



Autumn Term 1

Newsletter

14th September 2018

Diary Dates

18th September 7pm

Friends of Pound Hill Infant Academy Annual General Meeting in staff room.

21st September

School Photos—see article

19th October

Inset day

22nd-26th October

Half term

15th October 2.15pm

'6 weeks In' meeting for Early Years' parents. An opportunity to find out what has been happening and what is planned next. Discussion in School Hall.

16th November

Flu Immunisations all years

November (tbc)

Parent Consultation Meetings. An opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

(Late night Wednesday)

19th December

Last day of term.

3rd January

Back to School—Spring Term starts

18th—22nd February

Half-term holiday

8th—22nd April

Easter Holiday

23rd April

Inset day

Smile!



Our school photographs will be taken next Friday, 21st September, and this year we will be hosting to opportunity for siblings to be photographed together.

Our pupils will be photographed individually during the normal school day so make sure they arrive smartly dressed and we will try to keep them as clean and tidy as we can!

If you have pre-school or junior school children in the family and would like a group picture taken you should arrive at the school at 8am, when Yellow Photographers will be able to set up 'sibling group' pictures in the School Hall.

Proofs of photos will be sent home later in the term with information about how copies and/ or associated items can be ordered.

Flushed With Success

We are delighted to announce that our Trust have agreed to completely refurbish all 3 sets of pupil toilets.

This work will be done on a phased basis, starting with the Year 2 facilities, then moving to Year 1 and finally Early Years, allowing the pupils to use alternative facilities in the building while their usual toilet blocks are closed for renovation.

Following completion of holiday-scheduled work on window repairs and new play equipment, the toilet refurbishment is due to start next week and is expected to finish during October half-term.

Suitably checked and approved contractors will be undertaking the work and will be on site during the school day, but any working areas will be closed off from the pupils.

We plan to keep disruption to a minimum as much as possible, but are really pleased that the improvements have been approved and look forward to the new facilities coming into use for the children.

FOPHIA AGM

Tuesday 18th Sept

7pm

PHIA Staff Room

Come along and find out more
about what we do

Fophia5-7@outlook.com

Affiliated to national Confederation of
Parent teacher associations.

Registered charity providing financial
support and educational enrichment to the
children of Pound Hill Infant Academy
charity No 1042718

Our Friends (FOPHIA)

The Friends of Pound Hill Infant Academy are a group of enthusiastic parents who organise a variety of fund-raising and social events for our school community for the benefit of our pupils.

They have organised everything from matchbox challenges and cake sales to sponsored bounces and discos and the money raised has been spent providing additional resources for the children such as equipment and games and leavers' booklets.

Many hands make light work and the Friends would love to hear from anyone who has some great ideas to share and/ or can spare some time making things happen. If you would like to get involved but cannot attend the meeting next Tuesday, please drop them an email.



Can we remind parents that children with long hair need to be able to tie their hair back while at school—particularly while doing PE.

We also require children to not wear earrings during PE lessons. These should be removed for the lesson, or, if your child cannot do this themselves, they should not wear earrings to school on days when they will be expected to do PE.

Help is at hand

Our Family Liaison Assistant Vikki Heasman will be working with us again this year, supporting families who may be struggling to deal with personal changes such as bereavement or separation, or struggling with issues that impact on their child's attendance at school such not wanting to get up in the morning or go to bed at night.

A letter of introduction and explanation is attached for our new starters. If you think she may be able to help you, please speak to Mrs Bubb or Mrs Hillebron, who can ask Vikki to get in contact and discuss matters with you.



Please Remember . . .

Children can be fussy eaters, but it is important to remember that for some children specific foods may not be eaten for religious reasons, because they can make them ill or even be life-threatening.

In an effort to help keep everyone as safe as we can we would ask you all to follow the guidelines below:

- ◆ If your child has an allergy you need to make sure you liaise with Chartwells who provide school lunches to confirm suitable diet options. Without a 'special diet' agreement the only option our kitchen staff can offer your child is a jacket potato.
- ◆ Because of allergies, we ask that no children should bring in any nuts or nut-based items (such as peanut butter) in the packed lunch boxes.
- ◆ Please halve any grapes in lunchboxes and do not include sweets/ chocolate bars.
- ◆ Similarly, if you wish to provide 'treats' to classmates to celebrate your child's birthday— this is entirely your choice, but please remember some children can not eat jelly sweets (gelatine content), some may have dairy allergies (chocolate) some may have nut, egg or wheat allergies which may mean they cannot eat biscuits or cake.
- ◆ If children require medication (whether short term to combat illness or longer-term to treat asthma or against allergic reactions), we must have signed paperwork along with suitable medication, in original packaging, clearly prescribed for the individual concerned and with dosage instructions. Please also check medication is in-date (especially for auto-injectors).



Help Us To Help You



We like to keep our parents as well informed as we can about what is happening at school – both in terms of forthcoming events, and special visits or events the children have enjoyed, along with successes at sporting and other events. This is done through regular newsletters (usually produced every fortnight) and other letters and flyers for parents.

We try to use electronic communication as much as possible, currently through a mail service called PMX. Hopefully parents of new starters should have received an email from 'PMX' over the last few days inviting them to confirm the link with our school for their particular child or children. PLEASE confirm this link when you are invited. Not only do most of our letters get sent out via PMX but this system will also log your mobile 'phone numbers to send texts in situations such as emergency closure due to snow or power failures.

If you do not get an invitation PMX or stop receiving newsletters etc at any time once you have signed up, please let our School Office know and they can investigate.

Following major hacking/ internet incidents over the past few years, some email hosts have strengthened their firewalls to such a degree that any messages deemed to have been sent as 'bulk emails' may be blocked. At times, school messages sent by PMX may be interpreted in this way. The most common issues have arisen with providers such as Yahoo and BTinternet. If you have an alternative email address you can use instead, this may make communication easier – especially if adding PMX to your address book does not cancel the automatic block.

If you do not have an email address or regular and easy access to a computer, we can arrange for paper copies to be provided. Please bear in mind if you opt for paper copies, emergency or other 'on the day' notifications and reminders will not be available to you in such a timely manner. Newsletters and other important information will normally also be available via our website.

Over the next few weeks we will be sending home a printed sheet detailing basic information for your child and details of the emergency contacts as we have them listed. When these come home (via book bags) please check the information, make clear changes or corrections if required, sign to confirm you have checked the details and return the form to school via the class teachers or direct to the school office.

The contact information is what will be used in the case of your child being injured, unwell or any other emergency. It is important that addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses are kept up to date.

Lunch Date

There will be a change to the advertised school lunch menu on Thursday 4th October as follows:

Beefburger in a bun with chips
Or
Veggie nuggets and chips

With baked beans or salad and ketchup

Followed by Banana Marbled sponge
with chocolate sauce or melon slices

And blackcurrant squash, milk or water.

Pre-loved

We are planning to trial a quality second-hand uniform exchange this year to help reduce clothes wastage and help keep the cost of uniform down for parents battling to keep up with clothing seemingly ever-growing children.

Any hardly-worn items brought into school will be made available (for donations) on a pre-announced date once a term or half-term.

No pedestrians please

Can we remind parents that, that for safety reasons, they should not walk through the car park to access either our infant academy or the junior school playground.