

Holiday Dates and Training Days 2016/2017

	OPEN	CLOSE
Autumn Term 2016	Tuesday 6 th September Monday 31 st October	Friday 21 st October Friday 16 th December
Spring Term 2017	Tuesday 3 rd January Monday 27 th February	Friday 17 th February Friday 7 th April
Summer Term 2017	Monday 24 th April Monday 5 th June	Friday 26 th May *Excluding May Day - 1 st May 2017 Friday 21 st July

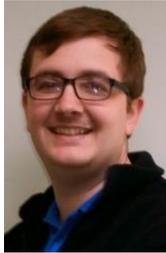
Five Personnel Development (PD) Days

The five additional training days when school will be closed for pupils are as follows:-

Monday 5th September 2016, Monday 31st October 2016, Friday 26th May 2017, Monday 24th July 2017, Tuesday 25th July 2017

Welcome Back

We hope you all had a lovely summer break. Just a reminder we have had a few staffing changes since the summer term. Mrs Travis our headteacher is embarking on phased retirement beginning this term therefore on the days she is not in school Mrs Naffati will be the acting headteacher; our door is always open if you need us! Mrs Cooper our former Deputy is in school for the early part of the week and our new assistant headteachers Mrs Spencer, Mrs Westbury and Mr Craig are also here to answer any queries you may have.

				
Headteacher: Mrs C. Travis	Acting Head/Assistant Headteacher: Mrs D. Naffati	Assistant Head/ SENCo: Mrs Z. Spencer	Assistant Head/ Key Stage 1 Manager: Mrs L. Westbury	Assistant Head/ Early Years Manager: Mr A. Craig

Our New Playground



We were delighted to welcome everyone back with our remarkable new playground; the children came out on the first day to resounding "WOWs"! We are pleased there is something for everyone to enjoy in every year group! A huge thank you from all the staff for your co-operation in the playground both before and after school we value your patience, help and support.

Hot Dinners



The addition of hot dinners has been a huge success so far! Children are enjoying the opportunity to choose their own lunch, they are developing cutlery skills and some are even trying new foods for the first time alongside their friends-which is wonderful to see! We are offering a flexible service that allows your child to choose on a daily basis following discussions with you about the menu whether they would like to have a hot dinner or to bring their own packed lunch. It would be really helpful if you could remind your child each morning whether they are sandwiches or hot dinners and the choices available to them each day to speed up the choosing process! If your child is attending an appointment which makes them late for school and requires a hot dinner please call the office to book a lunch by 9.30a.m.



Milk and Snack

Please note that if your child has to pay for milk (pupils in Year One and Year Two) then this money must be paid on Monday for the forthcoming week, so that we can order the correct amount, and not on a daily basis. Milk costs 25p per day. All children in all year groups are required to pay 50p per child each week for special snack.



Reading Folders

Every child in full-time school will be given a new 'Book bag' for free to carry reading material from school to home and back again.

Some children are bringing large bags and back-packs as an alternative. I am afraid that this is not possible. Children need their reading material in the classroom with them and we do not have the facilities to store anything larger than a book bag. Cloakroom pegs are only big enough for a small pump bag and coats, and trying to store large bags on pegs causes belongings to fall to the floor regularly. These hazards could easily cause an accident. Please help us to keep our school safe and tidy by following this rule.

PE Lessons

At New Invention we take great pride in offering a broad range of PE opportunities to our children and lessons are very energetic and active. To ensure safety of our children **all** jewellery **must** be removed for lessons; earrings must be removed before school as staff are unable to do this for you. Please check your child's regular PE day with the class teacher if you are unsure.

Homework

Our Home-School Agreement asks parents to support our homework policy. Young children need to be able to speak clearly, have a good and varied vocabulary, be able to listen carefully and stay focussed during learning sessions. These skills make learners for life.

Our homework is carefully chosen to support key skills, and to be practical wherever possible to allow time to talk. Daily reading practise of flashcards, word lists and reading books forms the key part of our homework policy. As children progress through our scheme, we add spelling lists to learn. In addition, our weekly practical Maths games to share with your child at home are carefully chosen to reinforce concepts taught in school. If you feel you would like further homework opportunities for your child, our website is packed with learning opportunities for all ages and abilities. If you do not have current log in details for your child, please ask your child's teacher, Mrs Hill, Mrs Hunt or Mr Craig for help.

Reception pupils will be issued with their new log-in as soon as possible. Once again, if you have any difficulties either accessing or navigating our website, please see any of the above members of staff for assistance.

Diary Dates

YEAR 2	Monday 12 th September	The 'Fossil Man' will be visiting Year Two pupils to introduce our Dinosaur Topic with some exciting investigations!
YEAR 1 	Friday 16 th September	Year One Seaside Day. We are bringing the seaside to New Invention today! Please dress your child in holiday-style clothes, keeping in mind the current weather conditions! We will be ending the day with a traditional Punch and Judy Show.
WHOLE SCHOOL	Tuesday 20 th September	Come and join us to launch 'Puzzle Partners' our new Parent Teacher Association - 7.00p.m in the staff room.
WHOLE SCHOOL 	Wednesday 21 st September	The photographer will be taking individual pupil photographs. Please note that all pupils will be photographed alone to enable us to update our school records, in addition to any family groups you may request. Of course, there will be no obligation for you to purchase these prints if you do not wish to do so. Family group photographs will also be taken on this day please fill in the form on the reverse of this letter to indicate siblings to be collected or if you wish to have photographs of pre-school children. (See separate letter)
WHOLE SCHOOL 	Friday 23 rd September 	This year we are raising money for children with genetic disorders. 1 in 25 children in the UK has a genetic disorder. Jeans for Genes Day supports very small charities and helps them to provide vital services for families living with rare conditions. It encourages understanding and acceptance of the differences between us all and children wear jeans as a reminder of the genes they're raising money for. This charity is particularly close to Mrs Travis' heart as it is affecting her own family at this time. We hope you will all support us and give any donation that you can.

NURSERY	Tuesday 4 th October 	NURSERY 'LEARN2GETHER' 'Learn2gether' sessions will be starting soon for all Nursery children. These sessions will consist of an introductory workshop with a staff member to introduce you to a new skill or idea, and then time with your child to try these out and have some fun together! Meetings to introduce Nursery parents to our 'Learn2gether' programme will be held at 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. in the dining room. Please join us!
RECEPTION	Wednesday 5 th October 	Pupils in Reception will be walking after registration, weather permitting, to observe Autumnal environmental changes in their local environment. All parents are welcome to accompany us, please see your child's class teacher if you are able to help.
YEARS 1 & 2	Friday 7 th October 2.45 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. 	Rocket into Reading All Year One and Two parents are invited to join us to find out about how to help your child develop their emerging reading skills in order to become confident and skilled readers. Please join us for this important meeting in the dining room. Sign to indicate attendance on the posters outside classroom doors so that we can cater appropriately.
NURSERY	Tuesday 11 th October	NURSERY 'LEARN2GETHER' Our first session, 'Stepping on the Literacy Ladder' is a meeting just for parents and will take place in the dining room 9.00-9.30 and 3.00-3.30. Please join us.
RECEPTION	Friday 14 th October 	R U Ready 4 Reading? 2.45 p.m. - 3.30p.m. All Reception parents are invited to find out about how to help your child along the first steps to becoming a confident reader. Please join us for this important meeting in the dining room. Sign to indicate attendance on the posters outside classroom doors so that we can cater appropriately.
WHOLE SCHOOL	Monday 17 th October	Parent Consultation Evening 4.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. Sign up for a convenient appointment time outside your classroom door nearer to the time.
WHOLE SCHOOL	Tuesday 18 th October	Parent Consultation Evening 5.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. Sign up for a convenient appointment time outside your classroom door nearer to the time.
YEAR 1	Wednesday 19 th October 9.30a.m. 	Parents of Year One pupils are invited to join us for a special Assembly in the school hall. The pupils are going to share with us what they have learnt about the seaside during their topic work. Please sign up outside your classroom door a bit nearer to the time if you are attending so that we can prepare the hall.
WHOLE SCHOOL	Friday 21 st October	Break up for half term. Today will be a non-uniform day. We would be grateful for your usual 50p donation for school fund.

School Fund

Thank-you if you have already sent school fund into the office for your child. School Fund is payable once a year and we ask for a donation of £10. An envelope has been provided for you to return the money in. This provides many "extras" to enrich your child's education that the school budget cannot fund, such as visiting theatre groups, story-tellers, presents and prizes, and we are grateful for your support. Unfortunately Pupil Premium money cannot be delegated into school fund but if this is difficult for your family circumstances please come and see Mrs Travis or Mrs Naffati.



Clubs

Lunchtime clubs are starting this week for all pupils in Years One and Two. The cost of these clubs is met in the main out of our school budget, although due to the rising cost of buying in trained coaches we are asking for a small contribution of £6.00 for the whole year. This will entitle your child to a minimum of three clubs during the year. I hope you will agree that this is very good value for money at 33p per club session per week!! If your child has not chosen their clubs for this year, please ask for a reply slip from the school office.

Puzzle Partners (PTA)

Each year we endeavour to involve families in our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which is an organisation of parents and staff. It's role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTAs are best known for their fundraising work, but they have a useful social function too. It is a wonderful way of getting connected to the wider school community, and finding out what is happening in school. Also, by volunteering with our PTA, you are putting your skills and hobbies to use for a good cause for the children in our community.

If this interests you then please join us for our next meeting, at 7.00 p.m. in the staffroom on Tuesday 20th September.

Join us for a drink and nibbles!!!!

Speech Therapy

We have our own speech therapist attached to our school, and advice from her to teachers to help children with language development is a normal part of our everyday provision. As part of this service, our speech therapist would routinely meet with both teachers and children so that advice can be child-specific and tightly focussed. We would then ensure children as appropriate received speech and language therapy in school via our own staff. Children with more complex language development needs can be referred for more in-depth therapy at local clinics as necessary; our provision does not replace this universal service. If you do not want your child to receive this support, then it is a service we would need you to 'opt-out' of, so please let a member of staff know if this applies to you.

Lost Child Routines

If you lose a child in the playground or on your way in or out of school, please follow the routine below so that we can help you to find your child as soon as possible.

- Report to the school office or a member of staff immediately, in which case staff will immediately report to the office on your behalf.
- Tell us: who is lost, what they were wearing, where they went missing, when they went missing, and which way you usually walk to school.
- Leave any siblings with school staff so that you can help us to search.
- Staff will broadcast the above information over our tannoy system.
- All free staff will report to the office and be deployed to search, carrying with them their mobile phone so that they can be informed as soon as we locate your child.
- We will use the tannoy system to let everyone know as soon as we locate your child.

Spare Clothing

Please remember to add spare clothing to your child's PE bag in case of toilet accidents or other occasions which may warrant a change of clothes. All items should be named so they can be easily returned if mislaid.

Safeguarding

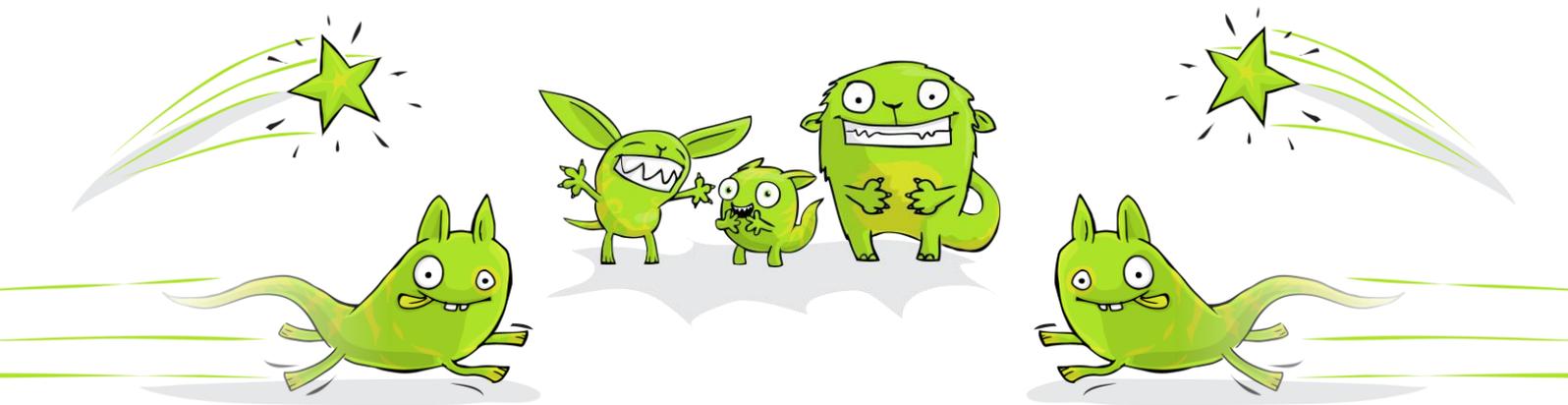
In order to keep all our children safe in and around school we are asking all adults to try to refrain from using mobile phones within the building; we hope you understand our concerns and support our efforts.

Website

Our school website www.invention-i.walsall.sch.uk contains wonderful learning activities for you to share with your child at home, but now has even more information for parents too. Please visit it and have a browse. Any comments about additional resources or information you would like including would be most welcome.

Marvellous Me

Marvellous Me is used as one of our reward and information systems in school. If you have used Marvellous Me before but are missing the usual badges, stickers and awards from staff at the moment, please be reassured that normal service will begin again soon, when we have all of our new pupils uploaded to the system! All new pupils will shortly receive information explaining how to access Marvellous Me and its rewards.



Thank-you for taking the time to read this newsletter

Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 21st September 2016** to take individual portraits of every child in school. *Please note that all pupils will be photographed alone to enable us to update our school records, in addition to any family groups you may request. Of course, there will be no obligation for you to purchase these prints if you do not wish to do so.*

During the day the photographer will also take family group photographs,

If you wish a sibling to have a photograph taken with Infant brother(s)/sister(s) in the INFANT SCHOOL the times are as follows:-

8.30a.m. Pre-school children\ babies with or without older brothers and sisters -THE PHOTOGRAPHER WILL BE IN THE SCHOOL HALL (please enter and exit through the hall door not the Reception area).

9.15a.m. Infant and Nursery A.M. pupils, together with other members of their families who are also in the Infant/Junior school. School staff will fetch siblings from their classes, please mark the form clearly.

1.30p.m. Infant and Nursery P.M. pupils, together with other members of their families who are also in the Infant/Junior school. School staff will fetch siblings from their classes, please mark the form clearly.



Please complete the slip below and return to school as soon as possible to ensure we comply with your wishes.



NAME OF CHILD..... CLASS

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX

I wish my child to be photographed with..... _____ from _____ class in the Infant / Junior (please circle) school AND /OR _____ from _____ class in the Infant / Junior (please circle) school AND /OR _____ from _____ class in the Infant / Junior (please circle) school	
I wish my child to be photographed before school with my pre-school children and I will make arrangements to be in the INFANT SCHOOL HALL @ 8.30a.m.	



signedParent/Guardian

