

Collett Catch-Up



Friday 9th September 2016

WELCOME!

The weather may have been miserable and wet Monday morning but we all had bright big smiles welcoming our pupils. It was lovely to see so many of them come running in, really excited to be back at school and to see their friends. Even the pupils who were new to the school gave their mums a quick kiss and were then gone to their classroom. Walking around school during the day it was quiet and everything in order. Mrs Wells was even teaching Maths at 9:00 am.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big hello and welcome to our new pupils and their families. I am fairly new to the school as I only started in January but I have found it a great place to be. All the staff are friendly, professional and dedicated in helping every pupil achieve. After ten years in a main stream school it is lovely to see each pupil being respected for who they are instead of being made to conform to the so called 'norm'.

Summer Work

If you passed school during the holidays you may have noticed that the workmen from The Little Thatch Company have been working every day since the 1st of August. They have been here every weekend and even bank holidays. There is still work to be completed but it has already made such a difference to the front of the school. The steps leading down to the main entrance have been replaced by a sloped winding path. There will be electric doors leading to the new reception area which has been constructed and then a single door controlled by reception giving access to the main school building. This double door entrance system will provide additional security in that visitors cannot gain access to the main building. There has also been a glass corridor constructed which allows staff to access the staff room without having to walk through a class room. We are all very excited because once all the work is complete there will be a few surprises for our visitors.



New Main Entrance

Attendance

Morning registration takes place at 8.30am.

If children arrive after registration is closed at 8.45am they are recorded as late. Parents are requested to either telephone the school or write explaining the reason for absence. Please contact the school (01442 398988) if your child is absent due to sickness. If they have a forthcoming medical or other appointment, please let us know by phone or through the Home-School Diary.

Afternoon registration takes place at 12.45pm.

Full (100%) attendance is required of our pupils. 95% attendance may sound good, though this would mean your child would have been absent for two whole weeks of school!



School Transport

There were a number of issues with Transport Monday morning for a variety of reasons. Mrs Weston, from the school office, has been very good and spoken to Glen from Transport at length. I believe the vast majority of problems have now been resolved and pupils are back using school transport as expected. Before the end of the Summer Term parents who use school transport should check with Transport at County and the SEN Team at Apsley that the arrangements for their child will be in place for the September.

Contact the School Office

If your child usually travels home on school transport but for whatever reason they will be collected, please, contact the school office. Their name can then be removed from the transport register for that day which will save any delays and confusion.



Parking

There are three other schools in the immediate area and as a result there are a large number of cars using the roads and also a large number of parents and children using the pavements every morning. I appreciate that finding somewhere to park is exceptionally difficult at this time but please remember to park respectfully, not causing an obstruction for other road users, pedestrians or blocking neighbours driveways.



Park Considerately

Blue Forms

Before the Summer Holidays a blue booklet was sent home containing forms that must be completed for each child attending The Collett School. We are required to update the details for each pupil at the beginning of the school year. This ensures that we have the latest contact details in case of an emergency, email addresses for letters etc. to be sent to, medical information and parental permissions. If you have not already completed the 'Blue Forms' please do so and return them to the school office by Tuesday 13th September. If you have any questions or require some help completing them, Mrs Weston and Mrs Mills will be available during Parents' Evening on Tuesday 13th September.

Payments and Letters

When sending in payments and letters to the school office, please ensure that your child's name is written on the envelope with the name of their class and what the money is for. On several occasions a member of staff has been handed an envelope by a pupil or even the school transport escort and without a name we do not know who it belongs to.

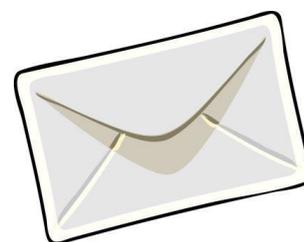
Dinner Money

Dinner money should be paid in advance via, cheque made payable to 'Hertfordshire Catering Ltd', cash sent in to the school office in a named envelope or you can pay using SchoolComms. The cost of a Primary meal is £2.35 per day and a Secondary meal is £2.45 per day.

If your child does have a school meal that has not already been paid for, please pay as soon as possible. Hertfordshire Catering Ltd is an independent company and has no connection to the school other than providing your child's meal.

If you think you may be entitled to claim Free School Meals it takes 5 minutes to apply online at <https://beta.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

If your child is in Year 1 or Year 2 they are entitled to a free school meal. We do however, ask that you still apply for 'Free School Meals' if you are entitled to these. As a result of families claiming Free School Meals, we receive additional funding.



Named Envelope



School Meals

After School Clubs

This half term we have a number of clubs running after school starting week commencing 19th September. There is an Activities Club in the Hive on a Tuesday between 3:00 and 4:00 pm for pupils in Middle and Upper School, the charge for this is £2.00 per session. There is also a Football Club on Tuesdays, for all pupils, in the hall between 3:00 and 4:00 pm run by Dan Stocks and the charge for this club is £4.00 per session. Then on Friday there is a Boxing Club, for all pupils, in the hall between 3:00 and 4:00 pm, again run by Dan Stock and the charge is £4.00 per session. Every lunch time there is a Lego Club in the Hive for any pupils that are interested. There is no charge for the Lego Club.

After school clubs must be pre booked and paid for. A letter will be sent home shortly with a permission slip. This must also be completed before your child can take part.

If there is not a club that interests your child at the moment, we are planning more clubs for after the half term break.

Pokémon Go

On Monday I emailed out to all parents a copy of the Herts for Learning eSafety Newsletter. Its main story was regarding the safety issues around the new craze of playing Pokémon Go. Below are the main points which have been taken from the NSPCC website.

- **Meeting people they don't know face-to-face** The game is designed to bring people together. Usually strangers. So you never know who they might meet.
- **There's a physical risk** It's easy to forget to look where you're going with this game, but they need to be careful of where they end up. There are already stories of people being lured to places that aren't safe for children.
- **It can cost a lot of money** There are in-app purchases and other incentives which can cost up to £79.99 (14,500 Pokécoins). Make sure the app's set up without payment options.
- **Access to personal data** Pokémon Go asks for personal information like your child's birth date and email address, which they're asked to enter or receive through social media accounts. Parents have the right to contact the creators to stop them from using their personal information.



Lunchtime Lego Club



Parents' Evening

On Tuesday 13th September, between 4.30 and 6.30 pm, we are hosting our first Parents' Evening of this academic year. We have introduced a new system where parents can log on and book their appointments directly. All parents should have received a paper copy of the letter and guidelines along with an electronic copy. If you have any problems please contact the school office.

The evening is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and speak to other professionals who can provide information and advice. There will also be staff available in The Hive, Library and Intervention Room, along with information stalls about Literacy, Numeracy and homework.

Chatterbox Meeting

On Tuesday 20th September there will be an informal drop-in session between 1:30 and 2:30 pm where parents can come and see our new sensory equipment and extended learning area. You can also find out more about Rebound Therapy and meet new parents.

Next term, once our new pupils and families have settled in, we hope to have a meeting on social stories, what they are and how they can help.

Chatterbox Meetings are open to all parents and carers so please come along to any that interest you.

Achievements and Results

Friday Assembly

Mr Houlton-Allen started assembly by welcoming each of our 19 new pupils who were pleased to return his wave. Kiera and Martin both sang a song which had pupils and staff clapping along. The 'Spot Light' was then on Torren, he had not only completed his homework during the summer break but had taken it several steps further. He produced a film of him being independent, putting his shoes on, walking to the local shop and buying some bread. This was no ordinary film though; he added music and text as well. He enjoyed doing it so much he produced a second film of him making a Tuna Jacket Potato. Could he be the next music video producer for the stars?

We sadly said Bye Bye to Miss Sears and Mrs Chapman today. Both have worked at The Collett School for many, many years and made a real difference to many pupils. They have both decided to spend some more time with their families but hope they will come back and visit.



Tuesday 13th September



Hello!

Achievements

Gold Award – Mason, Elisha

Chef of the Week – Lower School – Zofia, Middle School – Jacob, Upper School - Billy

Forthcoming Events

September Events

Thursday 15th September – Parents' Listening Service 9:00 to 11:00 am

Friday 16th September – Fun Run 1:00 pm

Tuesday 20th September – Chatterbox Meeting 1:30 to 2:30 pm, all parents welcome

Thursday 22nd September – Harvest Festival Lunch

Friday 23rd September – Coffee Catch-Up after assembly, all parents welcome

Oaklands College

Sign Up Saturday (SAC) Saturday 10th September 2016

Oaklands College St Albans Campus (10.00am – 1.00pm)

Sign Up Saturday (WGC) Saturday 17th September 2016

Oaklands College Welwyn Garden City Campus (10.00am - 1.00pm)

Mrs Rachael Lampey

The Collett School

www.collett.herts.sch.uk