

MAIN HEADLINES

STRICT TIMINGS FOR THE SCHOOL GATE:

There are increasingly more and more children arriving late - especially on a morning. This impacts on office staff and their workload, so please make every effort to come to school on time.

- Breakfast Club: **8:00 - 8:05am**
- Morning Drop Off: **8:30 - 8:45am**
- Morning Pick Up: **11:30am**
- Afternoon Drop Off: **12:30 - 12:45pm**
- Afternoon Pick Up: **3:30pm**

The children begin the planning meeting with their key person at 8.45, but they need time to get their tag, take off their shoes, hang up their coat and be ready to start the day. If they are late, it delays the day and is upsetting for the children.

If, on the odd occasion, you are running late, please ring the school office to let them know your circumstances.

01429 838206 or 07437 335733

THE WEATHER!

The wet, stormy weather we are all experiencing is **extraordinary** to say the least and is ultimately related to climate change. There seems to be no end to it and although we talk about there being no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing, our beliefs are really being challenged in these persistent conditions.

Please be reassured that we take this very seriously and put the children's well-being at the heart of all we do. The cottage children are spending more time indoors and the allotment children are staying at the main school site on these relentlessly wet days.

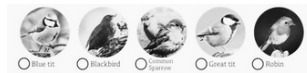
OUR FOCUS IN SCHOOL THIS TERM

This term is the time when our children's learning really begins to take off! They are becoming much more confident and have clear ideas and interests about what they want to do in school. Some are spending lots of time in the block area, building the most amazing structures. Some prefer to focus on imaginative play in the little house. Lots of children are proving to be very creative and innovative in the studio with paint, clay or woodwork. Others are becoming skilled bakers - producing batches of delicious pastries, cakes, biscuits etc.

The staff are supporting all children in their play, always looking for ways to interact and deepen the learning across all areas.

We are also introducing some 'winter and early spring' themes to the children, integrating ideas into the environment, indoors and out, such as:

- wintry weather
 - hibernation
 - birds
 - buds
- We will be talking about the wind and rain we have been experiencing and exploring why this is happening. We will also be exploring which wild animals hibernate and why, as well as helping to care for garden birds during the coldest time of the year, when their supply of food is low. We will also look forward to spotting signs of spring, as new buds emerge in the garden over the coming months.



BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

This year's Big Garden Birdwatch takes place on 26th — 28th January 2024. The public is asked to spend one hour watching and recording the birds in their garden or local green space, then send their results to the RSPB.

We are planning to do our own School's Birdwatch during the week beginning 12 February - across all our sites.

It would be lovely if you could join in and talk to your children about the birds that visit your garden at home.

For more info, check out www.rspb.org.uk

OTHER NEWS

NEW CHILDREN

We have welcomed 16 new children into school this January. We have slotted these new little ones into our existing groups.

FINANCE

BREAKFAST CLUB

Unless you have arranged with the school office to incorporate your breakfast club charges into your overall monthly fee, you should be paying for breakfast club in cash as you arrive each morning.

We have spent a lot of time chasing payments recently, due to none payment on arrival. Please take note.

STANDING ORDERS

Thank you to the parents who are adhering to the terms and conditions of the Payment Agreement Forms. By all accounts, the final payment will be in June, meaning that you only have 5 payments left.

CASH PAYMENTS

Anyone who pays in cash for their child's snack, should be paying weekly - preferably on a Monday to either Becky or Natalie, at the school gate.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29 JAN ←	30 JAN	31 JAN NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK	1 FEB	2 FEB →
5 FEB	6 FEB	7 FEB	8 FEB	9 FEB
12 FEB ←	13 FEB	14 FEB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH WEEK	15 FEB	16 FEB BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
26 FEB BACK TO SCHOOL	27 FEB	28 FEB	29 FEB	1 MAR
4 MAR	5 MAR	6 MAR	7 MAR WORLD BOOK DAY	8 MAR LADIES DAY (mammy's day)
11 MAR	12 MAR	13 MAR	14 MAR	15 MAR
18 MAR ←	19 MAR	20 MAR PARENT'S EVENING WEEK	21 MAR	22 MAR →
25 MAR	26 MAR	27 MAR	28 MAR BREAK UP FOR EASTER	

CLASS DOJO

We are now no longer using whatsapp as a form of contact. We have replaced this with an app called Class Dojo.

The majority of parents have signed up to the app, but there are still a couple that we are waiting for. We have sent all parents an invitation via SMS text to join Dojo. If you are not yet part of the Dojo family, please join as soon as possible. If you have not received an invite from us please let us know as soon as possible.

THE APP IS FREE SO PLEASE DON'T PAY TO JOIN

LADIES DAY

We will be planning a special event for every child's mum/mam to come into school on Friday 8 March.

The special events will take place across all 3 sites and will probably last 1 hour, so if all ladies can begin thinking about seeking time off work to attend that day, that'll be great.

PARENT'S EVENINGS

Week beginning 18 March is when the staff will be holding 10 minute slots for parents to come in and discuss their children's progress.

Please look out for more details closer to the time - to book your slot.

10 minutes is very brief, and we will need to stick to time to make it fair for everyone.

PLEASE MAKE TIME TO READ THE FOLLOWING REMINDERS:

- Children can no longer be picked up early from school, unless your child has a hospital appointment or you have an emergency and have no other option
- Please make a point of checking the lost property wardrobe every week, as items are accumulating. We will be dropping off any items left behind to the clothes bank on a Friday afternoon
- Remember to ring/text us if your child is absent from school for whatever reason. School admin will no longer ring or text you. If we are not aware of a child's absence, it potentially could be classed as a safeguarding issue and may be reported
- PLEASE DO NOT park in the very small car park at the end of the building (near the Family Centre) or down the narrow road on Partridge Terrace, or on the pavement on New Cross Row as this forces pedestrians to walk on the road
- Remember to check the calendar above to find out when school breaks up for the February half term and also Easter

Reminders!

THANK YOU