



September Newsletter 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to all of our new families who have joined our school community. We have been particularly impressed with our new EYFS children who have settled into school very quickly and are showing great attitudes to learning school routines and expectations. Also we have had a number of new children join other classes and they have been amazing as well. As always, this half term we will be supporting all children to settle into their new classroom with new adults and prioritise support for those children who are finding this transition particularly difficult having been at home for a long time over the summer. Please share any concerns you have about your child with your child's class teacher on class dojo at the end of the school day.

It has been an exceptionally busy start back to school and staff have been identifying areas for school development for this year. One of our missions for this year is to refresh our school grounds and make this even more appealing for our children to learn and play in. We will be asking for any parents and carers this year who can give up any of their time to help us with painting some of our permanent fixtures such as our adventure playground, climbing wall and fences being overseen by our lovely Mr Walker, our site manager. Our pond area is also a priority for development as well for later in the school year.

It has been a pleasure to be able to invite parents in already for meet the teacher and are mindful that some of our parents in KS1, have never had the opportunity to come into school since the pandemic began.

Miss Smith

Communication

By now most of you will have attended your child's meet the new teacher meeting where information was shared about various school reminders. You should now be on class dojo so that your teacher can share and send home learning out weekly or communicate with you. **If you are not signed up to class dojo, this is a priority** so all families are aware of what is happening in school, in your child's class and for you to liaise with your child's class teacher/s. Your child's class teacher is your first point of call.

Communications needed with the Headteacher, Mrs Hammond, our learning mentor and Mrs Littlechild or Ms Kimble in our SEND team should go through the school office. Please note Mrs Littlechild and Ms Kimble are not at Purford Green every day as they work across both Purford Green and Potter Street but they will endeavour to reply and make contact with you within 48 hours if you have a query or concern.

Updated Information

Please can you ensure that the school office has up to date contact information and details such as telephone numbers and email addresses so that all letters and school information is able to reach you.

Purford Green Pupil Leadership

We have established different roles for pupils to have within school to help inspire children to have positions of responsibility and be good citizens within our school now that we are not working in class bubbles.

Year four children have all had the opportunity to welcome a new child in EYFS to our community and have been busy doing meet and greet, supporting them with finding their way to class in the mornings. They have also been helping EYFS children learn lunchtime routines, helping them to collect their food, use knives and forks and clear away their lunch items. Later in the year, year 4 children and reception children will become reading buddies so our younger children have positive role models for reading as well.

Holiday Request

Please can we remind you that we are not able to authorise any holidays that are taken during term time. If you choose to take your child out of school for a holiday, this could result in you being fined. Unfortunately, this is government policy and we have to adhere to this as a school.

House and Vice Captains

We have shortlisted applications for House Captains in year 6. Children prepared presentations and speeches for children and adults in their individual houses and then children voted for their Head of House. This is an exciting time - we look forward to training house and vice captains to leading school tours, presenting certificates in Friday assemblies, welcoming parents in for parent consultation meetings and lots lots more. Congratulations to the following children who are now our new house and vice house captains.

Lion House Captain: Molly

Lion House Vice Captain: Olivia

Dragon House Captain: Jack

Dragon House Vice Captain: Mary

Griffin House Captain: Fabiana

Griffin House Vice Captain: Joe

Unicorn House Captain: Matthew

Unicorn House Vice Captain: Mia

Pupil Wellbeing Champions

Mrs Hammond and I had so many applications from years 4, 5 and 6 for Pupil Wellbeing Champions. We were overwhelmed with the number of children in year 4 who wished to take up this role in school in particular. With only 5 champions per class, this was a tough job for us to decide. The following children were appointed to their role:

Year 4

Fletcher, Summer, Peyton, Lilly, Riley & Isabel

Year 5

George, Sophia, Iyla-Rae, Pixie & James

Year 6

Kieran, Lacey, Olivia, Mary & Ella

They will be promoting positive mental health and wellbeing throughout the school, supporting Mrs Hammond and Mrs Kimble in our Wellbeing base at lunchtimes and helping children on the playground if they are upset. Training will take place this term to help children learn effective ways of listening and supporting children who are upset and worried with Miss Smith and Mrs Hammond.

Playleaders

Year 5 children have recently had training from Mrs Rouse in playleading - supporting children in EYFS and Key Stage One to play games and get along with others.

School Council

Our new School Council have been elected!

Our class representatives are: Amber (Chair), Matthew (Vice Chair), Lily-May (Secretary), Riley (Treasurer), Charis, Burak, Olivia and Rachel.

The councillors will take on the vital role of ensuring that 'every child has a voice'. They will do this by leading class meetings and bringing any issues that can't be solved in class, or any issues that affect the whole school, to School Council meetings.

They will also be set tasks during the year to seek the opinions of their classmates on certain topics and will feedback to the School Council in our regular meetings. The councillors will then work together to find solutions to continually improve our school. In addition to this, the councillors will lead some fundraising events to support local, national and global charities.

Science Ambassadors

This year we are embarking on an exciting new adventure in school with our very own Science Ambassadors! Two children from each class have been chosen to represent and help celebrate what their class has been learning in Science each half term. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new lab coats before hosting our first meeting! The children will be involved in helping to find ways we can celebrate Science at home with parents, ideas to improve the natural habitats in our school grounds and generally enthusing about Science in our school!

The Science Ambassadors this year are:

Year 6: Maisie and Joseph

Year 5: James and Aashnee

Year 4: Luan and Tori

Year 3: Oscar

Year 2: Harry and Darcie

Year 1: Cilly and Elliana

Sports Champions

This year our Sports Champions will be helping our teachers and pupils within PE lessons. Our Sports Champions will also be supporting Mr Hammond on sports day and helping decide new sports for school!

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected as Sports Representatives:

Year 6: Mia and Patrick

Year 5: Malakai and Lucy

Year 4: Jessica and Finley

Year 3: Lily-May and Rio

Year 2: Marcus and Rosie

Year 1: Elliana and Freddie

Year 6 Families

We remind you that you should be applying for secondary school places for your child. The dates for application have been from 10th September and finish on the 31st October. This can be done online by visiting Essex County Council's School Admission website.

Information for nexts year's intake in Reception

Parents and carers of siblings already in the school or children attending Little Acorn's pre-school looking for school places for your child for next year, must apply for a school place from 8th November 2021. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022. You can apply by going onto the Essex County council's school admissions website. You will not receive a letter from Essex reminding you to apply.

Bikes and scooters



If your child brings a bike or scooter into school and leaves it in the shed, please make sure your child is not riding it when on the school premises for health and safety reasons and to allow other parents, carers and other children to enter and exit the school site safely. We thank you for your understanding with this.

Rocksteady

Would your child like to play in their very own rock band? Rocksteady allows your child to experience music lessons with an experienced musician every week, during the school day. Children do not need an instrument as they are all provided for them, and they can join their bandmates for a 30-minute lesson learning the latest pop and rock songs. They will also take part in a concert to the school and parents at the end of each term.

Children can enjoy the Rocksteady experience for £34.85 a month which is very good value for a music lesson. There is a money back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time.

For more information visit www.rocksteadymusicschool.com or call 0330 113 0330.



Unicorn house - 317



Lion house —291



Dragon house - 284



Griffin house —277

Dates for your diary

Thursday 23rd September—St Marks open evening

Friday 24th September—Year 5 Trip to the Royal Opera House

Saturday 25th September—Sir Frederick Gibberd open day

Tuesday 28th September—Flu Immunisations

Thursday 30th September—Year 1 Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze

Thursday 30th September—Harvest Assembly

Thursday 30th September—Mark Hall open evening

Thursday 7th October—Harlow Fields open evening

Friday 15th October—Individual photos

Monday 18th October—Parent Consultations

Tuesday 19th October— Open day for new intake 2022-2023
(Please contact the school office to book)

Tuesday 18th October—Parent Consultations

Thursday 21st October—INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

Friday 22nd October—Friday 29th October

Halt term

Children return to school on Monday 1st November