



IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



It's official, yesterday saw the hottest June day since 1976, that's 41 years ago! Our staff and children have coped incredibly well under the circumstances. I am very appreciative to the parents who have provided children with sun hats, suncream and water bottles this week. The children have listened to all our advice and have sought shade during break and lunchtimes.

Two phase groups have enjoyed school trips this week, Year 1/2 visited Old MacDonald's Farm on Monday and EYFS attended Promenade Park in Maldon on Tuesday. In addition, some children in Year 1/2 participated in the District Sports event yesterday. Despite the hot conditions, the children enjoyed themselves immensely and it is thanks to the staff and parent volunteers who make these trips so successful. Thank you. However, on a very disappointing note, I was deeply concerned to hear from my staff that more than ten families had to be contacted personally to seek a response to the trip letters requesting permission for the children to attend. A strong home-school partnership is essential if we are to provide our children with the best opportunities and my staff spending time chasing families impacts significantly on our core role of educating children. Please could parents respond promptly to ParentMail messages and should they require help accessing ParentMail, they need only pop in or phone up and ask.

I have been looking closely at attendance data and have seen a steady rise in holiday requests among a number of families. I know that many of our families understand the importance of being in school, on time, everyday. As we approach the end of the year and review assessment data, it is clear that some children haven't attained as well as they could have, had their attendance been better. It is my duty and indeed yours as parents to ensure children attend school everyday. I can't stress this enough.

"DADS" TO SCHOOL DAY

The "Dads" to school day last Friday was a huge success and probably our best one yet. Over 140 additional adults were in school and everyone who had turned up had already pre-registered. Well done Dads! Thankfully the weather was once again sunny and warm and this allowed adults and children to spill out into the outdoor areas and continue their projects. The book fair proved to be very successful although I picked up on a few reflections that it might have been viewed as a money making opportunity. This really wasn't our intention, but rather to continue to promote reading, a skill which we would all agree is vitally important. The money that we did raise, will be used to buy more reading material for all the children. One mum commented how lovely it was to observe her son and his father at home sharing a reading book they had bought together.

@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



30th June
1st July
5th July
7th July
10th July
12th July
14th July
18th July
19th July
20th July

Please work with us to achieve the best education for your children. Essex County Council stipulates that in situations where 10 sessions (5 days) of schooling is marked unauthorised within a 6 week window, a fine will be issued. I will be expected to refer families where this applies.

On Monday morning, children will learn of their new class teachers when they attend their first of four transition sessions. As you know from previous years, we create three new mixed ability classes in each of the three phase teams, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6. I then decide the class teachers for each of the classes. I'm delighted that we have a very strong teaching team once again, next year. Further details will appear in the letters that children will be bringing home on Monday. One final request, if your child returns home feeling less than positive about their new class, please encourage them to talk about their feelings. As before, we don't automatically place children with their best friends, but hopefully with someone that they know and we think will get along with. Often, children need time to establish the new friendships and get to know the children in their class. There will be three more occasions for the children to feel more comfortable before the Summer holiday and these are taking place on 3rd, 10th and 14th July.

We welcome Miss Katie Bowers to the Year 3/4 team and Mrs Michelle Moulsher who will be joining the Year 5/6 team whilst Miss Sigston is on maternity leave.

I'm sure you will wish to join me in sending Mrs Archer and her husband our warmest congratulations on the birth of their baby boy, Edward Thomas Archer. Both mum and Teddy are doing well and all three are enjoying this special time together as a new family!

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

IMPORTANT DATES

Plane Class Assembly
Summer Fayre (12pm - 3pm)
Whole School Sports Day
Elm Class Assembly
Sports Day (if postponed on 5th July)
Race for Life (more details coming soon)
Larch Class Assembly
Open Evening (6pm-7:30pm)
FoICS Summer Disco
Leavers' Assembly
Leavers' Disco

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