



16th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting time Year 5 and 6 have been having in school. Last week they took part in our annual Knex challenge where they had to design and then build a working crane in a strict time limit. They worked well in their pairs and the winning entry from each class now goes forward to the County competition. Congratulations to Freddie and Henry in Year 5 and Wyatt and Maniza in Year 6 for their winning models.



Then yesterday they were all able to take part in a BMX stunt scooter workshop. Wearing helmets and following the instructions carefully the children were able to develop their skills and try out some simple tricks. Luckily the whole school were able to gather on the playground to see the amazing skills on display during a whole school assembly.

In between these 2 events, Year 6 have also been on their school journey. Last Sunday morning we waved them off as they headed to Kingswood for 4 days. From the regular updates and photos, we know they had a fantastic time. Lots of activities were packed into each day – obstacle courses, abseiling, climbing, fencing, archery and many more. Then they enjoyed an evening around the campfire to finish off the experience. It was lovely that every child in the class went along and the feedback from staff was about the excellent teamwork and support the children showed for each other. Well done year 6 - you were a credit to Camp School.



We know how important it is for the children to have the opportunity to go out on trips – it really helps to bring their learning to life and in the last 2 weeks both Nursery and Year 2 have been out and about. Nursery went to use the equipment at Sapphire Gymnastics club in Hemel Hempstead and had a really enjoyable time. They were quite tired afterwards though with several children falling asleep on the way home. Year 2 enjoyed their day out at the Natural History Museum in Tring where the activities linked up with their current topic on explorers. Arthur saw a sun fish with massive fins, a sea urchin and a dodo. It was so much fun he got his Mum to take him back the next day! Thank you to the parents who helped out on these trips.

This week has also been busy in school. The children in Year 4 have taken the statutory multiplication tests and Year 1 the phonics test. We know how hard the children have been working in both these areas to develop their skills and we are proud of how hard you all tried – well done.

New School Start and Finish times

Thank you for your support over the last two weeks as we trialled our new start and end times to the school day. We appreciate that the children are now here ready to enter the classroom at 8.45am when the doors open.

I also wanted to apologise for any confusion over the term 'soft start'. This is not us opening the doors earlier than 8.45am but more about how the day feels for the children once they are in the classroom. We have activities ready that will help the children to have a gentler start to the day and a chance to settle in and get ready for the learning ahead. It also gives our staff the chance to check in with all pupils at the start of the day.

Toast

Every morning lots of children in each class choose to have a piece of buttered toast. This is offered from Year 1 upwards and is made by a member of staff ready for the children's break time. We do have to ask for a half-termly contribution of £5 from parents to cover the cost of making the toast. Please do check with your child (or the teacher) to confirm if you need to pay and then make payment on Arbor please. We do need to ensure that all our costs are covered. Thank you.

Free School Meals

A reminder to families where their financial situation may have changed to please check your eligibility for free school meals. **This is especially important for families in Year 2 as the government funded free school meals stop in Year 3.** If your child is eligible, they will also qualify for the holiday activity programme and access to food vouchers over holiday periods. Although all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free meal each day in school, it is still worth applying as the school will receive extra funding to support your child if you are eligible.

You are eligible if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Sports Days

We know you already have the date but we just wanted to confirm plans for our Sports Days this year.

For Key Stages 1 & 2 Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 27 June.

Parents are welcome to watch field events from 9:05-10:30 and then running events from 1:30pm. Early Years (Nursery & Reception) Sports Day is Friday 7 July at 9:30am and should last about an hour or so.

Dates:

The summer term is always a busy one so I wanted to share some key dates with you for the next couple of weeks so that you can make sure they are in your diary. These dates have already been on the website, but we wanted to flag them up to you again. Please do keep checking the website for other dates.

Week commencing 19th June

Parent consultations for Years 1 – 6 (booking now open)

Tuesday 20th & Thursday 22nd June
Wednesday 21st June
Friday 23rd June @ 9.00am
Friday 30th June
Thursday 6th July
Thursday 13th July
Thursday 20th July
Thursday 20th July
Friday 21st July

District Sports (for selected children)
Orchestra in school (for children only during school day)
KS1 Maths Workshop in the hall
INSET Day – school closed
Open Evening – all classes open 4 – 6.30pm
Transition Day – all children to new classes in the morning
Leaving assembly for Year 6 @ 2pm
Nursery last day
School finishes for Summer holiday @ 1.30pm

School will restart for the Autumn term on **Monday 4th September** for all children. Friday 1st September is an INSET day.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you at the Summer Fair tomorrow.

Sharon Barton
Head Teacher