



Newsletter 1

08 September 2023

Dear Parents

Welcome back! It has been lovely to welcome our families back to school after what I hope has been a relaxing summer! The children look very smart in their uniforms and seem to have grown so much over the break. We are all looking forward to a great autumn term.

I would like to wish a very warm welcome to all our new Nursery and Reception children and their families who are joining our school.

We would also like to extend a Cassiobury welcome to our new teacher, Miss Cooper, in Robin Class and a welcome back to Mrs Hilton in Early Years who has returned from maternity leave.

The return to school was hyped by the media with reference to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). Our school is not affected, however there is some additional information relating to our school below.

There is a lot of information below, please take time to read carefully.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARD

Our target is to be at **96%** attendance throughout the year; our overall attendance for the whole year = **95%**

This week	96.64%
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ATTENDANCE ~ Week beginning 4 September:

RED <95%	AMBER 95%	GREEN 96+%
Owl Woodpecker Badger	Robin	Rabbit Hedgehog Kingfisher Fox Heron

Well done to **Heron Class ~ 100% attendance**

HOURS OF LEARNING LOST

As well as monitoring attendance, we also monitor lateness. If your child arrives 5 minutes late each day, over the course of the week they will have missed 25 minutes of learning time. Over a period of 4 weeks that is 100 minutes and over a term that is 325 minutes (almost 5 ½ hours). Punctuality is important in all walks of life and we encourage the children to be good time keepers.

This week: 04 September	504 = 8 hours and 24 minutes
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A reminder that our new start time is 8:45am and classroom doors will close at 8:55am.

The school gates are open from 8:30am and parents are welcome to be on site from this time in anticipation of the classroom door opening.

Bellmount Wood Avenue, Watford, Herts, WD17 3PE

Email: admin@cassioburyinfants.herts.sch.uk Telephone: 01923 222782

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We like to celebrate the achievements and awards of our children outside of school too! If your child has earned an award in an event, please send in a copy of the certificate and we can mention them in our weekly newsletters.

This week we celebrated the success of:

Pupil	Class	Achievement
<i>Thieran</i>	<i>Fox</i>	<i>Ready Set Read ~ Summer Reading Challenge McDonalds Fun Football</i>
<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Heron</i>	<i>Swimming ~ Stage 4</i>
<i>Serene</i>	<i>Robin</i>	<i>Ready Set Read ~ Summer Reading Challenge</i>
<i>Anousha</i>	<i>Fox</i>	<i>Ready Set Read ~ Summer Reading Challenge</i>
<i>Zakariya</i>	<i>Kingfisher</i>	<i>Ready Set Read ~ Summer Reading Challenge</i>

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have moved house during the holidays, changed your telephone numbers or email address, please make sure you inform the office staff so that we can keep our records accurate. Please email the office with the new details:

admin@cassioburyinfants.herts.sch.uk

DATES

Overleaf is a table of planned events for the autumn term. Please make a note in your diaries ~ any additional dates will be communicated in due course.

NUT FREE

We have a 'nut free' policy in school. Please ensure that all packed lunches are 'nut free' as some of our children are allergic to nuts and this includes airborne allergies.

TWITTER

We love to 'Tweet' to show what we have been getting up to in school and this is a great way to share what the children have been learning over the week or any special events. Each class has a Twitter account and there is also a whole school account, which will be used to post whole school updates. The Twitter usernames are:

Nursery - @SquirrelCassInf

Woodpecker - @WpeckerCassInf

Owl - @OwlCassInf

Rabbit - @RabbitCassInf

Hedgehog - @HedgehogCassInf

Kingfisher - @KfisherCassInf

Robin - @RobinCassInf

Badger - @BadgerCassInf

Fox - @FoxCassInf

Heron - @HeronCassInf

Mrs Cooper - @HeadCassInf

Miss Applegarth - @DHCassInf

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL BY CAR

We encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot as much as possible to keep our roads clear and congestion free. However, if you do need to travel to school by car please remember the following:

- Turn off your engine while waiting to keep the air clean for our children
- Be respectful of our neighbours and keep their driveways clear and accessible at all times
- Do not park on the double yellow lines or zig zags
- Park a couple of streets away and make the remainder of the journey on foot

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Also, just a reminder about the 'unofficial one-way system' for Bellmount Wood Avenue. Please enter at the junior school end and exit out on to Cassiobury Drive (by the vets).

PARKING IN SUN SPORTS OR THE BOWLS CLUB IS NOT PERMITTED.

PLAY EQUIPMENT IN PLAYGROUND

Please do not allow the children to play on the equipment before or after school. Whilst I appreciate this is very tempting we do not allow use outside of school hours due to Health and Safety Requirements.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

OFFICE HOURS

Please be aware that the school office hours are 8:30am to 3:30pm. Emails sent after 3:30pm will not be read until the following morning.

IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

Please follow this link for advice on whether to send your child to school should they feel unwell: [NHS Information](#)

MODESHIFT STARS

We were delighted to be awarded Bronze Level with Modeshift Stars during the summer holidays. Thank you for all your support with travel initiatives and walking to school. Our aim is to move on to Silver Level next; watch this space!



REINFORCED AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE UPDATE

You may well have seen in the news that some schools have been affected by the presence of RAAC in their buildings. RAAC, or Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, is a lightweight form of concrete which was used in the past in schools and other building construction. After some time and in some circumstances this concrete can collapse.

I wanted to reassure that buildings on our school site which were constructed within the period of 1959 and 1989, which is when RAAC was most used, have already been surveyed by building surveyors appointed by the County Council and no RAAC was found. However, the Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach, increasing the age bracket from 1950 to 1995. Therefore to guard against any possibility, however remote, that RAAC was used in any part of the school within those new dates, the County Council is arranging to have additional reassurance checks carried out in the near future. We have no reason to believe RAAC was used in this school, but nonetheless a survey is taking place to confirm this.

PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

All children in our school are eligible for a free school meal every day as part of the government scheme for 'universal free school meals'; however there may be additional funding available for the school to claim to support pupils through Pupil Premium Grant. We are therefore asking ALL our families to register on the following website: www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals. This information is confidential and will not be publicly shared.

This will only need to be done once in our school and then again when the children move to year 3. If you have any concerns or need help registering please come and see Mrs Mavji in the office.

ONLINE SAFETY

In a digital world it is important to keep our children safe online. Please have a look at our esafety information on our website: [Esafety](#)

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Also attached is the termly newsletter from Herts for Learning Education. Much of the information on this newsletter is for older children, however it does not harm to be prepared!

THIS WEEK'S FLYERS:

1. TGI Kids Eat Free
2. HFL Online Safety Newsletter
3. Buzzee Bodies Monthly Newsletter

REMINDERS

TOY DONATIONS

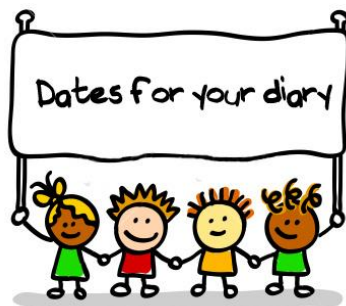
If you have had a clear-out over the summer, or know of other families doing so please bear in mind our Nursery who would love any donations of the below type items. If you have some good quality donations please email the office or speak to Mrs Greenstreet or Mrs Woodley.



Phew! I think that is all for now.

With best wishes

Charlotte Cooper
Headteacher



SUMMER TERM 2023

Date	What's Happening?	Where?	Time?
Fri 15 th Sept	Democracy Day (in school activity)		
Mon 18 th Sept	Y2 Florence Nightingale Workshop		
Tue 19 th Sept	EYFS Parent Pit Stop	Hall	9am
Wed 20 th Sept	National Fitness Day		
Fri 22 nd Sept	Jeans for Genes Awareness Day		
Fri 22 nd Sept	Reception Parents Coffee Morning	Hall	9am
Fri 22 nd Sept	Open Afternoon	Classrooms	2:45pm
Wk Beg 25 th Sept	Cycle to School Week		
Mon 25 th Sept	Nursery Parents Coffee Morning	Hall	9am
Mon 2 nd October	Black History Month		

Thu 5 th Oct	Individual School Photographs		
Thu 5 th Oct	Phonics Parent Pit Stop	Hall	9am
Fri 6 th Oct	Year 1 Parents Coffee Morning	Oak Room	9am
Wed 11 th Oct	Harvest Festival (TBC)		
Wk beg 16 th Oct	Discovery Focus Week Recycling Week		
Wed 18 th Oct	Art Exhibition	Hall	3pm
Wed 18 th Oct	KS1 Parent Consultation	Virtual	Appointments
Thu 19 th Oct	KS1 Parent Consultation	Virtual	Appointments
Fri 20 th Oct	Year 2 Parent Coffee Morning	Oak Room	9am
Fri 20 th Oct	Open Afternoon	Classrooms	2:45pm
Fri 3 rd Nov	Outdoor Classroom Day		
Wk Beg 6 th Nov	Switch Off Fortnight		
Tue 7 th Nov	Reading Parent Pit Stop	Hall	9am
Wed 8 th Nov	EYFS Parent Consultation	Virtual	Appointments
Thu 9 th Nov	EYFS Parent Consultation	Virtual	Appointments
Wk Beg 13 th Nov	Well-Being Week Nursery Rhyme Week Road Safety Week Maths Week		
Fri 17 th Nov	Children in Need Awareness Day		
Fri 17 th Nov	Learning together morning	Classrooms	9am
Tue 21 st Nov	Maths Parent Pit Stop	Hall	9am
Thu 23 rd Nov	Flu Vaccination Day		
Thu 30 th Nov	Whole School Trip		
Fri 1 st Dec	SCHOOL CLOSED ~ OCCASIONAL DAY		
Mon 4 th Dec	Deco Day		
Tue 5 th Dec	Writing Parent Pit Stop	Hall	9am
Wed 6 th Dec	Reception ~ Christmas at St Luke's (TBC)	St Luke's Church	9:30am
Wed 6 th Dec	Year 2 ~ Christmas at St Luke's (TBC)	St Luke's Church	10:45am
Wed 7 th Dec	Year 1 ~ Christmas at St Luke's	St Luke's Church	9:30am
Fri 15 th Dec	Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day		
Wk Beg 18 th Dec	Christmas Parties Week		
Tue 19 th Dec	End of term for Nursery pupils		
Wed 20 th Dec	Autumn Term ends 1:15pm		



2023/24

These dates are the same as the junior school.

AUTUMN 2023

Mon 23 Oct – Fri 27 Oct	Half term
Friday 1 December	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Tuesday 19 December	End of Term for Nursery Pupils
Wednesday 20 December	Autumn term ends 1:15pm

SPRING 2024

Thursday 4 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Friday 5 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Monday 8 January	Spring term starts
Mon 19 Feb – Fri 23 Feb	Half term
Wednesday 27 March	End of Term for Nursery Pupils
Thursday 28 March	Spring term ends 1:15pm

SUMMER 2024

Monday 15 April	Summer term starts
Mon 27 May – 31 May	Half term
Thursday 18 July	End of Term for Nursery Pupils
Friday 19 July	End of summer term 1:15pm
Monday 22 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils