



Monday 12th September 2022

Newsletter Number 2 – Autumn Term 2022

Dear families,

I start this newsletter with information relating the national period of mourning for Queen Elizabeth.

Monday 19th September 2022 – School Closed

I am sure you will have received the news that Monday 12th September has been designated a Bank Holiday. The DFE guidance for schools states;

Following the announcement from Buckingham Palace of the death of our sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a period of National Mourning has started and will continue until the end of the State Funeral. This is a period of time for reflection in response to the death of the Sovereign. The official date of the State Funeral is 19 September 2022. This day will be a bank holiday and settings that are normally closed on a bank holiday should close on this day as a mark of respect. This will include schools and colleges.

I have updated the 'Dates for the term' at the end of this newsletter to reflect that school will be closed on that day.

OFSTED report publication during the mourning period

It has been announced that during the period of national mourning OFSTED will 'pause' the publication of any reports. Therefore, it will be next week when our school report will be emailed home to you and published on the OFSTED website.

Events in School during the mourning period

The staff in school are mindful of the ages and stages of the children and will continue to teach much of the curriculum as planned. Some elements of the curriculum may be adjusted if it is thought appropriate. The staff will always put the emotional wellbeing of the children first and be mindful that this is a significant time and they will be hearing lots of information all around them that may cause them to worry or to be upset. Please do let your class teacher know if your child is affected at any time by the events so that we can join with you in supporting them.

PTA Meeting

A reminder that our next PTA meeting is on Thursday 15th September at 3.00pm in school. As the meeting will go over the hometime slot, to help you to attend we will arrange for some staff to be with your children while the meeting goes ahead. The meeting will last no more than 1 hour. Please come along – the more support we have the more we can get done to provide amazing events and make special memories for the children. Please let us know if you will be attending so we can arrange staffing for the children!

School photographs

On Thursday 17th November we have our individual school photographs. From 8.30am you will be able to come to the hall with any pre-school aged children and have an individual photograph and one with their older siblings. During the day all children in school will have an individual photograph and a sibling photograph also.

Lost property

We have a lot of lost property left over from last academic year. This will be placed in the entrance area of the school until Friday 23rd September. After this time we will sort it and dispose of it.

To help stop the build-up of lost property, please make sure your child's clothing and other items are clearly labelled with their name. Writing on labels in biro washes out very quickly so please 'renew' this often so it is clear. Alternatively fabric pens last a little longer!

Holidays in term time

Following on from the last newsletter, I want to clarify what an exceptional circumstance due to work holiday leave would entail. Submission of an official letter from an employer stating that no holiday leave will be given to the employee at ANY point during the whole academic year would be considered an exceptional circumstance.

I would like to thank the many families who understand that the criteria and system for authorising leave for holidays in term time is not set by the school, but it set by the government, through the local authority and the school is required to follow it.

Parent Governor Role – one position

We have a vacancy on the Governing Board for a Parent Governor. This role contributes to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils. You would be contributing to providing strategic direction for the school. At times you will need to offer sensitive challenge to ensure a progressive improvement in standards across the school. Governors are accountable for the strategic direction and the performance of the school. Therefore they have a responsibility to work collaboratively with other members of the governing body, the staff and pupils of the school, the school's wider community and, where they are representatives to their particular constituency, (parents, staff, teachers, etc.) Although some governors may represent particular constituencies, they are not delegates of that group and should reflect the best interests of the school as a whole in all decisions. Governors carry accountability to the public and should expect to be scrutinised. They are expected to act with objectivity and act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. They should act with openness, honesty and at all times show integrity in everything they do.

The role includes:

- Attending four whole governing body meetings per annum (two in the autumn term and one per term) and termly meetings of subcommittees. In addition, other subcommittees and meetings as required noting that some of these meetings will be evenings
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand and take their fair share of work/positions of responsibility
- Get to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development
- Work as a member of a team
- Speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school as one perceives them
- Represent the perspectives of constituencies, where appropriate

- Respect all governing body decisions and to support them in public
- Become familiar with the rules of school governance
- Act within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements
- Take responsibility for and participate in training and development opportunities appropriate
- Follow guidance from the Department for Education (DFE) which suggests commitment will be between ten to twenty days maximum per year

If you are interested in the role, you could spend some time considering this by looking at the following information:

- <https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>
- <https://schoolgovernors.thekeysupport.com/the-governing-body/constitution-and-membership/governing-body-constitution/parent-governor-trustee-roles-and-responsibilities/>
- <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Parents/Have-a-say-as-a-parent-governor>

If you do decide that you would like to be nominated for the role of a school governor, you will need to prepare a written statement of no more than 200 words to let the school community know all about you. You will also need to be nominated for the role. All this needs to be done using the Pensby Parent Governor Nomination form which is on the school website under the ‘Governors’ tab or can be accessed below. The forms must be returned fully completed to the School Office **by Friday 30th September at 9.30am**. No nominations will be accepted after this time.

<https://pensbyprimaryschool.org/governors/>

Dates for the term

Updated calendar following the announcement of the Queen’s funeral.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Tuesday 6 th September	All day	National read a book day	Bring your favourite book to school!
Thursday 15 th September	3.00pm	PTA meeting	One hour – please come along!
Monday 19 th September	All day	School closed – Bank Holiday – Queen Elizabeth Funeral	
Monday 26 th September	All day	Whole School History day	Various events to be held – teachers will send a Seesaw message for their class
Friday 7 th October	All day	National Poetry day	
Monday 10 th October	All day	World Mental Health day	
Monday 17 th October	TBC	Parents Meeting phone calls appointments	Details of how to book an appointment will be sent nearer the time
Tuesday 18 th October			
Wednesday 19 th October			
Wednesday 18 th October	3.30 to 5.30pm	Parent meeting face to face appointments	
Thursday 20 th October	TBC	PTA school disco	Details to follow
Friday 21 st October	All day	School closed – INSET day	
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October	All week	Half term break	
Monday 31 st October	8.40am	School reopens for second half of autumn term	
Thursday 3 rd November	5.30pm	PTA Fireworks event	Details to follow
Week of 14 th November	All week	Anti-Bullying week and odd socks day	Come to school in odd socks!

Thursday 17 th November	am	Individual photographs	Details to follow
Thursday 17 th November	pm	Children in Need Celebration afternoon	Children bring a change of clothes and a £1 donation
Friday 18 th November	All day	School closed – INSET day	
Wednesday 23 rd November	3.30 to 5.15pm	Film night	Details to follow
Wednesday 7 th December	9.30am 1.30pm and 5.00pm	Christmas performances	Details to follow
Monday 12 th December	All day	Pupils Flu vaccinations	Details to follow
Tuesday 13 th December	TBC	Winter Wonderland	Details to follow
Wednesday 14 th December	12.00pm	Children's' Christmas lunch	Details to follow
Tuesday 20 th December	3.30pm	School closes for Christmas break	
Wednesday 4 th January 2023	All day	School closed – INSET day	
Thursday 5 th January	8.40am	School reopens for autumn term for all pupils	

And finally,

Thanks to the support of our governors, every classroom now has a new interactive teaching board. This has not only made the staff very happy, but gives the children a much better teaching experience!



Mrs K Brown, Headteacher