguarding Team DSL: Mrs Peddie DDSLs: Mrs Stewart, Miss Walker, Miss Ingle	Make an appointment via the office, telephone, write a short note, or email head@stipps.herts.sch.uk
Messages about medical appointments, childcare arrangements, who is collecting your child etc	Office Manager: Mrs Joyce Office Administration: Mrs Islam	A short note or email is best for these matters. The office team will then ensure Class Teachers know and we have a record in case of any problems.



Diary Dates

Autumn term 2024



Date	Event	Information
SEPTEMBER		
2 nd	INSET Day	Staff training, no school for children
3 rd	Autumn term begins	
13 th	Class 1 Coffee Morning	Class 1 parents, 9.00am in the hall, younger siblings welcome
19 th	Class 1 Curriculum Evening	Class 1 parents, 6pm in the school hall.
OCTOBER		
4 th	Harvest Festival	Service in church for children and staff. Children are asked to bring a harvest gift of non-perishable food items.
7 th	OPEN SESSION 3.30-5.30pm	A chance for parents & families to visit classrooms, look at books and chat informally to teachers, no appointment needed
w/c 14 th	WELLBEING WEEK	A week of themed activities and visitors to support children's mental health and wellbeing
18 th	Class 6 Cake Day	Class 6 are asked to provide the cakes to sell at breaktime. All children can bring money to buy a cake instead of their usual snack.
21 st	PTA Movie and Munch	After-school fundraiser, finishes around 5pm
25 th	Class 6 Assembly	Assembly for C6 Parents at 9.15am
27 th Oct-1 st Nov	HALF TERM	
NOVEMBER		
4 th	Back to school	
w/c 11 th	AUTUMN ASSESSMENTS	
11 th	Remembrance Day	Service in church for children and staff
12 th	School photos	Individual portraits and sibling groups (of children in school)
15 th	Children in Need	Charity fundraising day
22 nd	Class 5 Assembly	Assembly for C5 Parents at 9.15am
w/c 25 th	PARENT CONSULTATIONS	A blend of face to face, video and telephone appointments will be on offer.
DECEMBER		
2 nd	PTA Festive Movie and Munch	After-school fundraiser, finishes around 5pm
6 th	PTA Christmas Fair	3.30-5.30pm
12 th	Class 1 Nativity	2pm in the hall for Class 1 parents
13 th	Class 5 Cake Day	Class 5 are asked to provide the cakes to sell at breaktime. All children can bring money to buy a cake instead of their usual snack.
17 th	Carol Service	In church for children and staff
18 th	Christmas Dinner	
19 th	Christmas Parties	Children can wear non-uniform/ Christmas outfits for the day
20 th	End of term 2pm	

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO MAKE A NOTE OF (subject to change)

Spring term 2025		Summer term 2025	
21/22 nd Jan	Arts Days	22 nd April	INSET Day
31 st Jan	Class 4 Cake Day	9 th May	C2 Assembly
3 rd Feb	Open Session	w/c 12 th May	Y6 SATs week
7 th Feb	C4 Assembly	16 th May	C2 Cake Day
13 th Feb	Y6 Parent Consultations	21 st May	SPORTS DAY
24-28 th Feb	Half term	22 nd May	Reserve date for sports day
6 th Mar	World Book Day	26 th -30 th May	Half term
w/c 10 th Mar	Spring Assessment Week	w/c 2 nd June & w/c 9 th June	Summer assessments for Y1-5, inc Y4 MTC & Y1 phonics
21 st Mar	C3 assembly	6 th -9 th June	Y5/6 PGL School Journey
w/c 24 th Mar	Parent Consultations	13 th June	C1 Assembly
28 th Mar	C3 Cake Day	20 th June	PGL Assembly
3 rd April	Easter Service	20 th June	C1 Cake Day
4 th April	End of term 2pm	4 th July	PTA Summer Fair
		7-9 th July	KS2 Production
		10 th July	Transition Day
		17 th July	Leavers Service
		18 th July	End of term 2pm

Term dates 2024 – 2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024	
2nd September	INSET Day, no school for children
3 rd September	Autumn term begins for children
28 th Oct -1 st Nov	Half term week
20 th December	END OF TERM 2pm
SPRING TERM 2025	
6th January	INSET Day, no school for children
7 th January	Spring term begins for children
17 th – 21 st February	Half term week
4 th April	END OF TERM 2pm
SUMMER TERM 2025	
22nd April	INSET Day, no school for children
23 rd April	Summer term begins for children
26 th – 30 th May	Half term week
18 th July	END OF TERM 2pm
21st July	INSET Day, no school for children
22nd July	INSET Day, no school for children
23rd July	Occasional Day. School closed to staff & children
<p>Please do not take extra days at the beginning and end of terms. We already place our INSET days carefully to enable families to leave considerably earlier than the official end of term in the summer.</p> <p>Please be mindful of the new rules on attendance and be aware that any authorisation (for any reason given) is at the discretion of headteachers. Therefore, do be aware that absences may not be authorised.</p>	



IMPORTANT: changes to attendance laws

From August 2024, the laws on school attendance and fines for unauthorised absence changed. **Fines are not restricted to term time holidays but can be issued for intermittent or ongoing unauthorised absences** and takes into account previous years absences too.

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing!



With the introduction of the new Department of Education (DfE) National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

Parent refers to anyone with parental responsibility and may include carers, step-parents, grandparents or any other adult with parental responsibility.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice **must** be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave of absence or unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court.

- Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines up to £2.500
- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'



Mary Exton Primary School are proud to announce that The Happy Circus are coming to Hitchin!

- ★ Saturday 7th September 2024
- ★ Doors open at 2.00pm - there will be bouncy castles, food, drink and games to play
 - ★ Big Top opens at 3:30pm
- ★ Pre-show starts at 3:40pm - characters walking around the Big Top to set the scene
 - ★ Show starts at 4:00pm with an interval at 4:45pm
 - ★ Second half begins at 5:15pm
- ★ Show finishes at 6.00pm - have your photo taken with the circus characters

Scan this QR Code to buy tickets



Individual Tickets	£11.00
Family of 4 Tickets	£40.00

For more information contact our School Office 01462 456997 or

Email: office@maryexton.herts.sch.uk