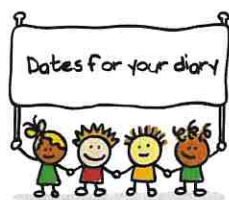


# Moulsham Infant School

Motivate, Inspire, Succeed



October newsletter – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Ralph, clearly thinks he's in charge!!



## Important Dates

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - World

Mental Health Day.

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 Art Gallery Sale.

October 13<sup>th</sup> – Holly Class Assembly & Open Morning.

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 Dinosaur Workshop.

October 17<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Evening.

October 18<sup>th</sup> – Parents Evening.

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Half term holiday

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Children return to school.

Nov 1st Textile recycling being collected.

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – Holly class parent lunch.

Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 1940's Day.

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> EYFS Open Afternoons.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Willow Class Assembly & Open Morning.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Willow class parent lunch

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Enterprise Week.

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – Children in Need.

This half term seems to be going very quickly – we now only have 2 weeks before the half term holiday and it is going to be a busy couple of weeks, with events in school - the Y1 art gallery, Holly class assembly and the Y2 dinosaur day as well as parent's evenings on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October. If you haven't made an appointment to chat to the teacher/s please remember to do so.

You may be aware that Twitter (X) is going to start charging to have an account so we are therefore going to close down our Twitter account and have opened both Facebook and Instagram accounts – details are further down on this newsletter.

On Friday Hazel class took the spot to do the first class assembly of the year, it was wonderful to see so many parents attending and to then watch them getting involved in a dinosaur song!!

Following the very successful Harvest celebration at the Church on Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – thank you Mrs McDonagh for organising this event – we have arranged with the same church to hold a Christmas Carol service for KS 1 children and their parents at the end of term, further details will be circulated nearer the time, but if you are interested in attending, please make a note of the date (19.12.23).

On the last day of this half term (20<sup>th</sup> Oct) the staff are going to have a dress down day, but to include wearing something pink to highlight Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Children are more than welcome to wear something pink that day along with their uniform.

September has been very busy and we look forward to more busy times and then to the half term break.

*Joe Hadley, Aneel*

## SCHOOL DINNER

This week it is week 3 of the menu. Please ensure your child brings a packed lunch if they have not ordered a hot meal. Please inform the office if there are any changes to your child's choices.



Please remember to name all your children's clothes – then we can return them.

## Reminder of school timings



Please remember the school day now starts at **8.45am**. The gates open at **8.35am** and close at **8.45am**. We are having a lot of children arriving after the door / gate has closed and this is having a huge impact on the start of the day for these children but also for the other children in the classes.

Any child who arrives after the door / gate has closed must be signed in by the parent at the office. This is part of our safeguarding procedures.

## THIS SCHOOL IS NUT FREE



This includes food products with nuts in them, such as Nutella and cereal bars.



### Important Dates

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Fayre.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – SMILE Non-Uniform Day.

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – EYFS Christmas Production to parents

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – SMILE Non-Uniform Day.

Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – KS1 Christmas Production to parents.

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – SMILE Non-Uniform Day.

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas lunch celebration.

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – SMILE Christmas Market.

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – FC visit and Christmas Parties.

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Carols at Church Break up for Christmas holidays.

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – Non-Pupil Day

### Parking for Dovedales



Can we please remind you that for safety reasons parents are **not** permitted to bring their cars into the staff car park when dropping off or collecting from Dovedales.

**Parents will be challenged if they are parking at any time in the staff car park.**

### Family Support Worker

**Sarah Mansell** is our Family Support Worker and is in school every Wednesday. To make an appointment to meet with her please contact the school office.

### School Nurse

Our school nurse **Saffron Ling** can be contacted on 0300 2470014.

### SMILE

Please see the SMILE newsletter  that was circulated on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct for events this term.

SMILE are requesting any donations of gift bags or wrapping paper to be placed in the SMILE box in the entrance – thank you.

### Drink bottles

Drink bottles will be kept in school over the school week. They can be re-filled in the classrooms.

Please remember that the children should only bring water in these bottles – not squash or flavoured water, this is due to allergies but also is in line with our healthy schools policy.

### Important Information

Please remember all newsletters, important dates, forms and other information are available on our website at [www.moulsham-inf.essex.sch.uk](http://www.moulsham-inf.essex.sch.uk). SMILE also post reminders about upcoming events on their Facebook page, just search for SMILE Parent's Group.

We have had comments from some parents saying they don't read the newsletter – this is very concerning as the newsletter holds a lot of information and is written specifically for parents to ensure they know what is happening in school and what the children have been learning.

### Parent Helpers in School

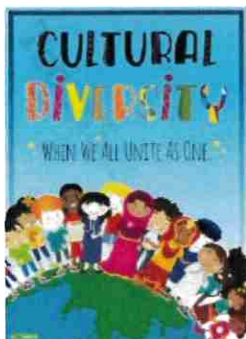


If you are interested in this role please contact the school office for further information. Parental support is invaluable in school so if you are able to support in any way please do.

### Office hours

The school office is open from **8.35 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

Outside of these hours please leave a message on the school answerphone. Please ensure that in all correspondence with the office your child's full name and class are in the information – with approximately 300 children in the school a lot of valuable time is being wasted working out which child the message is about and which class they are in – thank you.



### PE days



Reminder - Please ensure that long hair is tied up and ear-rings are removed for P.E. days.

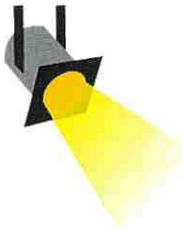
Also please ensure children have the correct PE kit in school.

**Backpacks** Can we again say thank you to everyone for your co-operation in stopping the use of backpacks- the cloakrooms are now far safer as there is no longer the risk of children tripping over backpacks that have been knocked off the pegs.

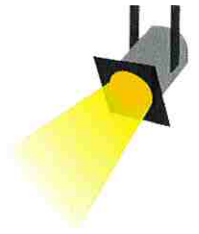
### Textile Recycling

We are having a textile recycling collection on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Please only bring your donations before 10.00 am on the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> November as we are unable to store the donations in the school building. We are also collecting old pens. Collecting bins are in school. Please send into school so we can recycle them.

Thank you.



# Spotlight on year groups



## EYFS

We have had a fantastic first month in Reception. The children have settled really well and are confident and happy. We have been learning lots of new things and have been busy making new friends. We took part in our first Year Group assembly to celebrate Harvest Festival, where we had lots of fun retelling 'The Little Red Hen' and singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester.' It was also lovely to welcome some of our Grandparents into our classrooms on Monday 5th

The staff are particularly proud of how we are coming to the classrooms on our own in the mornings Well done Reception!

*Mrs Keogh*

## Year 1

We are very proud of the Year 1 children as they have settled into their new routines so well. They are all working hard and have been earning cubes for their cube jar by showing lots of examples of independence, curiosity, ambition, resilience and empathy!

Our enquiry question this term is 'Who am I?' We are really enjoying getting to know the children through their filled bags of items from home. Thank you to you all for your support in this. In addition to learning about the children, we have also been investigating the human body in science, timelines and the stone-age in history and how our bodies move and feel in PE through exploring different ways of travelling.

A fantastic start to the year, well done children!

*Mrs Fagg*

**Year 2** We have had a very successful start to Year 2. We have settled in well with our new routines and have been setting a great example to the younger children when walking around the school and attending assemblies. We are also proud to have earned many cubes already for our reward jars, by demonstrating our 'I CARE' values.

Our enquiry question this term is 'Why did the dinosaurs become extinct?' We have enjoyed 'stepping into our story' where we have travelled to the mysterious dinosaur island to find out as much as we can about these ancient creatures. We are 'The Dinosaur Expert team'. We can't wait to research more, so that we can begin to answer our enquiry question!

*Mrs Hanson*



## Second hand uniform

We keep a stock of second hand uniform in school. This is available to buy at any time through the school office or we will be holding a drop in session every first Thursday of the month from 3.20pm. The first one will be Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

It will be available from 'The Den', which is the room next to the Forest Room in the main entrance of the school. A price list of these items is available on the school website – card payments available if spending £10 or over – cash payments for amounts below – thank you.

## Follow the school on social media

As mentioned above we are closing the Twitter (X) account and have moved over to a Facebook and Instagram account. We will endeavour to put timely reminders on these to help parents keep up to date and post details of school events. We will continue to ensure that no photos of children are posted that parents have not given us permission to do so.



## Thank you to staff from the Governors.

Following the schools successful OFSTED report last April, the Governors have granted all staff a well-being day to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the school.

The Governors recognise how hard the staff work and are very mindful of the importance of mental health and well-being.

These days have been booked and covered when required by members of staff known to the children.

Miss Beth Aspinall, Chair of Governors

## Sponsored paragliding flight

You may have seen on the SMILE newsletter that Mrs Landa-Arrese is doing a sponsored Paraglide over the half term holiday – weather permitting. If you would be willing to sponsor her to raise more funds for the Sensory area and equipment please visit [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/SmileAndMoulshamInfantSchool](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/SmileAndMoulshamInfantSchool) to donate.

We are also running a competition for the children to design a T-shirt that she will wear when she 'flies'. Details of this are on the SMILE newsletter. Pictures will be posted as evidence that the flight went ahead!!



### Christmas Fayre – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

This is a new event that we are trialing this year. The date on the SMILE newsletter was incorrect. It is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> not 25<sup>th</sup> November.

The year groups will be organizing the following:-

EYFS – Food and Drink.

Year 1 – Will be creating games and activities.

Year 2 – Making Christmas Crafts which will be available to buy.

Further information will be sent out after half term so save the date.



### School Attendance

As you know attendance is a national priority in all schools and is one of the areas of development from our Ofsted inspection.

Attendance is being monitored and analysed half termly and reported to governors. Each month a certificate is awarded to the class in each year group with the highest attendance. This information will be put on the monthly newsletter and is displayed on the Attendance Matters display in the school entrance.

### Class Attendance - September

This winners of the best class attendance are as follows:-

**EYFS – Tulip Class 99.3%**

**Year 1 – Chestnut Class 97.9%**

**Year 2 – Hazel Class 96.8%**

**Whole school attendance 96.3%**



Look forward to seeing you at parent's evening, on either the **17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Happy half term holiday to all when it arrives, keep safe and see you back in school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.