

The Unit Autumn Newsletter 2023



Welcome to Autumn 2023! We hope you have all had a wonderful Summer break and are ready for the start of the new school year. We said a few goodbyes at the end of the Summer Term. We bid farewell to Mrs Davey, Christopher and Kamal. We know they will all be missed but we wish them the very best in their next endeavors.

We have three new staff members joining us in the Deaf Unit this September. The welcome additions include Mrs Yeung, Mrs Bartlett and Mrs Merryfield.



You can see information below about staffing in the Unit from September 23.

Days	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Staff in the Unit	Mrs Payne Mrs Wells Mrs Drummond Mrs Bartlett	Mrs Payne Mrs Wells Mrs Drummond Mrs Merryfield Mrs Leung	Mrs Payne Mrs Wells Mrs Sangster Mrs Merryfield Mrs Leung Mrs Bartlett	Mrs Payne Mrs Wells Mrs Sangster Mrs Saltmer Mrs Leung Ms Hunt (Speech and Language Therapist)	Mrs Payne Mrs Wells Mrs Sangster

We have a lot of exciting things happening this term and it will be a very busy one. Please do refer to the important dates and events sent out by the main office. I have included some key dates from the information sent by the main office below which apply for our young deaf children in the Unit. I have also included information about Unit meetings coming up. A separate email will be sent round with the annual review dates for your child/ren and the MS Team invites will follow shortly.

Dates for your diary:

Date and Time	Event	Base Children
Wednesday 20 th September 12.15pm-1.15pm	Welcome to the Unit meeting on MS Teams led by Mrs Payne	ID AND IB
Wednesday 27 th September 7pm	Curriculum Meeting for parents/carer of new reception entrants	ID and IB
Wednesday 27 th September 12.15pm--1.15pm	Y1/2 Unit Literacy group meeting on MS Teams	CD, FO and SG
Thursday 28 th September	Harvest Assembly for School	All Base children bring in a Harvest gift for the Food Bank collection.

Date and time	Event	Base Children
Wednesday 4 th October	Y6 Health check	AK and AB
Thursday 5 th October	Integrated Visual Coding Introduction MS Teams 12-1pm	ID, IB, SG, FO, AN, CD (Reception, Y1 and Y2)
Tuesday 17 th October 3.30pm-8pm	Parent/ teacher consultation meeting Book a meeting slot with Mrs Payne and a meeting slot with class teachers	All Base children (Mrs Payne will sign)
Thursday 19 th October 3.30pm-8pm	Parent/ teacher consultation meeting	All Base children (Mrs Payne will sign)

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Friday 20th	School is closed (Inset Day)	
Half-term - 23rd-27th October		
Tuesday 5th December 2pm	Y1 and 2 Christmas Production	SG, FO, CD and AN.
Wednesday 6th December 9.15AM AND 6PM	Y1 and 2 Christmas Production	SG, FO, CD and AN
Thursday 14th December 6.30-8pm	Junior disco	LC, FN, AK and AB
Wednesday 20th December 1.30	Term ends	All Base children.

Communication:

We will continue to use home school communication books. We will also update on pupil progress and activity on the school sharing platforms and keep in touch via telephone call, email and face to face and online meetings.

Deaf Events and Extracurricular Clubs

Please make sure to register with the Phoenix group if you have not already. Keep an eye out for their October half-term events as they are very popular and do book up very quickly.

<https://www.phoenixgroup.org.uk>

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/rainbows/> - Rainbows for girls aged 4-7, Brownies 7-10 and Guides - 10-14.

<https://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/> - Beavers for ages 6-8, Cubs for ages 8-10 ½ and Scouts for ages 10 ½ to 14.

National Deaf Childrens' Society - please do become a member if you are not one already. They publish up to date research and information and host a number of events nationwide for young deaf people and their families. <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/>

<https://buzz.org.uk/> - The Buzz is the sister website to the NDCS. It is for young deaf children. There is a section for under 12s and includes lots of friendly information, videos, articles and games.

<https://www.signature.org.uk/british-sign-language-for-beginners/> - Signature are offering their British Sign Language for beginners' course for only £9.99 currently. Children in the Base may want to learn alongside parents. It can be accessed online.

<https://www.deafinitelytheatre.co.uk/can-bears-ski-uktour> - Deafinitely Theatre are putting on performances of 'Can Bears Ski' using spoken language and sign language. They will be performing from November - February at a number of venues. There are a few performances in London and Hertfordshire that you can book.

<https://officiallondontheatre.com/access/captioned/> - list of captioned theatre performances coming up in the next term.

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/> - this is a charity for children with neurodiversity. They hold a number of events online and in person that are brilliant. They offer sensory sessions, cookery lessons, lego clubs, art therapy, aerial skills to list a few. Many of the events are free.

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/events/>

<https://www.sense.org.uk/> - Sense offer art, sports and well-being activities which are often free and can also be accessed online.

<https://www.primarytimes.co.uk/hertfordshire/listings/> - There are some great events during the term and in the October half term and Christmas break that you can sign up for already.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do/library-events.aspx> - Hertfordshire libraries hold regular events for children including lego club. For young deaf children, it is important to foster and encourage a love of reading. I know many of the children will have taken part in the Summer reading challenge this summer. If your child is not yet a member of Hertfordshire libraries, please do sign them up. You can also use their borrow box app to download e-books and audio stories. These are free and they have a wide catalog of children's fiction and nonfiction books.

Running features in the children's daily school lives with classes going out to complete laps of the school running track. This was borne out of the work the Daily Mile are doing to promote physical, social, emotional and mental health and well-being. Parkrun is a free running event weekly on Saturdays and Sundays. There are numerous Junior Parkrun locations across Hertfordshire. They are free to join and children run 2km weekly. You can sign up on the website link below and see where your closest Junior parkrun is. There are a number of gifts and rewards if you do a certain number e.g. if you run the equivalent of a half marathon then you get a Junior parkrun band etc.

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/events/juniorevents/#geo=3.16/51.55/3.2>

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/family-centres.aspx> - There are a number of useful courses and workshops held in person and online. These are aimed at providing advice and guidance to parents and families.

<https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/Search?CategoryId=107&SM=ServiceSearch&SME=True> - there are a list of courses and workshops on this link which you may find useful.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/courses-and-activities-in-hertfordshire/short-breaks.aspx> - please do check out the short breaks website link and check your eligibility. If you are eligible then please make use of this great resource for deaf children and their families.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/> - This is a handy guide to the NHS healthy food plate. This will be a good guide to consider when sending in morning snacks and/or packed lunches.