



Welcome back to the new academic year after a summer break of plentiful sunshine and warmth. We have really enjoyed welcoming the children back to school and they have settled quickly into their new classes. In the assembly last week, I mentioned a number of priorities for the school over the coming year and how the children can help achieve our goals.

Firstly, we are putting a much greater emphasis on presentation of children's work, including a focus on the quality of handwriting. We have a stage not age approach to handwriting development and this information can be found on our website.

I also shared the importance of being in school on time and here everyday. I'm so grateful for the support of the vast majority of families who ensure that children arrive at school on time. Last year, we achieved 97% attendance exceeding our target of 96% coupled with fifty seven children who didn't miss a single day of school. Finally, I spoke about children having access to drinking water throughout the day and that the best way of achieving this with minimal disruption is for children to bring in a named water bottle each day.

Many of you will have seen that we have carried out a number of building projects over the summer holiday. These



PARENT READER VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for volunteers who can add to the existing team of parent readers in school. This year we will be providing training for all our parent reader volunteers to help maximise the opportunity with each child. If you are interested please sign up on our website.

@IC_EYFS @IC_Chestnut @IC_Birch @IC_Elm

@IC_Rowan @IC_Hornbeam @IC_Plane @IC_Maple

@IC_Beech @IC_Walnut @IC_Office @IC_Council @FOICs

IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER

include the new EYFS shelter outside Ash and Larch classes and the completion of the polytunnel for the many gardening projects we have planned.

We are indebted to the FOICs and your support in raising money for the installation of the all weather safety surfacing outside the Year 1&2 classrooms. The children have already enjoyed using this space over the past two weeks.

In addition to these projects, we have remodelled some of our internal spaces to create rooms for small group work where targeted support and teaching is provided by teachers and our LSA team.

Your feedback on the installation of railings along the carriageway as you turn left out of the school has been overwhelmingly positive and I'm delighted that through working together with parents and the highways department at Essex, we have been proactive in achieving a solution to keep our children safe as they arrive and leave the school.

Tonight, the teaching staff will be presenting to parents at the annual Meet the Teacher evening. We would strongly urge all parents to join us as we explain arrangements for the year ahead. The timings for the evening are as follows: 6pm Year 1 & 2, 6:30pm Year 3 & 4, 7:00pm Year 5 & 6. I look forward to seeing you tonight.

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

HOUSE & VICE CAPTAIN ELECTION

Last Friday afternoon saw the election of our new House and Vice Captains. I was astounded by the twenty six Yr 6 pupils (well over half the year group) who bravely put themselves forward to speak in front of each house in their quest for nomination. The speeches were the best I've heard and it was a close run election in most Houses. Ten children have been successful and will receive their badges in our achievement assembly tomorrow.

Badgers - Arthur (HC) and Annabelle (VC)

Foxes - Rocco (HC) and Billy (VC)

Rabbits - Maisy (HC) and James (VC)

Squirrels - Amelia (HC) and Tommy (VC)

Owls - Oliver (HC) and Ellie (VC)

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs 15th Sept Meet the Teacher (6pm, 6:30pm, 7pm)

Fri 16th Sept Hornbeam Class Assembly

Mon 19th - 23rd Aiming Higher Together (Yr 5/6 parents)

Wed 21st Sept Music Lessons information for parents

Fri 23rd Sept Elm Class Assembly

Fri 30th Sept Walnut Class Assembly

Tel: 01992 573518

Absence Tel: 01992 578162

Fax: 01992 560417

email: admin@ivychimneys.essex.sch.uk

website: www.ivychimneys.essex.sch.uk

twitter: [@IvyChimneys](https://twitter.com/IvyChimneys)