

Holiday Dates and Training Days 2017/2018

	OPEN	CLOSE
Autumn Term 2017	Wednesday 6 th September Monday 30 th October	Friday 20 th October Friday 22 nd December
Spring Term 2018	Monday 8 th January Monday 26 th February	Friday 16 th February Friday 29 th March
Summer Term 2018	Monday 16 th April Tuesday 5 th June	Friday 25 th May *Excluding May Day - 1 st May 2018 Friday 20 th July

Five Personnel Development (PD) Days

The five additional training days when school will be closed for pupils are as follows:-
Monday 4th September 2017, Tuesday 5th September 2017, Monday 4th June 2018, Monday 23rd July 2018, Tuesday 24th July 2018.

A message from Mrs Naffati

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and managed to find a little sunshine!
A huge welcome to our new children whether beginning in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

In order to keep up to date with all the amazing events and news from our school please ensure you have given an email address to the class teacher or the office to receive monthly newsletters. Also please check your mobile phone number is updated with the office for text messages via Call Parents and Marvellous Me messages from class teachers.

We always endeavour to give as much notice as possible regarding events and experiences - however as you can appreciate with so many wonderful opportunities and events sometimes changes are made which can be beyond our control (e.g. weather!). Please watch out for the SAVE THE DATE section at the end of each newsletter which gives you a monthly advance warning. We hope you and your family enjoy the year with us!

			
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

September Changes

As we embark on a new school year we have made a few changes to maximise teaching time in school. Our main school start time remains the same at 8.55am; however we will be opening the main gates onto the playground earlier at 8.45am to enable as many children as possible to come into school and be ready for our new reading session to start promptly at 9.00am. Gates will be locked from Friday 15th September at our new time of 8.55am to make the most of every minute! This also closes the gap between the start times of the Nursery, Infants and Juniors and will hopefully shorten waiting time between schools each morning.



Hot Dinners



The addition of hot dinners last year has been a huge success. 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! Remember we offer 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.



Wake and Shake

In line with new Government changes to increase the physical activity of children we will be starting Wake and Shake for all children (and teachers too) at the end of each lunchtime daily. We will all be learning exercise routines led by Miss Wallace and Mrs Waraich on the playground!



Milk and Snack

Please note that pupils in Year One and Year Two need to pay for milk at snack time. Milk costs 25p per day and must be paid on Monday for that week, as milk has to be ordered this would be impossible on a daily basis. All children in all year groups are also required to pay 50p per child each week (every Monday please) for special snack which each class have once a week in addition to their daily free fruit.

Reading Folders



Every child in full-time school is given a 'Book bag' for free to carry reading material from school to home and back again. Please use the one from last year until it is beyond repair and then a new one will be issued after telling the class teacher. 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. Hall times have changed this year so please check your child's regular PE day with the class teacher if you are unsure.

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.


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. All Key Stage 1 (Year 1&2) children will receive a Marvellous Me message with spellings of the week to learn which they will then need to prove they know in their writing. In addition this year Maths games are to be replaced with a mathematical challenge which will be sent weekly via Marvellous Me.

Our Website

Our school website www.invention-i.walsall.sch.uk contains learning activities for you to share with your child at home, and has 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. Reception pupils will be issued with their new log-in as soon as possible. If you have any difficulties either accessing or navigating our website, please ask in the office for assistance. We are planning to update and revamp our website this academic year in order to make it both more inviting and user-friendly, please bear with us until the changes are complete.

Diary Dates

 YEAR 1	Thursday 14 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	Thursday 21st September	Come and join us for 'Puzzle Partners' our Parent Teacher Association - 7.00p.m in the staff room for drinks and nibbles!
YEAR 2	Friday 29 th September	Year Two Pirate Day. Year Two have changed the order of their topics this year and have begun with 'Pirates'. Please dress your child in pirate-themed clothing for an action-packed adventure day in school!



SAY CHEESE!



Please note school photographs will take place at the beginning of October! Photograph request forms will be sent home with each child next week.

SAY CHEESE!



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 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 or the class teacher.

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. at the Milestone Pub on Thursday 21st September.

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 – NO PHONES IN SCHOOL

In order to keep all our children safe in and around school we are asking all adults to refrain from using mobile phones within the building; we hope you understand our concerns and support our efforts. Any other problems regarding children's safety or wellbeing please speak to our new Safeguarding Lead Mrs Spencer.