

16th December 2022

Happy Christmas!



Thank you for your continued support this year. Our school performances were a real success and we are so proud of our talented children! It has been an extremely busy term and we hope you enjoy spending time with your families and friends over the festive season. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope that the New Year brings you happiness and success.



Christmas Pop Up Shop

The Christmas Pop-up Shop was a big success and raised a total of £545. We'd like to say a huge thank you to families for their generosity as the children had a wonderful time buying some lovely toys and gifts to take home.

School Disco

Without doubt, our children were keen to put on their dancing shoes as so many children attended the Christmas disco. The PFA organised a superb event which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A total of £2,065 was raised and will be used to buy learning resources for school.

Children In Need

Thanks to the support of our families we raised a total of £545 for Children in Need and the children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up for the day.

Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes

The children really enjoyed the adventurous activities that were on offer on our trip in early November. Many of them tried to challenge themselves to go outside of their comfort zone to overcome their fears on activities such as the zipline and high ropes which was great to see. Year 4 also behaved sensibly and respectfully when visiting the National Memorial Arboretum.

Dinner money price increase by 10p – Governors Message

As governors, we are very aware that the current economic environment is extremely challenging and this has also affected the school. We pride ourselves on many things, especially the quality of school lunches for our students. However, the cost of goods has increased dramatically over the past few months. The school has held firm and has tried for as long as possible to not pass these increased costs on to you. However, we can no longer maintain the quality of our catering services without introducing a slight increase in cost to our families. As a result of this, from January 2023, the governing board of Walmley Junior School must introduce a small increase in school catering costs, equating to 10p per meal. Many thanks for your understanding.

Winter Water Safety

Following the tragic incident at Babbs Mill Lake, Solihull, important information has been issued by West Midland Fire Service: [Winter Water Safety - West Midlands Fire Service](#) Learning about the risks of ice are so important, especially during winter to try and prevent such tragic incidents. The Royal Life Saving Society UK has also produced some helpful guidance on keeping children and families safe around water when the weather turns chilly and new dangers appear. Ideal for younger children, their FREE downloadable Winter Safety Activity Booklet and Colouring In Sheet encourages children to talk about winter water safety : [Winter Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK](#)

School Timings

Children should arrive anytime between **8.40am – 9.00am**.

They will finish the day as follows: Years 3 & 4 – **3.25pm** Years 5 & 6 – **3.30pm**

Respect ▪ Honesty ▪ Kindness ▪ Generosity ▪ Perseverance ▪ Politeness ▪ Conscientiousness

Attendance

A reminder to all parents that if your child is absent from school, you must inform the school office by telephoning to explain why your child is off that day, giving key details, by 9.30 am on the first day of the absence. Please help your child to build their resilience by sending them to school if they only have a mild cough/cold.

Parking

Once again, we would ask parents who drive to school to park in a considerate and safe way. Our Junior PCSOs returned to their patrols this month and will be taking photographs of any vehicles parked unsafely or illegally. This will then be passed to our local PCSO team who will issue a letter of warning or even a fine. Please remember that our children's safety is always our top priority.

Earlybirds Bookings

A reminder if you need to make an emergency booking, it must be made before 12 o'clock on that day. In addition, if you cancel an Earlybirds session after 12 o'clock, you will have to collect your child from Earlybirds as they may have already been taken there by a member of the Earlybirds team.

Cake Sale

The kitchen will be selling homemade chocolate sponge cake on a Friday morning break priced at 60p. This will start on Friday 6th January. Payment should be paid in advance using Scopay on-line payment. Cake can be found in 'Products' then 'Cake Friday'. We are asking for payment to be made in advance for the half-term only, which will ensure your child receives cake on a Friday. **Please do not overpay!** For the half-term it will be **£4.20**. Payment should be made no later than **Monday 2nd January 2023**. **Once the deadline date has passed there will be no opportunity to order, so please do not contact the school office to ask.** As we are sure you can appreciate, Mrs Bean has to ensure she has the necessary ingredients, which is why we have a deadline.



Toast Sale

The kitchen will be selling toast at break time priced at 40p per slice (2 halves) – max 1 slice per child.



Monday – Year 3

Tuesday – Year 4

Wednesday – Year 5

Thursday – Year 6

Toast sales will start w/c Monday 9th January. Payment should be paid in advance using Scopay online payment. Toast can be found under 'Products' then 'toast'. We are asking for payment to be made in advance for the half-term only, this will ensure your child receives toast on their nominated day. For the half-term it will be **£2.40**. Payment should be made no later than **Monday 2nd January 2023**. **Once the deadline date has passed, there will be no opportunity to order, so please do not contact the school office to ask.** As we are sure you can appreciate Mrs Bean has to ensure she has the necessary supplies which is why we have a deadline.

Hotdog Lunch - Wednesday 25th January

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a lunch on Wednesday 25th January. If you would like your child to have a lunch, the cost is £2.60. **Payment for Hot dog lunches should be made using Scopay online payment system.** Hot dog lunch can be found in 'Products' then 'Hot dog lunch'. We are asking for payment to be made in advance; this will ensure your child receives a lunch on that day. Payment should be made no later than **Thursday 12th January**. **Please only pay £2.60 for the January Hotdog lunch and refrain from making overpayments as it causes issues on our payment system.**

Payments to school

Can we please remind parents that we are a cashless school, and all payments should be made using our online payments system <https://www.scopay.com/walmley-jun> We do not hold any cash in school and therefore cannot refund any payments made in cash that subsequently need to be returned. **Please note that any cash payments made, that need to be returned will sit on your child's account for you to use for a future trip/event.**

Dinner Money

Dinner money is £13.00 per week (i.e. £2.60 per meal). If you prefer to pay for the half-term in advance, it will be **£85.80** for Wednesday 4th January to Friday 17th February. Please ensure that payments are made promptly using our online system. Outstanding dinner money invoices are sent by email and we wish to remind you that dinner money **should always be paid in advance not arrears**. We hope that your child will have school dinners, but please remember to give the school office one week's notice in writing of any changes to your child's lunch arrangements.

Free School Meals

Changes have been made as to how we collect information for Free School Meals. You no longer have to come into school to complete paperwork and bring in evidence as it is all done by simply registering online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham> . You only ever need to register once and school will automatically be updated of eligibility or any changes of eligibility; this information is data protected as per the terms shown.

Lost Property

As usual, we have a lot of items in our lost property area (in the main hall), including winter coats, jumpers, shoes and lunchboxes. **We are always amazed that more children and parents do not come into school to look for lost belongings (or name things in the first place!).** We have put a considerable amount in our Air Ambulance clothing skip today but have retained some nicer items in case they are claimed after Christmas.

Dates for the Diary

Spring Term 2023

3 rd January	Teacher Training
4 th January	School Open
5 th January	Year 3 Theatre Visit – Gruffalo
11 th January	Young Voices Concert – NEC
13 th – 17 th February	School Book Fair
17 th February	Break up for Half Term
27 th February	School Open
17 th March	Mother's Day service at St. John's – Year 4
21 st March	Coventry Trip – Year 4
24 th March	Woodlands Trip – Year 3
31 st March	Break up for Easter

Summer Term 2023

17 th April	School Open
1 st May	Bank Holiday
9 th -12 th May	SATs – Year 6
26 th May	Break up for Half Term
5 th June	Teacher Training Day
6 th June	School Open
16 th June	Father's Day service (in school) – Year 4

19th-23rd June France Trip – Year 6
21st July Break up for Summer Holidays
24th July Teacher Training Day
25th July Teacher Training Day

Autumn Term 2023

4th September Teacher Training Day
5th September School Open
27th October Break up for Half Term
6th November School Open
21st December Break up for Christmas
22nd December Teacher Training Day

Spring Term 2024

8th January School Open
9th February Break up
19th February School Open
21st March Break up for Easter
22nd March Teacher Training

Summer Term 2024

8th April School Open
24th May Break up for Half Term
3rd June Teacher Training Day
4th June School Open
19th July Break up for Summer
22nd July Teacher Training Day