



September 2023 Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back to school for the academic year of 2023-24! It has been wonderful to see the children in their new year groups and there has been such a positive start to the new term. The children have settled well into the new routines and are getting to know their new class teachers.

There is one disappointment though, and that is the number of children who are still bringing large rucksacks into school. The cloakrooms are just not large enough to accommodate such large bags and they were requested not to be used, unless they are absolutely necessary, such as needing to have a change of clothing to go onto a family member's house or a friends, or if they are cycling to school. As I walk around the school this morning, I can still see large, empty bags hanging from pegs. Please **DO NOT** send your child to school with a rucksack, unless they have a distinct need to do so. The children are quite able to carry their book bag with the handle and then also have a water bottle.

On a positive note, we are about to experience some warmer weather over the next few days. What a pity it didn't arrive during the holiday time, but at least it will be sunny for the children to play together on the school field. Please make sure that your child has a hat to wear at break times, and that you apply sunscreen, in the morning before they arrive at school. We will make sure that the class have access to plenty of drinking water, as well as opening windows to let in some air, before the children arrive at school.

I am looking forward to working with you all again and hope that we continue to build and develop Isleham School to be the very best that it can be!

With regards,
Dawn Deacon

Class Sharing assemblies

As usual for the Autumn term in school, each class will provide a short presentation about the learning that has occurred in their class. These class assemblies will take place on a **Friday at 9.10am.**

Please see the list of classes with the dates that you are welcome to attend:

Year R – will present in the Spring term

Year 1- 3rd November 2023

Year 2- 17th November

Year 3- 25th November

Year 4- 10th November

Year 5- 5th October 2023

Year 6- 13th October 2023

We hope to see you there!

Collective Worship

For this first half term, the focus will be on being an effective community. This Christian value is part of the focus of each collective worship in school and is where we are focusing on who helps us in our school community and how to work well together.





School Lunches

As you know, the school are now producing their own range of nutritious meals from the school's kitchen area. The main ethos behind the meals, are to offer nutritious choices that the children will enjoy eating. This term there are some new additions to the range, with curry making a visit!

Research shows the link between nutritious food, concentration, cognitive skills and academic performance, so it's important to get the meals right. Food needs to be seen as an important part of children's education and we also provide lots of opportunities for each class to cook, with a design and technology unit of learning. As a staff team, we believe that we have a responsibility to make sure that the children are eating well and that they understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle in the future. This is also important to understand the impact of healthy food on their concentration.

We offer a fruit or vegetable snack for all reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and ask for parents to provide a similar snack for children in the older classes. Please no cereal bars, fruit winders or any form of nuts! Why not try a few berries in a pot, or raisins, as well as the usual cucumber, carrot, bananas, apples and other fruits.

NUT FREE school

Please can I remind everyone that if you provide your child with a packed lunch, this must be free of all nut products. We have several children who are severely allergic to nut products and could have a serious reaction even if they touch the same surface where a nut has been. Please make sure that the lunch boxes do not have the following items:

- NO peanut butter or other nut spreads
- NO nut chocolate spread
- NO nut products such as nutty cereal bars
- NO sesame seed products

Thank you for adhering to this request.

We also encourage children to drink water throughout the day, with their own water bottle. They are welcome to refill these bottles as required.

Then, during the lunch provision, as cooked on site, there is always a salad bar, and a selection of fruit to choose. Since we have taken over the running of the kitchen, we also have a different bread each day.

Over time, we hope to add in some theme days as well as some staff recipes, such as Mr Walkers tomato bread and Mrs Whites carrot cake. Delicious!





Clubs in school

We are very lucky to have such a supportive staff! They will be giving their time to offer the following clubs over the first half term:

Mon am – Book Club with Miss Williamson – Years 5 and 6 for this term – This is the opportunity to read a shared book and discuss the events and characters – suitable for those who enjoy reading.

Tues am – Cosmic Kids Yoga with Miss Stanley- Years 1 and 2 only – If you have not seen Jamie deliver a cosmic yoga session, then you are missing a treat! Miss Stanley will support children to follow her sessions with themes such as Star Wars, Harry Potter and the Hungry Caterpillar.

Tue lunchtime – Drawing with Mrs England – following the Draw with Rob scheme, for children who would like to attend at 12.30 (Due to the rotation of eating lunch this does mean that some year groups will not be able to attend at this time)

Tues after school – chess club with Mrs Deacon – Years 3 – 6 – build up your knowledge of the game and play a range of abilities, with the aim to have a friendly competition with another local school.

Tues after school – STEM club with Mrs Gibbs – Years 1 to 6 – explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with these challenges.

Tues after school – running club with Mrs Dalton-Cole – any age group

Wed after school – Tag Rugby with Mr Tull – Years 4 -6- prepare for the interschools competition, have fun and enjoy tag rugby.

Thurs lunchtime – French club with Miss Williamson at 12.35 for Years 1 and 2 Learn a range of French songs, play games in French and enjoy learning a new language.

Thurs Lunchtime – speed stacking with Mr Tull for Years 4-6 – speed (or cup stacking) is great for dexterity, sequencing and a fun sport to play. This club will also prepare a school team to enter a local competition.

Thurs after school – Netball with Witchford Sports Partnership – Years 3-6 – a parent will be running this club for all Key Stage 2 children.

Fri lunchtime – choir with Mrs Deacon– all welcome at 12.30 – come along and learn a range of different songs, such as musical songs and some Christmas songs.

Fri after school Samba drumming with Miss Eatock – Years 3 – 6 – Originating from Brazil this specific percussion group will learn to play a range of instruments and songs. Great for drummers, percussionists or someone just wanting to try a different musical style.

TT Rock stars – with Miss Barnes-Weston – invite only for children in Year 5 and Year 4

If your child would like to take part in any of the clubs, please send a message to the office, or directly message me on class dojo. These requests need to be at school before Wednesday 13th September, as the clubs will begin on the week beginning 18th September. The after school clubs all end at 4pm and you can collect your child(ren) from the playground at the end of the session. The morning sessions begin at 8.15am.





Parent Volunteers

Now that Covid restrictions have restricted, we are fully open for parent volunteers. We would love to have regular helpers in school with tasks such as keeping the library tidy, hearing readers and high frequency word practice.

We are also looking for someone with carpentry or DIY skills to help the school to make the frame for the plastic bottle greenhouse. The school can purchase all of the required materials and have an instruction pack, but need community members to help with the construction.

If you are willing to regularly support in school, or know of someone who has the skills and willingness to help, with any of the above, please speak to Mrs Deacon.

TA Position

The school are about to advertise for a TA position in the school. The hours are from 10.30am until 3.20pm and will initially involve individual support for children in the younger year groups. If you are interested, or know of anyone interested in the role, please speak to Mrs Dennis and ask for an application pack and more details.

