



# NEWSLETTER

Pupil attendance to date: 96.1%. Target 97%

8th September 2023

## Diary Dates

**Monday 11th Sept**  
**Be Active football**  
**club (Yr 4-6)**  
**3-3.50pm**

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**Mrs Wassef Lego**  
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**(Yrs 1-3) 3-3.50pm**

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**library club Yrs 1-3**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely welcoming the children back this week. They have settled into routines so quickly and there is already a wonderful atmosphere in school. I am so excited about the year ahead.

In this week's whole school assembly we heard Jesus say: 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine...let him take up his cross and follow me.'

I explained that, to me, the taking up of the cross showed that Jesus was vulnerable as it was on the cross that he would die. It was a sign of his human weakness.



The children were told that when we learn to accept our own vulnerabilities and weaknesses then we are taking up our cross and placing our trust in God.

This is my first time starting a year without a class. I told the children that the very first thing I say to any new class of mine, when I meet them, is that they must communicate if they are in any way sad, upset, nervous, confused, angry or scared about anything. We cannot learn and **live our lives in all their fullness** if we are feeling any of these emotions and there will undoubtedly be times this year when we are feeling one or more of these. When we carry our cross we accept that we all will need help from others.

The children were asked to think about 5 'trusted adults' that they could speak to if they were unhappy and not ready to learn this year. I don't mind who they tell as long as they tell somebody. It was reassuring that many of the children said that they would be happy to speak to their teachers. I think it says a lot about our school that the first person the children said they would speak to was God.

Please ask your children who their 5 trusted adults are this weekend.

Enjoy the sunshine!

**Mr Doherty**



**Mrs France**

This week I was informed of the passing of Mrs France who was a volunteer reader at the school pre-COVID for a number of years. Mrs France was a wonderful lady who contributed so much to our school. May she rest in peace.

**A big thank you and well done!**

I have been so impressed at how few children have been late this week. It really helps the teachers and most importantly your children to be in school on time and **ready** to learn. Keep it up! It is so very much appreciated.



**WE ARE NOT AWARE**  
**SAY NO TO NUTS!**





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### Term dates for 2023/2024

Attached to this newsletter are the term dates (including staff training days) for the academic year. We have also attached a list of upcoming dates for the Autumn term so you have advance notice. This will be added to weekly so please keep an eye on it.

2023					2024				
2023 CALENDAR					2024 CALENDAR				
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
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8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
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17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
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19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
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23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
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25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31

### Summer reading challenge

Well done to all of the children who took part in the 'Ready, Set, Read' summer Reading challenge at West Drayton library. If your child has their certificate please make sure they bring them to school so we can celebrate their successes at Key Stage assemblies and/ or in class next week.



### Start of term Mass

This Wednesday we will celebrate with our first Mass of the new academic year in Church. Year 6 will be leading. You are all very welcome to attend.



### Volunteering

If you would be interested in volunteering in school to support our children as a parent reader please contact the office.

### Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) update

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings.

Following our last site conditioning survey and following consultation with our building consultants we do not believe that we have RAAC in our school. However we are in the process of having this verified. We will inform you immediately if the situation changes.

I hope that this offers reassurance.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Doherty



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### Additional PE lessons

This year we have managed to timetable two PE sessions a week for our children. Their continued health and wellbeing are our priority. As of next week Years 2,3,4 and 5 will have an additional PE lesson each week (delivered by their class teachers) so that they receive a minimum of 2 hours planned physical activity.

Below is a list to confirm the days when your child has PE. They should come to school on these days in full PE kit. Reception and Nursery just need to wear trainers on these days.



Nursery am - Tuesdays  
Nursery pm - Wednesdays  
Those children who attend all day will need to wear trainers on both days.

Reception - Tuesdays and Wednesdays - children will need to wear trainers on both days.

Years 1-6 should come to school in PE kit on any day that they have PE. Yr6 should come to school in PE kit on swimming days.

Year 1 - Wednesdays and Thursdays

Year 2 - Thursdays and **FRIDAYS**

Year 3 - Tuesdays and **THURSDAYS**

Year 4 - Tuesdays and **WEDNESDAYS**

Year 5 - Tuesdays and **FRIDAYS**

Year 6 - Tuesdays (PE)  
- Wednesdays (Swimming)

The year 6 swimming lesson times have changed this year. Their lesson will be from 10 - 10:30am at Langley Leisure Centre. They will leave school at approximately 9:20 and they will return at approximately 11am.

### New Reception and Nursery parents reminder!

Please return your completed new parent packs as soon as possible to the school office. Thank you.

### This weeks attendance

This weeks attendance is at 96.1%. This is moving in the right direction. Year 3 have the highest attendance rate of 98.8%

### Homework

No homework will be set this week. Children should have received their reading books. Homework and spellings will be set on Google Classrooms from next week.

### Water bottles and suncream

Please make sure that (if the weather continues as it is) that your child has a water bottle (with their name on) and that they have had sun cream applied before school.





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### Free Speech, Language and Communication workshops for Parents and Carers

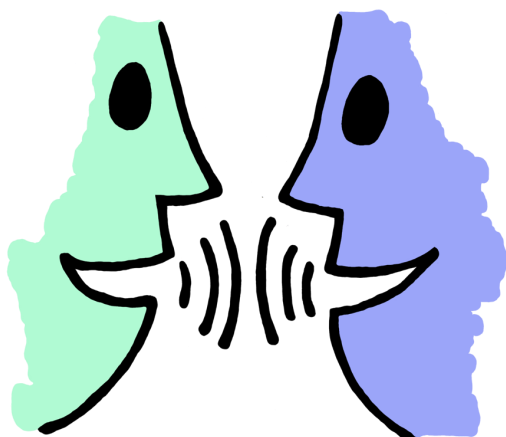
Hillingdon PCF (Parent Carer Forum) are running free online workshops on Speech, Language and communication.

The workshops currently cover:

- Understanding the communication chain and which part is not working for your child
- How you can support your child
- Your role
- Key strategies
- How to work with others supporting your child so you all have a common approach to supporting communication development
- Resources and where to get more support

If you would like to attend to find out more about how you can support your children with their speech, language and communication, please click on the link to register.

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speech-language-and-communication-workshop-primary-tickets-638601593557?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep\\_tlid=1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speech-language-and-communication-workshop-primary-tickets-638601593557?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tlid=1)





# Autumn term diary dates

## Autumn (1st half)

Wednesday 13th September: Beginning of term Mass in Church

Thursday 14th September: Meet the PTA cheese and wine night in school @ 6pm

Thursday 21st September: Pedestrian Training (Years 4 and 5)

Wednesday 27th September: Verulamium School Trip (Year 3)

Thursday 5th October: Pedestrian Training (Reception and Yr 1)

Wednesday 11th October: Individual school photos

Wednesday 11th October: Great Fire of London workshop for Yr 2

Tuesday 17th October: Parents Evening (whole school) 4-7pm

Wednesday 18th October: Year 4 trip to Hampton Court

Thursday 19th October: Parents Evening (whole school) 3.30-5.30pm

Friday 20th October: Last day of half term

Monday 23rd October-Friday 27th October: Half term

Thursday 2nd November: Bag2School day

Tuesday 7th November: Year 5 and 6 Healthy eating afternoon with The Pantry (our school meals provider)

Wednesday 13th December: Pantomime at Beck Theatre for Years 3-6

Wednesday 13th December: Pantomime in school for Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2

Wednesday 20th December: Last day of Autumn term. School finishes at 2pm

Monday 8th January: Staff Training day

Tuesday 9th January: First day of Spring Term



# St Catherine Term Dates 2023/2024

## Autumn Term 2023

***Mon Sept 4th - INSET DAY***

Start of term - Tuesday 5th September 2023

End of term - Friday 20th October 2023

**Half term - Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023**

Start of term - Monday 30th October 2023

End of term - Wednesday 20th December 2023

***Thurs 21st December - INSET DAY***

***Christmas Holidays - Friday 22nd December 2023- Friday 5th January 2024***

## Spring Term 2024

***Monday 8th January - INSET DAY***

Start of Term - Tues 9th January 2024

End of Term - Friday 9th February 2024

**Half Term - Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2024**

Start of Term - Monday 19th February 2024

End of Term - Thursday 28th March 2024

***Good Friday - Friday 29th March***

***Easter Holidays - Friday 29th March- Friday 12th April 2024***

## Summer Term 2024

Start of Term - Monday 15th April 2024

End of Term - Thursday 23rd May 2024

***Friday 24th May - INSET DAY***

**Half Term - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024**

Start of Term - Monday 3rd June 2024

End of Term - Tuesday 23rd July 2024

***Wednesday 24th July - INSET DAY***