



# DILS Newsletter

Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 5 - 6th October 2023



**VACANCIES:** Please see our latest vacancy on our [website](#). All applications are done directly through My New Term.

Subscribe to our website [calendar](#) to see events and important dates on your phone. You can also follow our X (Twitter) page [@IcknieldL](#)

## CHILDREN:

### Class Attendance winner

Congratulations to Zimmer who had the highest attendance this week and achieved a fabulous 98.7%! Every child in Zimmer will receive 2 house points.

### Class Teacher Awards

**Zimmer** - Jack, **Beckham** - Ellie, **Rosen** - Tudor, **Potter** - , **Anning** - Marshall, **Attenborough** - Jordan, **Banksy** - Parisha, **O'Keeffe** - Zach.

### Kindness award

Benjamin in 3Anning got a kindness award this week, for supporting a new child in the class. Well done Benjamin.

### Student Achievements

Well done to Haneesha, Reevah, Lola, Alessia, Sienna, Haram, Bella and top striker Sohpie who did a brilliant job representing our school at the Y3/4 football competition at Creasy Park on Wednesday.

Sophia in 4 O'Keeffe has recently moved up to stage 6 in swimming and has also earned her purple tag in Karate. Well done Sofia!

### Y4 Roman Day

As per the Arbor App message sent 3/10. On Thursday 19th October we will be finishing our Roman Topic with a Roman Day. The children will be able to experience being a Roman Soldier and have a Roman Banquet among other things. Your child is welcome to come to school dressed as a Roman. This does not need to be a bought costume and can easily be made from a white sheet or t-shirt for example. If your child decides not to come dressed up please send them into school in their uniform. Please make sure any accessories are named. Remember that they will be outside for break and lunch so may need a layer under their costume.



### Lunch payments on Arbor

Balances for lunch payments can be viewed on your child's Arbor App. For those students in Y3-4 who pay for lunch, ***please ensure your child's account remains in a positive balance.***

### Artsmark 'Gold' Celebration Day Friday 13th October

We are celebrating our Artsmark Gold Award! Children are invited to dress as their favourite musician, singer, artist, dancer, sculpture or actor. Alternatively, you can wear something 'GOLD' on the day. There will also be a 'special' dessert menu and every child will receive 1 house point for taking part. Each class will nominate their favourite costume and they will be awarded 5 house points.

### Flu vaccine

The flu jabs for Reception to Year 4 will be taking place on Tuesday 10th October. The deadline to complete the consent form for your child to have the flu jab was yesterday. If you have not given consent, your child will be given a card which tells you where the flu jabs are available from.



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## PARENTS:

### Short tail trail

DILS are proud to announce that they will be taking part in this exciting initiative run by Keech Hospice. Thank you to Louise who came along to our whole school assembly today to introduce this exciting fundraiser to the children. We will be in touch with more details of how you can support us with this shortly, in the meantime please click here to find out more information:

<https://keech.org.uk/whats-on/the-short-tail-trail/>



### FOILS

See the poster below for details about our Halloween party which will be taking place on the 1st November and will be run by Personalised Parties. Click on the links below to book a ticket for your child. Please ensure you read the terms and conditions when booking your ticket -

[Nursery, Reception and Year 1](#)

[Years 2, 3 & 4](#)

**FOILS WhatsApp group - scan the QR code to join**

If you would like to join the WhatsApp group for our PTA group, FOILS. Please scan this QR code. In this group they will send reminders of upcoming PTA events and other activities happening.

### OPAL news

As communicated last week, lunchtimes will be changing! The children had their first play assembly this afternoon to share the two new areas with them. As of monday there will be a quiet/chill out area with music playing and a grass area where pupils will have lots of different cardboard boxes, crates and sheets of cardboard that they can use however their imagination would like them to! The pupils have agreed the rules that will apply to both areas and will follow the schools rules to show respect and responsibility at all times.



**We are also taking donations for any type of cardboard (crates, boxes, large sheets) as long as it is clean and tidy. Please drop any donations to the school office. Many thanks.**

If you haven't already filled in the survey about play times here at DILS, please do as this will help us to improve play times - [here](#). The survey closes today, 6/10.



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## Living Streets

Central Bedfordshire Council have informed us that they have postponed the changes to Burr Street access at school time until the new year as they are exploring all parking options for parents. Once we know more about dates we will be in touch.

## EYFS Prospective Parents afternoon (1) - Thursday 12 October

See dates and times below for the EYFS (Nursery and Reception) open afternoons.

**Kidzzone Holiday Club** - [KidzZone October Holiday club](#) sign up

## Knowledge Organisers - [Knowledge Organisers](#)

Pupils throughout the school use knowledge organisers to help with memory retrieval and teaching of vocabulary. If you would like to support your child at home with this, please do take a look at the knowledge organisers on the school website.

## MAT consultation meetings

 - Consultation period of 6 weeks is coming to an end.

There will be one final opportunity for the whole school community to consult on the following date and time:

Week 6 – Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Oct @ 6.00pm

All members of our school community are welcome to attend.

**Parent Governor Vacancy** - The nomination period for Parent Governors has now closed. Thank you for those who put themselves forward. More information will be shared next week.

## Parents evenings

Parents evening for Nursery to Year 4 is on Wednesday 18th October 3.30-6.30pm and Thursday 19th October 4-7pm. The Arbor booking system will open next Friday, 13th October at 6pm for you to make an appointment with your child's teacher. If your child has an IEP then the teacher will be in touch with you directly to arrange a different appointment, and you will not be booking it via Arbor.

## Autism Bedfordshire

Autism Bedfordshire has regular events for children with Autism and support workshops for parents. Do visit their website [here](#) for more information.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

## OCTOBER HALF TERM

**Autism BEDFORDSHIRE**

Event	Location	Date	Time	Cost	Age Group
<b>EXCLUSIVE SWIM SESSIONS</b>	Lea Manor Recreation Centre, Northwell Drive, Luton, LU3 3TL	Tuesday 24th October 2023	12:30pm - 1:30pm 2:00pm - 3:00pm	£3 per person	For ages 0-12 years
<b>EXCLUSIVE GYM PLAY SESSION</b>	Salto Gymnastics Centre, 98 Camford Way, Luton, LU3 3AN	Wednesday 25th October 2023	12:30pm - 2:00pm	£3.50 per child (AB members) £4.50 per child (non AB members) Siblings welcome.	For ages 5-14 years
<b>EXCLUSIVE SWIM SESSIONS</b>	Trinity Leisure, Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2BS	Tuesday 24th October 2023	10:00am - 11:00am 11:00am - 12:00pm	£3 per person	For ages 0-12 years
<b>STAY AND PLAY BIGGLESWADE</b>	Biggleswade Youth Centre, Mead End, Biggleswade SG18 8JU	Monday 23rd October 2023	10am - 12pm 12:30pm - 14:30pm	£5 per child - Siblings welcome	ages 3-10 ages 11-17

**Book Now!** [enquiries@autismbeds.org](mailto:enquiries@autismbeds.org) 01234 214871 (general enquiries)

Children must be supervised at all times by Parents/Carers



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## Environment Agency - Winning certificates will mean vouchers!

We are working together with the Environment Agency (EA) on a new project which will bring our School Gates to life! And there are prizes up for grabs!

You may have seen interactive signs at the school. This innovative chat technology will help you and others to interact with, learn and feedback on topics such as flood risk and climate change in the area.

Please take two minutes to interact with this fun experience. Simply text the phone number or scan the QR code via the signs you may have seen at the school gates, and you're in.

You will be asked questions, can share thoughts, and will be given information and further resources.

The more our school interacts, the more prizes and recognition we will receive. Each term, the interactions will change and we can receive certificates based on our level of interactions. Winning certificates will mean vouchers for the school to enhance the outdoor school environment e.g. creating a wildlife refuge or rain garden.

## LOST PROPERTY - Unclaimed items will be donated to charity at half term.

Please come and check lost property in the main reception area next to the school office for anything your child is missing. Remember to check your child has brought their own jumper home. If you have a jumper at home which does not belong to your child, it can be returned to the school office.

***Labelled belongings are more likely to be returned to your child.***

Term Dates for 23-24 see: [DILS](#)

Key Dates for Term 1	Subscribe to the calendar on the website to sync dates to your phone. <a href="#">Subscribe here</a>
w/c 9th October	Week 3 menu, found <a href="#">here</a> on our website
Tuesday 10th October	Reception - Year 4 Flu vaccine (see above)
Thursday 12th October	EYFS (1) - Prospective parent afternoon 3.45-4.45pm (come to the main office) All parents invited to final MAT Consultation Evening (see above) 6pm Priory Open Evening - see letter sent to Y4 parents by Priory
Friday 13th October	Whole school Artsmark 'Gold' Celebration Day Friday (see above)
Wed 18th 3.30-6.30pm & 19th October 4-7pm	Nursery - Y4 Parents evening (see above)
Thursday 19th October	Year 3 Evacuee dress up day (see email sent 26/9) Year 4 Roman Day (see above)
Friday 20th October	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS - STAFF TRAINING DAY
Monday 23rd-Friday 27th October	SCHOOL CLOSED - HALF TERM <a href="#">KidzZone Holiday Club sign up</a>
Monday 30th October	all children return to school
Wednesday 1st November	FOILS Halloween Disco/party 4.30-5.30 (Reception to Year 1) 6-7 (Years 2-4) More details to follow.
Thursday 9th to Friday 10th November	Diwali storytelling workshop- see details above
Friday 17th November	Whole School Children in Need (further details to follow)
Thursday 30th November	EYFS (2) - Prospective parent afternoon 3.45-4.45pm (come to the main office)
21st December - 2nd January	SCHOOL CLOSED - CHRISTMAS BREAK
Wednesday 3rd January	SCHOOL CLOSED - Staff Training Day
Monday 15th January 2024	Deadline for for applications to Reception and Year 5 Apply here: <a href="#">CBC Reception or Y5 school place application</a>



In App. messages/emails sent home this week  
PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S ARBOR RECORD

*Learn, Believe, Achieve*



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**Information attached below -**

- a. Opal letter**
- b. FOILS Halloween party**
- c. ABM pumpkin carving competition**
- d. ABM bronze award poster**



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## Introduction to OPAL letter

Dear parents,

DILS is about to start a programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

In what ways, if any, do you think you benefited from playtime? Thinking about your own childhood, what did you like playing at school or at home? Children today don't have the same freedoms we once did, so we want to give children back time to really enjoy and learn from play. After all, it's a child's basic human right.

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is the result of over 20 years of testing and development in over 800 schools and has been used in Spain, Canada, France and New Zealand. The programme has also been adapted and used in schools in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria under the Play Friendly Schools project. In 2018, OPAL won first prize in an EU-funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe and two UK national playwork awards. In 2019, OPAL was awarded a quarter of a million pounds by Sport England to bring the programme to many more schools.

OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

- Average screen time per day is six hours.
- Average outdoor play time per week is five hours.
- Percentage of UK children who only play outdoors with other children at school is 56%.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play. These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.





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- Having a certain amount of freedom.

As the school improves play opportunities for your children, you may find the school is asking you for resources and is making changes about how the children use the school grounds. They may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health and safety, wellbeing and development.

The school will be supported by OPAL for 18 months and there will be an opportunity to come and talk to the OPAL mentor at your child's school. If you would like to learn more about the OPAL Primary Programme, please have a look at the OPAL website ([www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk](http://www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk)), where you will find lots of useful information and several videos about the programme.

In the coming 18 months you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Best wishes

Mrs Makinson  
Assistant Headteacher and School OPAL coordinator





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**F.O.I.L.S**

**Halloween party**

**NOV 1ST**

4.30-5.30 NURSERY, REC, YR1  
6.00-7.00 YEAR 2, 3 AND 4

**£4 ENTRY - INC DRINK AND ENTERTAINMENT FROM 'PERFECT PERSONALISED PARTIES'**

**£1 GLOW STICK  
50P COOKIE  
SOLD SEPARATELY**

Tickets to be purchased in advance from ticketlab



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## We want to see your creative Harvest pumpkins!



### HARVEST PUMPKIN PATCH COMPETITION

To enter grab a pumpkin, carve your design and send us a picture! You could be in with a chance of winning a selection of fantastic puzzles and games.

**Design it. Carve it. Snap it!**

Entries should be sent to  
[competitions@abmcatering.co.uk](mailto:competitions@abmcatering.co.uk)  
no later than Monday 6th November.

Please ensure you include your name and school name on your entry.





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## OUR MENU

You can feel secure in the knowledge that not only do our menus meet government food standards for School meals, they have also achieved the **Bronze Food for Life Award**. This means your children are being provided with healthy, nutritionally balanced and freshly prepared lunches. We only use red tractor farm assured meats, lion stamped free-range eggs, locally supplied fresh ingredients and MSC certified fish.



## SPECIFIC DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Our in-house nutritional team adapt our menus for children with allergies and religious requirements. They also provide carbohydrate counts for diabetics.



## UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a Free School Meal. Please take advantage of this amazing opportunity!



## SPECIAL DAYS

Look out for our specially themed days held every 3 weeks! Based upon specific events, street food, days and curriculum activities.

**No hungry tummies around!**

