

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School
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Headteacher: Mike Riches



18th June 2021

Changes to Covid regulations

From Tuesday 22nd June, Buzzards and Golden Eagles Classes will come together to form one bubble having been separate for majority of the last year. This means their break and lunchtimes will coincide and they will also have the opportunity to work together on their end of year play.

We plan to ensure that most of their mixing as a newly formed bubble is limited where possible or takes place outside. At lunchtime the children from the two classes will remain on different tables too. All of these measures will mean that contact tracing will be easier should a child in one of the two classes test positive before the end of the academic year. Children in Barn Owls and Falcons will continue as one bubble and will not mix with those in Key Stage 2. All other measures will remain.

All adults should continue to wear a face covering at drop off and pick up times unless you are exempt.

Staffing for September 2021

This is a reminder of our class based staffing arrangements for September.

	Barn Owls	Falcons	Buzzards	Golden Eagles
Teachers	Mrs Wood (Monday – Wednesday) Mrs Lyall (Wednesday – Friday)	Miss Abley	Mr Brown	Mrs Bagnall (Monday – Wednesday) Mrs Detzler (Wednesday – Friday)
Teaching Assistants	We are currently looking to appoint a new TA to work in Barn Owls.	Mrs Jones (Monday – Thursday) Mrs Bush (Friday) Mrs Hampson	Miss Holmes-Rann	Mrs Pilgrim

Other staffing information

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Bagnall back to school on Monday 19th July. Mrs Bagnall is our Deputy Headteacher and also teaches in Golden Eagles Class. This means we will be saying goodbye to Mr Shore at the end of the year. We would like to thank Mr Shore, Mrs Detzler and Mrs Wilson for their hard work in covering different parts of Mrs Bagnall's role over the past year.

Mrs Hilary Ward is currently working with Barn Owls Class. Mrs Ward has joined us just for this term to provide some extra teaching support capacity at the end of the year.



Forthcoming events

INSET day

Our next INSET day will take place on **Monday 21st June**. School will be closed to children. The staff will be finding out more about how they can promote positive mental health for all.

Health week

Next week is health week (**22nd – 25th June**). You will have received an email explaining the details for this earlier this week. Mr Brown has organised an array of activities. We look forward to helping the children to continue to develop a better understanding of how they keep a healthy body and a healthy mind. Please support your child by asking them what they have done or learnt each day. You will receive reminder emails each day so you know what to expect. All children need to wear a **school PE kit** every day.

Sports day

This will go ahead as planned on **Friday 2nd July** and parents are welcome to attend. However, due to recent Government and Local Authority guidance we have made the decision to split sports day into two sessions. For children in Barn Owls and Falcons this will take place from **9.15 until 10.45**. For children in Buzzards and Golden Eagles, this will take place from **1.15pm until 3.00pm**. We must insist that all those attending bear the following in mind:

- a maximum of 2 adults per family can attend
- a barrier will be in place between adults and children – adults will not be able to cross the barrier
- adults must remain seated as much as possible and are encouraged to bring something to sit on
- adults wear a mask if not seated
- adults remain 2 metres from those not in their household

We plan to put 2 gazebos up to provide shade for each class. If you have a gazebo you could lend to school for the afternoon please let the school office know.

Key Stage 2 play

Due to the Government and Local Authority guidance we have made the difficult decision not to have a live audience for the performance on 7th July. The performance will be filmed and shared with all families after the event. Children will only need to perform once on **Wednesday 7th July** and will no longer be needed for an evening performance.

Leavers' service

This will be held on **Friday 16th July at 2pm** on the school field. We will take the opportunity to say goodbye to our Year 6 children and to reflect on the positives of the past year. If your child is leaving this year, please come along and join us bringing something along to sit on. As this event is only open to Year 6 families, we are not restricting the number of family members who can attend.

We understand that some of these arrangements may be frustrating and disappointing for some. We are committed to ensuring the children have the best possible experience over the final few weeks of the year and have tried to strike a balance between the safety of all present, with the importance of the experiences children receive. Thank you for your understanding.



Languages week

The school embraced languages week with great enthusiasm. Each class focused on the language and culture of a particular part of the world with the week culminating in an opportunity to focus on all things breakfast related. Thank you to all those who were able to come along and find out more about what the children had learnt on Friday at our celebration of the week. Well done to Mr Shore, our languages leader, for guiding us all through the week.

We currently have flag bunting displayed in our school hall which many children have been talking about. You might like to support your child's learning by using this an opportunity to look further at flags at home. You could simply use a website such as this one <https://www.worldometers.info/geography/flags-of-the-world/> to find flags your child recognises or for them to find their favourite flag.

Year 6 residential

Our Year 6 children have just returned from an amazing two night trip to The Wilderness Centre in Forest of Dean. They slept in tents, ate delicious food, took part in activities such as archery, orienteering, crate stacking and bush craft and had a lot of fun together. Thank you to the fantastic team of staff (Mrs Jones, Mr Shore and Mrs Wilson) for giving up their time to take the children.

We will share information about next year's residential with parents of children in Golden Eagles in September.

Term 6 PSHE lessons

Our class newsletters this term gave you detailed information about what you can expect your child to learn about as part of the important 'Changing Me' unit of work this term. You will receive a text from school to remind you when your child is learning about anything which might be useful to follow up at home. Please arrange to speak to your child's class teacher if you have any further questions.

News from St James the Less Church

The children at Iron Acton benefit from a positive relationship between the school and the church. All families are invited to join in with the monthly family services, which take place on the second Sunday of the month at 10am. The next family service will be held on the school field on **Sunday 11th July at 10am**. Over the next few weeks children will be invited to take part in preparing specific aspects of the service. Please do come along and join in with this if you can.

We have also received the following message from Father Malcolm and the team at St James':

*We need your help in the completion of an **online questionnaire** (paper versions are available for those who prefer from school), this will help us to establish, as your Parish Church a 'New Normal' going forward as we seek to serve you, in our community engagement, in our worship, and in our pastoral care of all people. [Please click here to launch the survey](#) We estimate the survey will take no more than 10 minutes and really appreciate you taking the time to do it as it will be vital in helping us as we develop our Benefice in the future.*



Message from Monkhouse – school uniform

As term draws to a close, we're already looking ahead to September. Our uniform provider Monkhouse is working hard to make sure that despite the challenges posed by international shipping, Covid and Brexit, our parents will be able to find everything they need.

This is a reminder that the best way to ensure your child has all the uniform they need in good time for the start of the school year is to shop early, if this is possible for you.

Please [book your appointment](#) with Monkhouse now, preferably choosing an appointment in July or Early August.

To stay up to date with news on stock and special offers on uniform and accessories, [register for updates from our supplier here](#).

Thank you for understanding. We know not all parents are able to shop early, but the challenges posed when large numbers of families shop in the last two weeks of August is something we are all keen to avoid. After what has been an interesting school year, please help us to help you to ensure we all return in September raring to go!

Attendance

The school attendance guidance from the Department for Education states:

Head teachers should only authorise leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. If a head teacher grants a leave request, it will be for the head teacher to determine the length of time that the child can be away from school. Leave is unlikely, however, to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday as a norm.

This means that schools are unable to authorise periods of absence related to term time holidays. If you are in a position where it is unavoidable for you to take your child out of school during term time please speak to Mr Riches in the first instance.

Friends - Easy Fundraising

Friends of Iron Acton School are members of Easy Fundraising, which is an incredibly simple way we can all help raise funds for the school.

If you sign up and download the free app, you can raise free donations when you shop online with over 5,100 retailers - including Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, Notonthehighstreet and lots more.

It only takes a couple of minutes to sign up and then you just do your online shopping through the app - the app directs you to the retailer's website so it isn't any more complicated than normal online shopping, and a percentage of the purchase value is then paid automatically to the Friends bank account on a quarterly basis (and don't worry, we don't get told who it is from, what you bought or from where!)

Each donation may seem small but it truly adds up - we raised several hundred pounds from it last year but the donations are reducing as some of our more long standing users have left the school now. Please sign up at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ironactonprimary/?referral-campaign=s2s&utm_source=refsharebox



Dates for your diary

Event	Date and time	Information
INSET day	21.06.21	School will be closed to all children
Health week	22.06.21 – 25.06.21	
Falcons day trip to SS Great Britain	25.06.21	
Class photos	28.06.21	
Sports day	02.07.21, 1.15pm	See information above
Reports to be shared with parents	Week commencing 05.07.21	
Key Stage 2 performance	07.07.21 1.30pm & 6.00pm	See information above
Angel Heart Theatre visit (in the Parish Hall)	12.07.21	Arrangements to be finalised based on recent guidance
Year 6 leavers' service	16.07.21 2.00pm	See information above
Art week	19.07.21 – 21.07.21	
Last day of Term 6	21.07.21 3.15pm	Please note: this is a Wednesday
First day of Term 1	02.09.21 8.55am	
INSET day	20.09.21	
INSET day and last day of Term 2	22.10.21	

For all dates including full term dates for the next academic year please take a look at our school website:

<https://www.ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk/news/term-dates/>

