

Our new Reception children are now in school full time and are very settled. Pre-schoolers are also having fun; we do have a couple of afternoon funded spaces in preschool-please phone the school office if you would like to find out more. We are still hoping to open to 2-year-olds, currently I'm waiting to hear from London Borough of Redbridge about our funding request. Not long now until our Year 6 go off on their residential adventure-we can't wait to hear all about it. Staff in school are holding a Macmillan coffee morning at the start of October. If there is a group of parents who would like to hold a parent Macmillan coffee morning, I am happy to support this, contact via the school office by Thursday 26th September to add your name to the list.



We will be sending home a sheet of the contact information we have for you. When this comes home, please check it. If there are any changes write them on and send it back so that we can update our system.



We had feedback from parents last year that they would like more involvement in their child's education. This year we are starting with a focus on maths. Please look out for information about parent workshops and opportunities to join a maths lesson in the classroom. Next term there will be reading opportunities.

School dinners

I was talking to some parents last week who had lots of questions about school dinners. I have passed these on to our catering manager and we are currently setting a date for a coffee morning (hopefully with cake!) in the dining room. The catering team will set the room up as it is for the children at lunchtime each day and will have some of the menu items for you to try. They will also be available to answer any questions. The rules about school dinners are very tight-you can find a [poster here](#) or the [full information here](#). I am in the dining room most days and many of the children don't even try the food you have ordered for them, even when encouraged. Then they probably come home hungry. We are not going back to my schooldays where we had to sit until everything on our plates had gone, but we are encouraging children to eat before they leave the dining room, for example, 'eat the plain rice and a fork of peas and drink your water'.



Similarly, with packed lunches, children sometimes try and throw away their whole sandwich and just eat the crisps and biscuits. We expect all children to have something savoury for their lunch, not just cakes or brioche. One child last week had a huge bag of Doritos and a KitKat for lunch. Please don't include sweets or chocolates in lunches-although a small biscuit bar covered in chocolate is fine. In September the DfE produced a document about healthy eating and what we as a school should be doing-which includes ensuring packed lunches are healthy.

We have signed up for some themed menus- on Friday 27th September we have a special menu to mark 'British Food Week'.



Some parents have been asking whether they can buy stationary for classes to help out whilst money is so tight for us. Instead of donations we are planning an after school fundraising event later in the term- details to follow.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 24th Sept- Dress like a Rockstar-launch day for Times Tables Rock Stars

Thu 26th Sept-Early Years Maths parent information session 9am-10am

Fri 27th Sept- [National Teaching Assistants Day](#)

Fri 27th Sept- Special Menu- British Food Week

Mon 30th Sept- Year 6 residential (return Fri 4th Oct)

Wed 2nd Oct- Years 1 and 2 Maths parent information session 9-10am

Thu 3rd Oct- Essex Cricket event in school (Y4 and Y5-info to follow)

Tue 8th Oct-Tours for potential Reception 2025-book via the office

Wed 16th Oct- Years 3 and 4 Maths parent information session 9-10am

Thu 17th Oct- Years 5 and 6 Maths parent information session 9-10am

Fri 18th Oct-Individual Photos

Mon 21st Oct-Flu vaccinations

Tues 22nd Oct- Special menu-Diwali

Wed 23rd Oct- Year 4 Assembly

Wed 23rd Oct- Parents' evening

Thu 24th Oct- Parents' evening

Fri 25th Oct-Y5 visit to British Museum