



This Week's News!

Friday 21st July 2023

Happy Holidays!

It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your children over the past term; in many ways I can't believe how quickly the time has gone. I'd like to thank you all for the amazing, warm welcome that I have had at Flamstead - your help and support has meant that we have been able to make real progress, which puts the school in a great position for Mrs Walton-Jones' arrival in September.

We have a really special community at Flamstead and it is something to treasure. Seeing the Year 6's leaving the school as happy, confident individuals ready for the next chapters in their lives shows how much the vast majority get from the school; this comes from the staff, the governors and from you as parents, working together.

As we come to the end of the school year, it is always a good time to stop and reflect on the highlights. Although I have only been at the school for a short time, I have loved seeing many of the opportunities that the children have had in the arts: the amazing performance at St Albans Cathedral, the singing assemblies and the production of 'Oh What a Knight' have created some fantastic memories. It has also been great to see the school looking more and more purposeful, and the improvements to the Early Years classroom, which has been really appreciated by the pupils and staff team. Thank you to FOFS, who supported by funding many of these changes.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you all for the kind wishes that have been shared over the past few days and for the amazing gifts. Mrs Smith, Miss Tourney, Miss Webb and myself have been made to feel very appreciated as we leave Flamstead. Thank you.

I will remain in touch in the new school year and have agreed to do some work with Mrs Walton-Jones so I hope to see you all again soon. Until then, I hope that you all have a fantastic, relaxing summer break and manage some rest and recuperation. I look forward to hearing all about the successes of the school and your children from September!

Have a great summer!



Staff Update

This week, have said 'goodbye' to several members of staff. Miss Tourney, who has worked at Flamstead for two years, will shortly be moving to begin a new life in Spain; Miss Webb, who will be moving back closer to her family in Wales; and Mrs Smith, who will be retiring to spend more time with her grandchildren after a whopping 24 years at our school!

We are really pleased that each role has now been filled for September and the school will, as things stand, be fully staffed. Last week, we were able to successfully recruit for our Office Manager vacancy and would like to share that Mrs Drake will be taking on this role in the new school year, having been involved with the school for a number of years as a parent and volunteer. We would like to warmly welcome Mrs Drake to the team!



Summer Reading Challenge

As you know, it is hugely important that every child reads regularly. As well as building skills, books help to develop vocabulary and expose the children to new worlds and ideas. Did you know that a Year 2 child who has read a range of texts will have a receptive vocabulary of nearly 25,000 words. The joy of reading doesn't end in the classroom, we absolutely want children to become lifelong readers so the 'Summer Reading Challenge' is a perfect opportunity to continue your child's reading journey.

Library memberships are completely free! All you need to do is to be a member of the local library and borrow six books. After you have read the books you can go back to the library and tell a member of the library staff about the books you read. You will get a medal and a certificate and also be entered into a prize draw to meet illustrator Loretta Schauer.

The challenge starts July 8th and ends September 2nd so you will have plenty of time. We can't wait to see all your medals and hear about the fantastic books you read over the summer! In addition, anyone who completes the challenge and brings in a medal will be given a merit towards their house competition.



Team Captains

Nominations and voting took place at the end of the summer term. Our Team Captains from September 2023 are:

| Red Phoenix | Green Griffins | Blue Unicorns | Yellow Dragons |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Archie | Laila | Dylan | Millie |

| Class | W/b 17/07 | Whole Year |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Nursery | 80% | 90% |
| Reception | 98% | 96.7% |
| Year 1 | 97% | 95% |
| Year 2 | 97% | 96% |
| Year 3 | 94% | 93% |
| Year 4 | 93% | 92% |
| Year 5 | 93% | 94% |
| Year 6 | 100% | 96% |

Attendance

Well done to Year 6, who achieved 100% attendance in their final week—excellent work! Over the year, they were very strong too, just being pipped to the post by Reception, with 96.7%! Well done to all classes who came close.

Next year, attendance will continue to be a key focus for us. As we have shared key dates for the year with you, please double check that they don't clash with any holidays you are looking to book. There is a real impact for those pupils who miss large amounts of time due to holidays. Please try to avoid this wherever possible.

Early Years Update

This week the children have been helping the staff tidy the shed and organise everything for September!

We have enjoyed watching all the children grow and develop this year and wish you all a lovely summer.

Congratulations to Green Team for earning the most Merits this year.

They enjoyed a morning at Flamstead Rec with pizza and ice cream for lunch!



Local Family Support

The latest 'DSPL8 Parent/Carer Newsletter' is available to download from the Family Support area of our website or via the following link: <https://dacorumdspl.org.uk/online-resources-for-parents-and-carers-2/>

FoFS News!

A huge thank you to the team who offered some time last weekend to load our school skip and begin preparing the site for the summer holidays. Despite the terrible rain, a great start was made.

Also to those who provided the lovely scones and drinks at our end of term celebration yesterday. Thank you!

Key Notices

Term dates for 2023—2024 Academic Year are on our website.

We look forward to seeing you all back from 4th September.