# Diary Dates and Newsletter Contents

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**INSET Days (school closed to pupils)**

**24th February**

New Date added - Monday 20th April

**20th & 21st July**

### January

- Back to school Monday 6th
- Darwin class assembly - 15th
- Drake class assembly - 22nd
- Golden Hinde assembly - 29th
- Parents Evenings w/c 20th
- Parent council - 21st 2:45pm

### February

- Deman class assembly - 5th
- Victory class assembly - 12th
- Half term holiday - 17th-21st
- INSET day 24th
- Back to school Tuesday 25th
- English Open Lessons for parents/carers w/c 25th

### March

- Nelson class assembly - 4th
- Cutty Sark assembly - 11th
- O’Malley assembly - 18th
- Galleon assembly - 25th
- w/c 23rd - Spring Challenge Celebration week

### April

- Easter holidays - 6th-17th
- INSET 20th April
- Back to school Tuesday 21st

### May

- Half Term - 25th-29th

### June

- Back to school after half term - Monday 1st

### July

- INSET days (school closed to pupils) 20th & 21st
- Last day of term - 17th

### TBC

- Sport's Day
- Year 4 Sleepover
- Pop Up Cinema

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At this time of year I am so proud to see the children’s incredible work coming together in the culmination of their Autumn challenge. The children and staff team have worked so incredibly hard this term on their time travellers challenge question: *What are the achievements of our rich and diverse community?* and I’m sure that for all of our parents and carers who were able to attend our *Celebrating Diversity* concerts at the John Roan school you will agree that the children performed brilliantly. Thanks to all of you who supported the children by attending the show, by providing costumes, allowing your children to take part and by celebrating their achievement with them even if you were unable to attend. I know it means a lot to the children - it also means a lot to the staff and the school who rely on this continued support, so many thanks to all.
While on the subject of thanks, it is fantastic to be able to share the news that we have reached our fundraising target of £5000 for our edible playground after an amazing total of £1527 was raised at our Christmas fair! A HUGE thanks to all the parents and carers involved in the planning, making, organising, setting up, running and clearing up for the fair. We recognise this is a LOT of work to make the fair a success and give thanks to all involved.

Any volunteers for future fairs are always warmly welcomed!

The construction of our edible playground in the central courtyard garden begins mid-January after Mr Gardner and his team have been in at 6am every day over the last few weeks clearing out the old shrubs and debris for us. Thank-you! The project will take 3-4 weeks for completion - ready for planting our new fruits and veg in the springtime. We will have regular updates via Twitter so keep an eye on the feed for development! @invictaprimary

We now have in mind some new projects we would like to fundraise for and would welcome parent opinion on which to prioritise at our next parent council meeting on: Tuesday 21st January 2:45pm.

Season’s Greetings to all, have a wonderful break from school and see you all in 2020!

Mrs. Jodie Cawte, Head of Invicta Deptford
j.cawte@invictaprimary.co.uk

IMPORTANT NOTICE - JANUARY MORNING ARRANGEMENTS

From January 2020 we will begin a trial of a ‘soft start’ to the school day for all children from Year 1 - Year 4. This is where the school gates will open at 8:45am and all children in these year groups will enter classrooms as soon as they arrive, saying goodbye to parents in the playground (like the start to the day when it is raining). We have looked into the arrangements of other schools and seen that this arrangement makes for a much calmer start to the day and reduces incidents between children in the playground before school starts. Staff will still be at classroom doors for messages to be passed on and school leaders will still be at the school gate. Year 3 and 4 will enter through the central doors in the glass link corridor and staff will see them in from this point. Once children are in class and greeted by staff, they will be able to settle straight into an early morning activity; all classes will have calm music playing to add to the welcoming atmosphere and generally create an environment for the children to be ready to learn. Arrangements for Reception classes and Lighthouse pupils will remain as they are currently.
At the end of the school day, Year 3 will now leave via Jolly Roger (old nursery classrooms where Reception enter in the mornings) and Year 4 will leave via the glass link corridor. Once we have tried these new arrangements for half a term we will review and this will include parent feedback on the new arrangements.

If you would like to share your feedback on this change, please do so towards the end of next half term when we have seen the impact of this change.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT PARENT/CARER CONDUCT:

Can we please remind all parents and carers that rude or aggressive behaviour towards staff will not be tolerated. We have had a small, but increasing number of parents shouting and swearing at staff this term which is upsetting for all involved. We are all working tirelessly for our pupils and families who we really care about! We know we are not perfect and always try to listen and take on board feedback to improve. If you have something you would like to discuss or talk about, please speak to a member of staff in a courteous manner and we will help you to reach the right person for your enquiry if they cannot help you directly.

Thank-you!

Mrs Cawte, Head of Invicta Deptford

Christmas Shows

The children were fabulous in their productions of Going Home for Christmas. Thank you to Ms Alexander as well as all the staff for all their hard work in bringing this together. Ms Alexander has worked extremely hard to get ready for both Christmas and Celebrating Diversity shows in one term alone. Thank you to all the parents who came to watch and support their children.
School Office Updates

Thank you to all of our parents/carers for utilising Parent Pay to pay for school activities/items. Can we please ask for all outstanding debts to be settled before the start of the next half term. The debts outstanding may be for after school clubs, trips, lunches and more. Please contact the office if you need to discuss payment plans as all debts will need clearing before rebooking is permitted.

We would also like to share with you the following pricing updates for after the October half term

School Dinner Charge for the half term:
All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for Universal Free School meals, but all those in years 3-6 pay for their school lunch at £2.50 per day, which will be £12.50 per week. For the third term 6th Jan-14th Feb = £75.00. Please can you pay half termly in advance. The item is on parent pay for you to pay now.

If you believe you may be eligible for free school meals in Years 3-6 please bring in your NI, DOB and name into the office and we can check on our tracker, and also give you a paper form to fill in.

One weeks notice is required for a change to packed lunches.

Breakfast Club
This is run in house by our own staff.
The hours are 7.45-8.55 for £6.50 per day. Payment is required half termly in advance for this via parent pay. Places cannot be allocated to families with outstanding debts therefore please ensure before returning on 6th Jan that all debts are cleared.

Half term cost examples:
£6.50 x 1 day per week= £6.50 per week x 6 weeks = £39.00
£6.50 x 2 days per week= £13 per week x 6 weeks = £78.00
£6.50 x 3 days per week= £19.50 per week x 6 weeks = £117.00
£6.50 x 4 days per week= £26 per week x 6 weeks = £156.00
£6.50 x 5 days per week= £32.50 per week x 6 weeks = £195.00

Late Pick Up Charges
Due to the increasing number of children being picked up late from school, late pick up fees will apply from 3.30pm for children from Year 1 - Year 6, and from 3.15pm for reception children and nursery children.

Charge/Rate: £5 for every 15 minutes.
If notification is received (call to the office) of a late collection (for example train delay, traffic jams etc) a 15 minute grace period will apply.
Families who regularly collect their children late may consider applying for a place at the after school club Energy Kidz: www.energy-kidz.co.uk

All of the above items are on parent pay for you to pay! Thanks again for your prompt payments, and please
contact the office if you need any help.
The Office Team

Please contact our School Business Manager with any queries relating to this:
Kate Fry, School Business Manager
kate.fry@invictapriary.co.uk

Explorers and Discoverers - Spring 2020 Challenge

Next term, the children will be answering the question ‘How and what can we learn from others to broaden and share our personal geographies?’ We will continue to look at what makes us, us. To look at where we come from, how we have travelled and the meaning we attribute to places and perceptions of self in relation to space and place. We aim to widen pupil’s horizons - to help children to engage with and understand different perspectives by shining a light on the world beyond their own immediate experience. The children will be creating a series of podcasts and their own ‘meaningful maps’ to share with you all at the end of term which we know you will love as they will be really personal to each and every child.

If any parents or carers have any experiences, skills or expertise in Geography, exploration, map making, immigration, travel or similar that you are able to share with us, please let your child’s class teacher know.

Thank-you!

Well-being
An update on the school’s commitment to support positive mental health and emotional wellbeing for the whole school community:

On 30th January 2020 we will have the final verification towards achieving the Wellbeing for Schools award (WAS). Our Wellbeing Strategy has been reviewed by the Change team and it is now on the school website. Parents and Carers Coffee Club-Look out for upcoming events in the Spring Term. A link to the WAS award questionnaire will be shared with parents, carers, pupils and staff at the beginning of the Spring term and your views are very important, as they will help us review and adapt our Wellbeing action plan objectives to better meet everyone’s needs with regards to mental health and emotional wellbeing.
And finally, we hope you all have a peaceful break and we look forward to seeing you all in January.

Should you have any questions please contact:
Maria Crescenzo, Assistant Head EYFS
m.crescenzo@invictaprimarv.co.uk

New Board Game Lunchtime club

We all love a great board game, I know I do! Not only is it fun, it helps build great friendships, enhancing turn taking skills, reduces stress and increases memory formation and cognitive skills. I am looking to organise and run a club in school so if you have any board games/turn taking games that you could donate they will definitely be valued and put to good use. Any donations would be really appreciated! Please kindly leave at the office.

Angela Cudmore, Learning Mentor
a.cudmore@invictaprimarv.co.uk

Our December Book Fair raised £485.16 in total. This means some lovely new books will be winging their way to the school next term, all of which are going to help in the building and development of our new school library... watch this space!

Pupil Voice News

School Council have been working hard this term! They held an assembly to raise awareness during Anti-Bullying week, sharing important messages with the whole school. During Road Safety week, they helped to share the message *Step up for Safer Streets* with their classes. Next term, they will be working with the Healthy Schools Leader, Mr Waller to help create ‘wet play’ boxes for each class.

Our Pupil Coaches have also been doing an amazing job. Every week, they support a number of students to find their way in solving problems they may face. It has had a positive impact in so many ways and we are incredibly proud of them. Mike Fleetham from *Thinking Tools* is also extremely impressed!

An Introduction from our Sport and Healthy School’s Leader
Hello, I am Mr Waller and I am the PE and Healthy Schools Leader at Invicta Primary School. I am responsible for the PE curriculum including swimming as well as extra-curricular activities and competitions. As a school our aim is to give the children as many opportunities as we can to be active throughout the school day. To help with this we have invested in a variety of new playground equipment including, space hoppers, lolo balls, crazy catch and a portable music speaker. The children are really enjoying the new equipment and are now a lot more active during playtime and lunchtime.

Parent/ Carer- teacher meetings
Invitations will be sent in the new year for parents/carers to book in for parent/carer teacher meetings (during w/c 20th January) using our Google calendar appointment system. Although parents are able to make arrangements to see teachers whenever they need to, they do like to see all parents during the dedicated week so please book an appointment.

Class Assemblies - All Parents and Carers Invited!

Next term we will be presenting a series of class assemblies linked to our love of Reading and we would like to invite family members and carers to join us. Whilst these assemblies are a long way off, I wanted to remind you of the dates sent out last month - see below:

All assemblies will take place on the dates below at 9.15am in the school hall - please enter via the school car park gates on Borthwick Street after you have dropped your child at school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Darwin class</td>
<td>15th January</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Drake class</td>
<td>22nd January</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Golden Hinde class</td>
<td>29th January</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Deman class</td>
<td>5th February</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cutty Sark class</td>
<td>11th March</td>
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<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Victory class</td>
<td>12th February</td>
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<td>Nelson class</td>
<td>4th March</td>
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<td>Reception</td>
<td>O’Malley class</td>
<td>18th March</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Galleon class</td>
<td>25th March</td>
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We will also be repeating our open lessons for parents w/c 24th February - look out for a personal invitation early in the New Year from your child to come in and see their English lesson.

School Swimming
As all parents are aware, as a school we pay for and arrange weekly swimming lessons for all children from Year 2 at Wavelengths pool. These lessons are a considered investment by the school and form a key aspect of our pupil’s PE lessons, as well as giving all our pupils the chance to become safe in water and competent swimmers by the time they leave primary school. We have had an! increasing number of pupils who are regularly not attending swimming lessons. Please can we remind all families that apart from when a child is too ill to attend the lesson, they should be going swimming every week as part of their PE lessons and will need their kit in school, including a swimming cap.

Mr Waller, Sport and Healthy Schools Leader

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Governor News

This term our governors have been working with the leadership team to learn more about our approach to making sure our children of all abilities get the support and challenge they need as well as putting plans in place to make sure our finances are as secure as they can be for the future. We’re always keen to hear more from our parents and carers so we’re running monthly drop ins at both sites- the first of which happened earlier this month.
It’s been a fantastic term- with so many achievements of our children and and amazing staff to celebrate! We hope you all enjoy a well earned festive break!

Mo Wiltshire
Chair of Governors
m.wiltshire@invictaprilmary.co.uk

In January we have parent Governor elections coming up and hope you will all take the time to consider our three candidates and place your votes.
We also have a vacancy for a co-opted governor, and are particularly looking for a governor with a financial background so please spread the word!
Applications close on 17th January and the application form can be found on our website or here.

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Inclusion Update

I can’t believe we are already at the Christmas holidays, this term seems to have flown by! It has been another busy term for the inclusion team here at Invicta and I am absolutely thrilled to announce that this term we re-verified our Dyslexia Friendly Status. The process involved a full day inspection from external reviewers including; lesson observations, whole school learning walks and interviews with members of staff, students, governors and parents. The reviewers were
extremely complimentary of our school and even published it in the Greenwich School Bulletin stating that Invicta is ‘a vibrant, inclusive learning environment where staff, governors, pupils and parents work as a whole school community to shape a school where learning is exciting for all’. A real achievement for all involved!

We also held a SALT parent coffee morning at each site this term. Unfortunately Greenwich Parent Voice are no longer running coffee mornings, however they are still running their monthly hub, information of which can be found on the following link to their website https://greenwichparentvoice.greenschoolsonline.co.uk/. In the meantime one of our lovely parents has asked to set up a monthly SEND parent group for the wider community held in our school. We are currently working on the details of this, so please keep an eye out for further updates.

If you are a parent of a child with SEND, please make sure you check out the local offer for advice and support, including ideas of fun activities you can do with your children over the Christmas holidays. If you are not aware of the local offer, it is a really useful resource for parents of children with SEND and can be found on the Royal Borough of Greenwich website through the following link: http://familiesinformation.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/kb5/greenwich/fsd/localoffer.page

Christmas holidays can be a challenging time for our children with SEND, as it is out of their usual routine and is usually quite an exciting time. Try using a visual calendar at home to help the children count down the days of the holidays, or having daily timetables of your days so that children know what they are doing each day, even if that is just relaxing and watching Christmas films!

Have a wonderful break and I am looking forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Miss Heath
Assistant Head for Inclusion
r.heath@invictaprilmary.co.uk