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Head of School: **Ruth Whitehead**

10th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Spring Term 2023 Newsletter 1

It has been such a short - and busy half term! I can't believe we are hurtling towards the half-term break already. The days are beginning to get longer and there are definitely early signs of Spring in the air, with a real feel of optimism in the school community.

A few updates to share with you all.

Morning Drop-off

Where you are dropping your child off in the morning, where possible, please leave them at the main student doors and allow them to walk down to class on their own. This builds their independence and confidence. Similarly, in the afternoon, please wait at the doors for them to come out rather than walking down to the classrooms.

I do appreciate however, that for some children, particularly those in our Autism Base classes, this is not possible.

Smile Time Provision

As some of you are aware, we were not awarded the financial support from Short Breaks for our Smile Time Provision to continue into the next financial year. This affects both holiday club and after school club provision.

I am really sorry to say, therefore, that Smile Time Holiday Club has now ended and After School Club will be ending on 31st March. We are devastated about this as we know how much some of our families relied on the support.

We are waiting to hear back from the companies that have been awarded the financial support with details of their holiday clubs which we can share with you.

We are hoping to start our own Wraparound Care (Breakfast and After School Club) in September 2023 and will be in touch later this term to gather expressions of interest to see if this is a viable option.



World Book Day

We have decided that we will not be celebrating on the National Day but instead, will be celebrating on Tuesday 21st March. On this day, we have renowned Author, James Campbell visiting the school to run workshops with classes and also open our refurbished library.

We will still send the World Book Day vouchers home when they arrive and will send out further information about our World Book Day plans after half-term.

We ask that children bring a spare pair of shoes into school with them (that can ideally stay at school), trainers would be ideal, so that they can play on the school field when it is a bit muddy without the mud coming into the building.

Welcome

We say a belated welcome to two new teachers who joined us in January. We welcome Mr Alex Govia, who has joined us from Kingswode Hoe School and is teaching 7G and Mr Alex Birch, who joined us from Edith Borthwick School and is teaching 7B. We are excited to watch the positive impact they will have on our school over the coming months.

Non-Pupil Day

A reminder that Wednesday 8th March will be a non-pupil day with the school closed to all children.

Strike Days

At the moment, we have no further information on the proposed Strike Days in March. What we would say, building on experience gained from this time, is please do not believe everything you hear on the media. We had a considerable number of children off school this day, despite our letters that went out, because 'the news are saying schools are shut'. We closed to a few classes but not every class and expect a similar situation next month.

Holiday

We have had a few cases recently where children have been marked unwell for a week and have then come back and told us 'I've actually been on holiday but was told not to tell anyone' or emails sent to the school over the weekend informing us that a child will not be in because they are on holiday.

Sadly, these have had to be marked as unauthorised absences. Where parents have been honest with us and had a conversation, we have always authorised these but it is not something I can do retrospectively.

Whilst the school position is that holidays should not be taken in term time, where this is not possible, please be open and transparent with us and we will be as sympathetic as possible.

The Academic Calendar for 2023-2024 is attached including the allocated non-pupil days to help you plan ahead.

Special Shout Outs

This half term my special shout outs are for the following students:

Ronnie and Robert in class D, who have both worked tremendously hard on personal targets in order to be offered places for September 2023 at Colchester Institute.

Albey in Oak Tree class, who has found his voice this half term and has grown significantly in confidence.

Alexandria and Sophie, in classes 7G and Apple respectively, who joined our school in January and have both settled in amazingly well.

Sammy in class S, who has developed so well in his social skills that he is transitioning to a new class after half-term to allow this development to continue.

Theo in 8D, who consistently demonstrates school values, is sadly leaving us today and we wish him and his family well. We will miss you Theo!

We are proud of all of you!

Reminders

We are a cashless school. If you are unable to pay via Pay360, please request the barcode from the school office. You will then be able to pay cash at a local pay point ie. Post Office or corner shop.

School Uniform

Another reminder that unless specified as a non-uniform day or a Forest School session, all children should be wearing full school uniform. If children are wearing tracksuit bottoms and this has been agreed, they must be plain navy blue, black or dark grey only.

Medical Reminder

We are a nut free school! A number of our students have severe nut allergies, hence we ask that everyone respects this decision. This also includes some chocolate spreads in sandwiches and cereal bars. Anything that is nut related is a no go please.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable half-term holiday.

With warmest regards



Ruth Whitehead
Head of School

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Market Field School / College - Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			

January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4					1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					27	28	29	30	31		

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions (marked in blue)

School Days	School Holidays	Bank Holidays	Weekend	Non-pupil days	New Starters only

Autumn Term:	Monday 4 September 2023 – Wednesday 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term:	Thursday 4 January 2024 – Thursday 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February - 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term:	Monday 15 April 2024 – Tuesday 23 July 2024 <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday - 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

Please note:

The non-pupil days are:- 4th & 5th September 2023, 20th October 2023, 28th March 2024, 3rd June 2024

In addition 6th September is only for Students new to Market Field School/College in September 2023