



Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you have all managed to spend some quality time with your children during the summer break and have a rest of some kind too. A special and very warm welcome to our new children and families who join Team Enfield this year. We hope you will be very happy here and look forward to working with you from the very start of your child's journey through the crucial Primary School years with us. As always, the new school year letter is an opportunity to draw your attention to a few pieces of information so that we can continue to work together in the best interests of your children.

Building work update- The building work is now in its very final stages! We are happy to announce that the new classrooms and library area are complete and look amazing! The final part of the works that is still to be completed is the hall. This is estimated to be completed within the first 3 weeks back. Once the build is completely finished, we will be arranging an open evening for you to come and have a look around the new school with your children!

Access to the school site- Thank you for your understanding as we safely guided children to the right classrooms this morning! Just for clarification, please see below the entry points for each class.

Kestrel and Eagle Class will access their classroom via the rear entrances from their playground.

Owl Class will access their classroom via the rear entrance from their playground.

Kingfisher and Chaffinch class will enter school via the door to the KS2 corridor.

Robin and Wren will enter school via the door next to Wren class directly into their cloakroom area.

Mobile Phones Please remember that for Safeguarding reasons, we are a no mobile phone school. Please ensure that as an adult entering our school site, your mobile phone is securely in your bag or pocket. Mobile phones should not come in to school for any children apart from Year 5 and 6 children that walk all the way home themselves, or, there is a specific reason that you have communicated to the class teacher before sending this in, such as going to a different parent's house that evening. Any child bringing a mobile phone in to school should hand this into the school office who will keep this until the end of the day. Children should not have their phones switched on once they are on school premises and we ask that they do not use them once out of school to film or photograph themselves in uniform or with school signs or images in the background. Please talk to your child about this rule.

Staffing update- We welcome three new members of staff to the Enfield Team this term. Mr Coulam joins us as Kestrel Class Teacher, Miss Kirk joins us as a Teaching Assistant in EYFS and in

Year 1 and 2 and Mrs Lockwood joins us as an Early Years Practitioner in Wren Class. I am sure you will all join me in giving them a warm Enfield welcome.

ClassDojo messaging- Class Dojo messaging was introduced at the start of the March 2020 lockdown as a means of communication between home and school. From day one, Dojo has been invaluable as a way of sharing information via the school story and class stories about what is happening in school and in classes. I am sure that everyone appreciates this. Being kept up to date with what is happening in school and having something to refer back on the app too is preferred by many people, as well as having actual letters. This feature is something that we are keen to keep.

The comments and messaging feature, however, has become more difficult to manage. During periods of lockdown 2020, it was very useful and, as teachers were on Dojo for most of the day, messages and comments were easy to respond to. Staff could not be spoken to personally, so this was the next best thing. However, we are now finding that there are a number of issues with comments and messages:

- Teachers do not always get notifications when messages or comments have been sent. This can result in important messages being missed.
- Some messages come through at very unsociable hours. Whilst we appreciate people have different working hours, it is hard not to respond to a message if we know it is there, even late at night. This therefore has an impact on teacher work/life balance, which the government is pushing schools to address.
- Not all messages and comments are kind or polite. Whilst these types of messages are not frequent thankfully, they are upsetting.
- When comments and messages refer to specific issues, it would be more productive to talk about these face-to-face rather than going backwards and forwards via text.

After a lot of discussion in school, it has been decided that the way in which Dojo is used will be refined. We will continue to share information, events and learning through whole school and class posts but, to alleviate the above issues regarding messaging, this feature will no longer be used from **Monday 16th September** for all classes except for Robin and Wren Class or for any children with extenuating circumstances. You will still have the ability to send messages, but these will not be read or opened by staff. If you have a concern, or you need to speak to a member of staff, please speak to them at the beginning or the end of the day. Alternatively, please contact the school office to request an appointment or email the office on office@enfieldacademy.co.uk who will then forward your message to the appropriate person. We strongly feel face-to-face contact with class teachers is a much better approach and should always be the first port of call to discuss things, ask questions or pass on information. Thank you for your support and understanding with this, as always it is greatly appreciated.

Dates for your diary- *Please be advised that these are provisional dates and are subject to change. Further information about all events will be sent out in due course.*

SEPTEMBER	
Monday 2 nd	Training Day for all staff
Tuesday 3 rd	Children return to school
Wednesday 11 th	Individual School photographs
Friday 13 th	Swimming begins for Y4 – 10.45-11.30 in the water, weekly until 29.11.24- More details to follow
Thursday 26 th	European Day of Languages
Friday 27 th	Macmillan Coffee morning
OCTOBER	
Monday 7 th , Tuesday 8 th or Wednesday 9 th	Parents evenings for all year groups
Thursday 10 th	World Mental Health Day (#helloyellow day)
Monday 14 th , Tuesday 15 th , Wednesday 16 th	Residential visit to East Whitby- Y4- More details to follow
Friday 18 th	Break up for two week half Term 3.15pm
NOVEMBER	
Monday 4 th	Staff and children return to school
W/C Monday 11 th	Anti-bullying week- Choose Respect
Tuesday 12 th	Open day for new starters including an open evening
Wednesday 20 th	Flu vaccinations for R-Y6
Friday 29 th	Last swimming session
Friday 29 th	Non-uniform day for Christmas raffle prizes
DECEMBER	
Thursday 5 th	Christingle celebration Y3 and 4- 9am
Friday 6 th	Christingle celebration Y5 and 6- 9am
W/C 9 th	Nursery and Reception Christmas play- dates tbc Year 1 and 2 Christmas play- dates tbc
Tuesday 17 th	Christmas parties KS1 am and KS2 pm
Friday 20 th	Christmas Jumper day- Cinema experience Break up for the Christmas holidays 2.15pm

