Newsletter 1 11th September 2026

Dear Parents

WARNING! This is a bumper edition of the newsletter and contains lots of information ~ please read through carefully; cup of tea optional!

Welcome back! It has been so lovely to be back to school and in the routine. The children look amazing in their uniforms and with smiles on their faces! Welcome to all our new families in Reception and Nursery, it is lovely to have you as part of our school community. Each week I write the newsletter and try to give you as much information as I can; this newsletter aims to be your 'one stop shop' of everything. Dates of the term and school year are listed at the bottom for both 26/27 and 27/28; Autumn term dates for your diary are also listed here. We also attach flyers which may be of interest to you.

We are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable school year!

Finally, wishing all our families celebrating this weekend Rosh Hashanah a Happy New Year; 'L'Shana Tovah'.

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Charlotte Cooper
Headteacher

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

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.

Parking Offences

While the school itself does not have enforcement powers, it encourages the reporting of unsafe or illegal parking. If parents/carers witness unlawful parking or dangerous driving behaviour, they will be advised to report to:

- Local authority parking enforcement (via the council website or hotline) Dropped Kerb Enforcement or telephone 01923 278890
- The police via the non-emergency number **101**

SCOOTERS AND BIKES

Please remind the children to push their bikes or scooters until they are off site to avoid any accidents on the playground. Thank you.

REMINDER ~ SCHOOL TIMINGS
Your child should be in class between **8:40-8:50am.**
If you arrive after 8:50am you are late, and will need to enter via the school office and sign your child in stating the reason for the lateness.
Lateness is monitored and affects overall attendance and attainment marks. Continued lateness could result in a penalty notice being issued.

Each week we monitor attendance and detail below. We have a whole school target of 96% to reach each week.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME
Please be reminded that holidays in term time are not authorised, this includes children who are not yet statutory school age.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARD
Our target is to be at **96%** attendance throughout the year.

This week	**96.3%**

ATTENDANCE
Week beginning 7th September :

CLASS	RED <95%	AMBER 95%	GREEN 96+%
HERON	**91.4%**		
FOX		**95.7%**	**97.0%**
BADGER		**95.3%**	
ROBIN			**96.0%**
KINGFISHER			**99.7%**
HEDGEHOG			**97.6%**
WOODPECKER			**98.6%**
RABBIT			**97.8%**
OWL	**94.7%**		
SQUIRREL		**95.3%**	

Well done to **Kingfisher Class,** who had the highest attendance this week.

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: 7th September	**347 = 5 hours and 47 minutes**

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
Darcey Jean	*Badger*	*Library Summer Reading Challenge*
Sai	*Badger*	
Eloise	*Hedgehog*	

Olivia	*Fox*	
Eloise	*Hedgehog*	*Swim England ~ Stage 1*
Olivia	*Fox*	*Swim England ~ Stage 4*

LIBRARY SUMMER READING CHALLENGE
Well done to all the children who took part in the Library Summer Reading Challenge 'Story Garden'. Your dedication to reading and learning throughout the summer holidays is truly commendable. Seeing so many of you actively engaging with books and stories is heartening. Keep up the fantastic work, keep turning those pages, and keep expanding your horizons!

STAFFING UPDATE
I would like to share our congratulations to the former Miss Cooper (Robin class) who got married over the summer and is now Mrs Skubis; I am sure you join me in sending our very best wishes.

JEANS FOR GENES ~ Friday 18th September 2025
The Jeans for Genes campaign raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic condition and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected.
On Friday 18th September we are inviting all children to come to school in jeans (trousers / skirt / shorts) on the lower half of their body and **keep their uniform on the top**.
If you would like to make a suggested £1 contribution towards the charity you are able to pay on the school gateway.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH
This month we are focussing on the country of Jamaica. Please see attached a knowledge organiser to support discussion at home.

SIGNIFICANT FIGURE OF THE MONTH
This month we have focussed on Usain Bolt. Please have a look at the attached knowledge organiser and share with your child.

CONTACT DETAILS
If you have moved house during the holidays, changed your telephone numbers or email address, please make sure you email the office so that we can keep our records accurate. Please also ensure the school has details of at least two adult contacts for your child in addition to the primary carer in case of emergencies. All notifications are to be emailed to the office at: admin@cassioburyinfants.herts.sch.uk

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

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS ~ YEAR 1 & YEAR 2
There is still time to sign up to clubs for the autumn term ~ please have a look on our website: Club sign up
We have some new clubs available including a textiles club and kickboxing at breakfast time!

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

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

FLU VACCINATIONS ~ Friday 18th September
These will be administered by Vaccination UK on Friday 18th September. If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine you MUST complete the online permission form that will be sent directly to you by Vaccination UK. Any queries should be referred to them as the school does not have access to their records.

PARENT PIT STOPS
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.

We have changed the format of our reading, writing and maths workshops this year so you spend half the time learning how we teach and then half the time working alongside your child with follow up activities. **It is important that you sign up for the sessions so we are able to arrange for your child to come out of class.**

DATE	Time	FOCUS	INFO	TARGET AUDIENCE	BOOKING LINK
Friday 25th September	9am	Relational Practice (Positive Regard)	This is a new initiative we introduced to the school last year to enable the staff to better support the children with behaviour and well-being	• All parents	Positive Regard sign up
Monday 12th October	9am	Year 1 Reading and Writing Workshop	A session on how we teach reading and writing in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Year 1 parents only	Year 1 sign up
Thursday 15th October	9am	Year 2 Reading and Writing Workshop	A session on how we teach reading and writing in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Year 2 parents only	Year 2 sign up
Friday 16th October	9am	Phonics	A session on how we teach phonics in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Reception parents only	Reception sign up
Friday 6th November	9am	Year 1 Maths Mastery	A session on how we teach Maths in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Year 1 parents only	Link to follow
Monday 9th November	9am	Year 2 Maths Mastery	A session on how we teach Maths in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Year 2 parents only	Link to follow
Monday 9th November	2pm	Rec Maths Mastery	A session on how we teach Maths in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Reception parents only	Link to follow

£15 ANNUAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL FUND

We have recently set our budgets for the year and, along with many other schools, face growing challenges in covering many school costs. In order to help us provide a broad and balanced curriculum next year, we are asking parents to make a donation of **£15 per year for each child**. This equates to £5 per term.

Our aim for the money is that it would go towards the consumables that we purchase over the year. Examples of this would be food ingredients, art and craft materials, science materials, design and technology items and many more things that we purchase over the year. Both the Infant and Junior School's governing body have considered this and feel it is appropriate to ask for this extra bit of help from our parents. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The payment request is now available in the "Payments" section of the School Gateway .

PARENTAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

This is a flexible payment area for parents to make donations at any time over the school year for which we are very grateful. This fund allows additional resources to be purchased to enrich our children's educational journey at the school.

LOST/DAMAGED SCHOOL BOOKS

We charge a fixed replacement fee of £5 for lost or damaged reading books and an amount equivalent to the RRP of any lost or damaged library books. This is payable on the school gateway after consultation with your class teacher.

PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

As shared in a separate letter yesterday, 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: Register for Free School Meals. This information is confidential and will not be publicly shared.

If you have any concerns or need help registering please come and see Mrs Macnish via email at PPG@cassioburyinfants.herts.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see below the dates for the Autumn term.

THIS WEEK'S FLYERS:

1. DSPL 9 Coffee Morning
2. Country of the Month knowledge organiser
3. Significant Figure of the Month knowledge organiser
4. Watford Foodbank Newsletter

Autumn 26

Date	Event	Where?	Time?	Parents invited?
	SEPTEMBER			
Wed 16th	National Fitness Day			
Fri 18th	Flu Vaccines (information will be sent in September)			
Fri 18th	Jeans for Genes Awareness Day			
Fri 18th	40 Things Launch			
Fri 25th	Relational Practice Parent Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Fri 25th	Open Afternoon	Classrooms	2:45pm	Yes
	OCTOBER			
October	Black History Month			
Thu 1st	Individual School Photos			
Wed 7th	Y1 Harvest Workshop at St Luke's			
Mon 12th	Yr 1 Reading & Writing Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Wed 14th	Harvest Assembly			
Thu 15th	Yr 2 Reading & Writing Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Fri 16th	Rec Reading & Writing Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Wk Beg 19th	Creative Focus Week Recycling Week			
Fri 23rd	Focus week open afternoon	Classrooms	2:45pm	Yes
	Half term			
	NOVEMBER			
Fri 6th	Yr 1 Maths Mastery Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Mon 9th	Yr 2 Maths Mastery Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Mon 9th	Rec Maths Mastery Workshop	Hall	2pm	Yes
Week beg 9th	Nursery Rhyme Week			
Wed 11th	Remembrance Day			
Wed 11th	EYFS & KS1 parent consultation	Virtual	Appointment	Yes
Thu 12th	EYFS & KS1 parent consultation	Virtual	Appointment	Yes
Fri 13th	Christmas Jumper Collection			

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Fri 13th	Children in Need			
Week beg 16th	Road Safety Week Maths Week			
Tue 17th	ESafety Day			
Fri 20th	Learning Together Morning	Classrooms	9am	Yes
Wk beg 23rd	Wellbeing Week Parliament Week			
Thu 26th	Outdoor Learning Day			
Fri 27th	School Closed Occasional Day			
DECEMBER				
1st / 2nd / 3rd	Christmas Jumper shop (TBC)			
Fri 4th	Deco Day			
Tue 8th	Whole School Panto ~ TBC			
Fri 11th	Christmas jumper and dinner day			
Wk beg 14th	Christmas Parties			
Mon 14th	Y1 Nativity at St Luke's	St Luke's	9:30am	Yes
Wed 16th	Reception Nativity at St Luke's	St Luke's	9:30am	Yes
Wed 16th	Y2 Nativity at St Luke's	St Luke's	10:45am	Yes
Thu 17th	Nursery Nativity	Hall	9am	Yes
Thu 17th	End of Term for Nursery	Usual timings		
Fri 18th	End of Term for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2		1pm	

PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **2026/27**

AUTUMN 2026	
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct	Half term
Friday 27 November	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 17 December	Autumn term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 18 December	Autumn term ends 1pm

SPRING 2027	
Monday 4 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 January	Spring term starts
Mon 15 Feb – Fri 19 Feb	Half term
Wednesday 24 March	Spring term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Thursday 25 March	Spring term ends 1pm

SUMMER 2027	
Monday 12 April	Summer term starts
Mon 31 May – 4 June	Half term
Friday 25th June	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Tuesday 20 July	Summer term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Wednesday 21 July	End of summer term 1pm
Thursday 22 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils

PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **2027/28**

AUTUMN 2027	
Wednesday 1 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 2 September	Autumn term starts
Mon 25 Oct – Fri 29 Oct	Half term
Friday 3 December	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 16 December	Autumn term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 17 December	Autumn term ends 1pm

SPRING 2027	
Tuesday 4 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Wednesday 5 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 6 January	Spring term starts
Mon 14 Feb – Fri 18 Feb	Half term
Thursday 30 March	Spring term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 31 March	Spring term ends 1pm

SUMMER 2028	
Tuesday 18 April	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Wednesday 19 April	Summer term starts
Mon 29 May – 2 June	Half term
Thursday 20 July	Summer term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 21 July	End of summer term 1pm
Monday 24 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils

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