



Newsletter 7

20 October 2023

Dear Parents

We made it! Our first half term of the new school year completed and what a half term; I think we all deserve a well-earned rest!

A very big WELL DONE to all our Nursery and Reception children (and parents!) you have had a fantastic start to school and we are all so proud of how well you have settled in to school life.

I wish you all a lovely and relaxing half term holiday.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARD

Our target is to be at 96% attendance throughout the year. This week we have made it!

This week	98.4%
Week beg 09 October	98.65%
Best week to date	Week beginning 09 October ~ 98.65%



ATTENDANCE

Week beginning 16 October:

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

Well done to **Robin Class** who achieved the highest attendance this week with 100%.

HOURS OF LEARNING LOST

This week: 16 October	223 minutes = 3 hours and 43 minutes
Last week: 09 October	306 minutes = 5 hours and 6 minutes



GOLDEN BOOK

This week the following children shared their learning with me:

<i>Sophia</i>	<i>Kingfisher Class</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Kingfisher Class</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>Kingfisher Class</i>
<i>Zaky</i>	<i>Heron Class</i>	<i>Reeva</i>	<i>Heron Class</i>		

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>Sophia</i>	<i>Badger</i>	<i>Under 8's Hemel Hempstead Cyclo Cross Race ~ 2nd Place</i>
<i>Saanvi</i>	<i>Hedgehog</i>	<i>Watford Gymnastics ~ Level 4 in Floor</i>
<i>Hari</i>	<i>Hedgehog</i>	<i>Learn to Swim ~ Stage 2</i>
<i>Kiyara</i>	<i>Rabbit</i>	<i>Rise & Explore Gymnastics ~ Level 1 Apparatus</i>

WEEKLY WELL-BEING

Each week we will share one idea to promote family wellbeing. Please let us know if you enjoy it and if you have any other ideas that we could share!

This week's wellbeing idea: ***Have a go at mindfulness, you can find some lovely videos from 'Go Noodle' and other places online! Here is an example link: [Go Noodle - Let's unwind](#)***

AMAZON WISH LIST

Through discussion with parents over the last few years, there has often been an expressed interest in purchasing specific resources for the school rather than simply donating money.

To that end we have an 'Amazon Wish List' which works very much like a 'wedding list'. If you follow the link below it will take you straight to our wish list which has been devised by the teachers (and in some cases the children). Next to each item is some additional information, such as quantity of items or if it has been requested for a specific class or year group. We have tried to incorporate a variety of price ranges too and any larger value items could be donated by a group of parents together.

To use the wish list, simply follow the link [Amazon Wish List](#), pick an item and add to your own shopping basket. You can then decide whether to have the item delivered to your home address for your child to bring in to school or the school address (as above). Please ensure the address states CHARLOTTE COOPER at the INFANT SCHOOL.

Please do not feel pressured into contributing; it is simply a case of 'if you would like to...this is what we need'.

I will endeavour to keep our list populated from the teachers' and children's ideas. Thank you for your generosity.

CSA UPDATE

Thank you to the parents who attended the CSA meeting here at school on Monday; we had a much improved number of parents attending.

At the meeting the existing committee stood down from their roles and a new committee was elected.

On behalf of everyone at the school I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Kiran Cane, Michelle Richmond, Devinder Kalsi and Sana Mahmood for all their hard work and support in fundraising for our children this year. Whilst stepping down from the committee they will continue to contribute to CSA fundraising events.

I would like to welcome Katie Snell, Jamie Madden, Vicky Acreman and Laura Jowsey to the committee; I hope that you are able to give them the much needed support with upcoming events.

Thank you also to Faye Patel who is continuing in her role as treasurer.

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CSA HALLOWEEN COMPETITION

Following on from the above, the CSA have teamed up with Dey, King and Haria (estate agents on the parade) to run a Halloween Drawing Competition. Entries can be delivered straight to Dey, King and Haria in exchange for a treat and entered in to the prize draw; more information can be found in the attached flyer. Good luck!

CSA CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year, if your child would like to design their own Christmas cards, the artwork will need to be done at home over half term, and brought back into school on Monday 30th October. For more information please read the attached flyer.

Please note that your child can design any kind of card, it doesn't have to be Christmas themed!

PARKING

Please be reminded to park carefully and considerately in the local area. There are plenty of places to park slightly away from school and parents are encouraged to do this and walk in for the remainder of the journey. Our PCSO attended school this week and will be following up with concerns that have been raised.

FREE CHILDCARE PARENTAL SURVEY

The government has recently announced that they intend to expand the offer of free childcare for working parents to children aged from 9 months to 3 years old. The rollout of the offer will be phased over the next couple of years as follows:

April 2024 – 15 hours free childcare will be available to eligible working parents of two year old children from April 2024

September 2024 – 15 hours of free childcare will be available to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months

September 2025 – 30 hours of free childcare will be available to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months

For more information please visit: [Childcare Choices](#)

To be eligible parents/carers must meet the following criteria: Both parents/carers are working (or the sole parent/carer is working in a lone parent family), and each parent/carer earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent of 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage (£167 per week) and less than £100,000 per year. Working includes both employed and self-employed.

Every Local Authority has a duty to ensure there is enough childcare in their area to meet parental demand. This consultation will provide vital information to ensure that Hertfordshire has sufficient childcare options in place to be able to deliver the additional free childcare from April 2024.

This survey is aimed for expectant parents and parents with children under 3. To complete the survey visit: [Childcare Consultation](#)







COUNTRY OF THE MONTH

This month we are focussing on the country of Sri Lanka. Please see attached a knowledge organiser to support discussion at home.

LEARNING POWER CREATURE TROPHY

At the end of every half term, the class teachers nominate a pupil in their class who they believe have shown great skill in one of the 4 areas. We also have nominations for a 'behaviour and manners' trophy for children who consistently follow our Golden Rules and a PSHE and Well-Being Trophy for pupils who show kindness and empathy towards others. Once all the nominations are in, the names are put into a hat and a winner is drawn. The trophies are then presented to the pupil in our final assembly before a holiday. The trophies remain in school but the children bring home a certificate.

I am delighted to announce that the winners for **Autumn 1** are:

TROPHY	PUPIL	CLASS
Resilience ~ Tortoise 	Maisie	Badger
Reflective ~ Chameleon 	Haaris	Heron
Resourceful ~ Spider 	Andrea	Heron
Team Player ~ Bee 	Mendim	Heron
Behaviour and Manners 	Francis	Kingfisher
PSHE & Well-Being 	Adrian	Rabbit

PARENT PIT STOPS ~ REMINDER

Our parent 'Pit Stops' will take place this term. They are an opportunity to find out more information on how to support your child at home with their learning / information about school. The sessions are planned and delivered by school staff. Sessions will take place at 9am after drop off and will last approx. 1 hour; you are welcome to attend all or part of the sessions. Please see details below.

DATE	Time	FOCUS	INFO	TARGET AUDIENCE
Tuesday 7 th November	9am	Reading	Purely focussed on supporting children with reading skills and development and comprehension skills. (This is different to the RWI session above) This is a repeat of the session delivered last year Book your place here: Reading Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly parents in Reception and new to the school. Any parent who has not previously attended. Any parent who would like a refresher.
Tuesday 21 st	9am	Maths	How our sessions are delivered in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly parents in Reception

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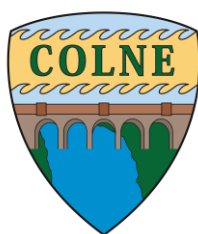
November			<p>school and how you can support at home.</p> <p>This is a repeat of the session delivered last term</p> <p>Book your place here: Maths Workshop</p>	<p>and new to the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any parent who has not previously attended. Any parent who would like a refresher.
Tuesday 5 th December	9am	Writing	<p>How our sessions are delivered in school and how you can support at home.</p> <p>This is a repeat of the session delivered last term</p> <p>Book your place here: Writing Workshop</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly parents in Reception and new to the school. Any parent who has not previously attended. Any parent who would like a refresher.

HOUSE POINTS

We have counted up the house points for the end of the summer term ~ **well done to GADE!**



347



305



365



361

REMINDERS

FLU VACCINATIONS

You will have received an email about the flu vaccinations that are taking place later this term. If you have not yet signed the consent form, please use this link: [Flu Vaccination Consent](#)

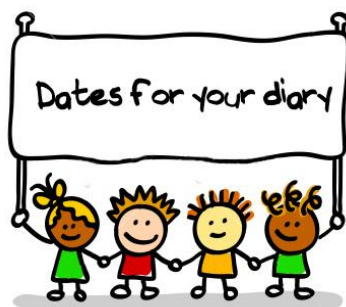
THIS WEEK'S FLYERS:

1. South West Herts Partnership Christmas Toy Appeal
2. CSA Halloween Drawing Competition
3. CSA Christmas Card
4. Country of the Month Knowledge Organiser: Sri Lanka
5. Watford Museum on Tour ~ Dig to Discover

Have a lovely half term holiday.

With best wishes

Charlotte Cooper
Headteacher



Autumn term 2023

Date	What's Happening?	Where?	Time?
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	St Luke's Church	9:30am
Wed 6 th Dec	Year 2 ~ Christmas at St Luke's	St Luke's Church	10:45am
Thu 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		



PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **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

Wednesday 20 December	Autumn term ends 1:15pm
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SPRING 2024

Thursday 4 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Friday 5 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils

Monday 8 January	Spring term starts
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Mon 19 Feb – Fri 23 Feb	Half term
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Thursday 28 March	Spring term ends 1:15pm
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SUMMER 2024

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



PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **2024/25**
These dates are the same as the junior school.

AUTUMN 2024

Monday 2 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
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Tuesday 3 September	Autumn term starts
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Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov	Half term
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Friday 29 November	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
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Friday 20 December	Autumn term ends 1:15pm
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SPRING 2025

Monday 6 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
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Tuesday 7 January	Spring term starts
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Mon 17 Feb – Fri 21 Feb	Half term
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Friday 4 April

Spring term ends 1:15pm

SUMMER 2025

Tuesday 22 April

Summer term starts

Mon 26 May – 30 May

Half term

Friday 18 July

End of summer term 1:15pm

Monday 21 July

INSET ~ School closed to pupils

Tuesday 22 July

INSET ~ School closed to pupils

Wednesday 23 July

Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils