

## **Autumn 3 - Newsletter - 18/09/2025**

## **Message from Mrs Sherwood**

Parents and carers are reminded that any photographs or videos that they may take at school, which includes any events that take place, should only be of your child and not include any other children or the surrounding area. Photographs and videos that are taken by parents and carers, should NOT be shared on social media or outside of your family, this is because some of our children are very vulnerable. If we are made aware of any photographs or videos that have been shared on social media, we will ask that they are removed.

Some schools have introduced a no photograph and filming policy, which means parents/carers are not allowed to take photographs or videos of their children at school at all, we do not want to have to do the same! Please be considerate of the reasons why we are asking you to do this.

## **Message from the Teaching Assistants!**

Please help us to help your children by naming all of their uniform and belongings. A number of children have lost items already and although we do our very best to return misplaced items to the correct children, if they are not named it makes the task even trickier. Thank you.

#### FREE SCHOOL MEALS - ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If you are in receipt of qualifying benefits and have not yet registered for Free School Meals, or wish to check your eligibility please register online at Free school meals | Hertfordshire County Council

Even if your child currently receives universal free meals in Reception to Year 2 you should still complete the application as other education benefits will be automatically registered. Registering for FSM could result in extra funding coming into school to support learning and additional activities for all pupils, which the school might not otherwise be able to afford. It really makes a difference to our budget and thus to your children's learning opportunities.

Please be assured that the whole process is confidential and there is no way for your child to be identified when having their free lunch. Please use the eligibility checker link above or contact Sue Barrett or Sarah Childs in the office and they will support you.

#### What's on

Day & Date	Time	Event & Year
Thursday 18.09.2025	am	Year 4 Recorder club
	3.15-3.45pm	Year 3 Recorder club in the school hall – collect from dining hall
	3.15-4.15pm	Lab Tots in Dove classroom
	7.00pm	Booking system goes live for Parent & Teacher consultation appointments
Friday 19.09.2025	-	Year 2 Fire of London workshop – non-parent event
Monday 22.09.2025	3.00-3.30pm	PTA Uniform Sale in the dining hall
Tuesday 23.09.2025	3.15-4.15pm	Multi Skills Club
Wednesday 24.09.2025	-	Piano & Guitar lessons
	3.00-3.15pm	Volunteer Reader training and meeting with Mrs White in the school hall
Thursday 25.09.2025	am	Year 4 Recorder club
	3.15-3.45pm	Year 3 Recorder club in the school hall – collect from dining hall
	3.15-4.15pm	Lab Tots in Dove classroom
Friday 26.09.2025	-	Flu vaccinations for Reception to Year 4
2007	7.30pm	PTA Bingo event
Monday 29.09.2025	-	Learning logs return to school – Year 1-4
Tuesday 30.09.2025	3.15-4.15pm	Multi Skills Club – please collect from Falcon classroom this week only
	3.30-6.00pm	In person Parent & Teacher Check in consultations in the school hall – prebooked
		appointments only
Wednesday 1.10.2025	am	Year 1&2 Football Skills Festival at KJAR - non-parent event
	-	Piano & Guitar lessons
Thursday 2.10.2025	am	Year 4 Recorder club
87	3.15-3.45pm	Year 3 Recorder club in the school hall – collect from dining hall
	3.15-4.15pm	Lab Tots in Dove classroom
	3.30-6.00pm	Online (video call) Parent & Teacher Check in consultations – prebooked appointments
		only
Friday 3.10.2025	All day	Individual & siblings portrait photographs - Carmel Jane Photography

## Correspondence home this week

- Year 4 Eagle Swimming letter
- Year 3 Celtic Harmony information via email
- All Parent & Teacher consultation information via email
- Nursery additional hours and lunch money invoices
- Years 3 & 4 lunch invoices (sent home during w/c 8th September)

## Check-in parent and teacher meetings/consultations

We will be holding check-in parent meetings in the week beginning 29th September. At these meetings you will be able to chat with your child's class teacher to see how your child is getting on and also ask any questions that you may have. A guide of how to book appointments is attached for those that have not booked before.

We will be holding two sessions. In person appointments in the school hall will be available on **Tuesday 30th September**, 3.30-6pm and video call (online) appointments will be available on **Thursday 2nd October**, 3.30-6pm. Nursery appointments will be from 3.50-5.30pm for both video and in person sessions.

The booking system goes live tomorrow (18th September) from 7pm (link to the booking system can be found on the front page of our website, under the quick links section) or click on the following link: https://icknieldwalk.schoolcloud.co.uk/Admin/Home

There will be an opportunity for you to view your child's workbooks in their classroom with your child on Wednesday 10th December, 3.30-4.30pm.

Please note the following:

- 1. Only one appointment available per child.
- 2. Only the parent or carer that is contact 1 on our database can book the appointments.
- 3. If you are new to the school, you will need to make an account to book the appointments.

If you have any problems booking your appointments, please send an email to the office staff at : admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk

## Help us with reading - Meeting on 24th September

We actively encourage parents, carers, grandparents and other volunteers to come and hear children read in school. This means that children are reading more frequently and getting more practise. Our reading helpers report that it is wonderful to see the progress the children make. At 3.00pm on 24th September, Mrs White will be holding a meeting in school for reading volunteers. This meeting will be a refresher for those who have read with children before and an introduction for those who are interested in volunteering. Mrs White will speak briefly about how to hear children read in school and how to safeguard the children. All volunteers need a school DBS check; the office staff will help you to apply for one. Please come to the training session if you can.

## Year 4s moving on from Icknield Walk First School

King James Academy, Royston will be holding their open event on Thursday 25th September - to book to attend, please use the following link: <u>Open Events Booking Form</u> or contact KJAR primary site direct.

Edwinstree Middle School (EMS), Buntingford will be holding their open event on Thursday 9th October, 6pm - for more details, please contact EMS direct.

## **FLU** - Nasal spray immunisations

Vaccination UK will be visiting school on Friday 26th September to undertake flu immunisations for children in Reception to Year 4. The immunisation is a nasal spray. Please note, your child will only receive the vaccine IF you have registered your child with Vaccination UK and given consent. Link below will take you to the Vaccination UK consent area of their website.

https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/hertfordshire

Please contact Vaccination UK with any queries that you may have by sending an email to: <u>Hertfordshire@v-uk.co.uk</u> or by calling **01462 427 008.** 

## **Message from Hertfordshire Public Health**

Director of Public Health Sarah Perman



Hertfordshire County Council Farnham House, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ. Postal Point: SFAR23

Date: 15th September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

Back to school vaccination reminder & important public health advice.

As you begin the autumn term, we would like to remind you of some important things you can do for your children to protect them and others from illness this winter.

- If you have children starting school this September and they have missed their preschool booster vaccinations, please speak to your GP surgery to arrange an appointment. It's not too late to catch up! Vaccines remain our best defence against serious and life-threatening diseases; they are safe and are free on the NHS.
- Teach your children to wash their hands using soap and water. Especially encourage
  this after they have used the toilet and before they eat. This will help to prevent them
  from getting sickness and diarrhoea bugs and stop them spreading illnesses to
  others. Remember if they do get the sickness and diarrhoea bug they must not go
  back to school until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.
- Please take up your child's offer of a flu vaccination this year and complete the
  consent form when it is sent out. Flu can be serious for children of all ages but
  particularly for those under 5. Vaccination helps protect against complications like
  pneumonia and painful ear infections as well as reducing the risk of needing to go to
  hospital. Vaccinating your child also helps protect others in your family like
  grandparents or those with long-term health conditions.

Thank you for taking these small steps to keep your child and everyone around you healthy this winter. If you would like to know more please visit: <a href="https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers/keeping-your-child-safe-and-healthy">https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers/keeping-your-child-safe-and-healthy</a>

Yours sincerely

Sarah Perman

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Director of Public Health

## **Individual and Sibling portrait photographs**

Individual and Sibling portrait photographs will be taken by Carmel Jane Photography on Friday 3rd October throughout the school day. All children should wear their school uniform; hair accessories should be school colours and kept minimal.

Nursery children who attend on a Friday will be photographed during their nursery day and nursery children who do not attend on a Friday are invited to pop in to have their photograph taken wearing their school uniform, either in the morning at 9.30am or during the afternoon at 1.10pm. Nursery children with siblings in the school will be photographed with their sibling if the nursery child attends either of the photography sessions. Please inform Miss Pinner what session your child will be attending. Please note that if your child does not attend Nursery on a Friday, they can only come in for the photography session and not attend a full nursery session.

All children with siblings who attend Icknield Walk First School will be photographed both together and individually.

## **Smartphone Free Childhood Parents' Group**

#### Please see the message from the Smartphone Free Childhood parents group:

We have had **120 responses** so far and we would love to hear from more parents. The survey closes on 24th September, and the parent group will send out the results (via the school office) as soon as possible after that.

At the end of last year, the school sent out communication on how best to support our children around smartphone and social media use, inspired by the work of the <u>Smartphone Free Childhood</u> (SFC) grassroots movement. Some of our parents have since then set up a WhatsApp group to discuss this topic.

The SFC parents' group would like to find out more about your views on this topic. Please find the link to a short, anonymous survey. The group note that it will only take five minutes to fill it in and that it would really help them better understand the issues involved. Please fill it in if you can.

SFC Parent Survey 2025

Best regards,

Smartphone Free Childhood Parents' Group

## **Icknield Walk First School - Open events**



# Early Years Open Events

Is your child starting nursery or reception in September 2026?

Come and see our amazing school, book your visit today

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October Morning and afternoon sessions available each day

Education and wrap-around care 7.45am-6pm with school holiday care





Click here to book your visit or call us on 01763 243392

Poplar Drive, Royston, Herts, SG8 7EZ admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk Tel: 01763 243392 icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk

#### **PTA News**



**BINGO** - Just a quick reminder — ticket sales for Bingo Night are closing soon! **\*** If you haven't grabbed yours yet, now's the time. You don't want to miss out on the fun, prizes, and good vibes!

You can buy your tickets here <a href="https://www.pta-events.co.uk/iwfspta">https://www.pta-events.co.uk/iwfspta</a>

**DISCO** - tickets are now on sale. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.pta-events.co.uk/iwfspta

Due to the previous cashless disco being a great success, we will be running a cashless disco again this time.

You are cordially invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of The PTA, which will be held as follows:

Date: 1st October

**!** Time: 19.30

Venue: School dining hall

Agenda Includes:

**Presentation of Annual Report** 

**Approval of Financial Statements** 

**Election of Board Members** 

Other business matters

Your presence and participation are important to us. Kindly confirm your attendance by joining <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/IXXoUy9okC43sYHtXl4TtH">https://chat.whatsapp.com/IXXoUy9okC43sYHtXl4TtH</a> We look forward to your valuable input and support.

**The Outdoors Project** is running a special kids and adults bushcraft session in support of the Icknield Walk PTA.

- 1.5 hours of outdoors fun whittling toasting sticks, practising bushcraft fire lighting, and cooking over the fire!
- 2.30pm on Sunday 5th October at Icknield Walk First School £15 per child (adults go free) all proceeds will go to the PTA.

Spaces are limited to 15 children. Thank you to the school for the generous use of the grounds.

Book via <u>www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk/cambridge-royston</u> (select other events and find the event at Icknield).



### **Outdoor Club** - after school on Wednesdays



Is your child interested in trying The Outdoors Project club on a Wednesday afternoon after school? We're now running taster sessions for those who would like to give it a go. Simply get in touch by emailing <a href="mailto:cambridge@theoutdoorsproject.co.uk">cambridge@theoutdoorsproject.co.uk</a> we can arrange a date for their session!

Jonny Midgley

The Outdoors Project - Cambridge & Royston

## Co-parenting with care for parents with children with SEN

Family lives are delivering **Co-parenting with care for parents with children with SEN** programme during the Autumn term, funded by Herts County Council for parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire or who have a child attending a Hertfordshire school. Please can I ask you to share this information with your families.

Co-parenting with care for parents with children with SEN

This 6-week online programme offers a structured approach to help parents navigate their unique challenges, improve their relationship, and create a more supportive environment for their SEN child/ren. This group is aimed at parents who have a child with SEND and who are separated or divorced or going through the process of separation or divorce.

The programme covers themes including:

- Understanding SEN and its impact on children and family dynamics
- Effective Communication Skills
- Managing Emotions & Stress

- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Building a Supportive Network
- Creating a Unified Parenting Approach

Co-Parenting with care for parents of children with SEN

Wednesday 15, 22 October and 5, 12, 19 & 26 November

9.30am to 11.30am

Via MS Teams

Co-Parenting with care for parents of children with SEN

Thursday 16, 23 October and 6, 13, 20 & 27 November

7.00pm to 9.00pm

**Via MS Teams** 

Please click here <u>Co-Parenting with Care for parents of children with SEN</u> for our online referral form.

You can also email <a href="mailto:services@familylives.org.uk">services@familylives.org.uk</a> or call us on 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8701 for more information.

## Thank you from Royston in Blue



Following on from the Royston In Blue 5K Fun Run that was held on Sunday 29th June 2025 the Royston In Blue Committee are delighted to announce that the total sum raised this year from the event is an amazing

\*\*\*£20,000.00\*\*\*

Thank you, once again to everyone who has supported this very worthy cause.

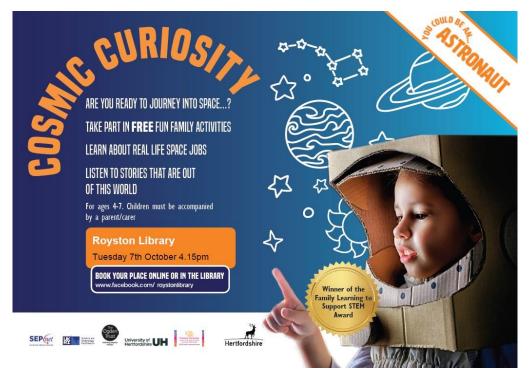
## A date for your diaries next year:

We are excited to announce that Royston In Blue 2026 will be held on **Sunday June 28th** at The Heath

Watch this space for more details to come

Please help us make 2026 even better!

## Extra curricular activities/Events in and around Royston/Useful information





Royston Book Fair returns on Saturday 27 September 2025 (12–4 pm) at Royston Parish Church. Part of the Royston Arts Festival, the fair brings together more than 30 authors for an afternoon of talks, readings, and book signings – a wonderful opportunity for young readers and their families to discover new books and meet writers in person. The Book Fair is free to attend and all are welcome. It's a fantastic way to celebrate reading for pleasure, support local authors, and be part of the wider Royston Arts Festival. Full details, including the author line-up, can be found at <a href="https://www.roystonbookfair.co.uk">www.roystonbookfair.co.uk</a>.

#### **Supporting Dads** with Protective **Behaviours**

For Dads & Male Carers

Online course starting October 2025





Are you looking for strategies and new ideas to help improve family life?

## This fully funded 8-week term time course can

Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour

Understand how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link together

Respond to a range of feelings e.g. anger, frustration, anxiety, stress and worry

Improve communication to build better relationships Build on your own and your child's strengths

Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe

#### Wednesday evenings

7.00pm-9.00pm

Course code L4/eve



For eligibility and to book your fully funded place please contact: enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk Tel: 07850 518216

\*Please quote the course code and your

Please like us on Facebook for further

#### **Supporting Families** with Protective **Behaviours** For Mums, Dads & Carers

Online courses starting October 2025





Are you looking for strategies and new ideas to

This fully funded 8-week term time course can help you to:

Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour

Understand how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link

Respond to a range of feelings e.g. anger, frustration,

anxiety, stress and worry Improve communication to build better relationships

Build on your own and your child's strengths Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe

Thursday mornings

9 Oct -4 Dec 9.30am-11.30am

Or

Thursday evenings

9 Oct-4 Dec 7.00pm-9.00pm Course code L5/ev

For eligibility and to book your fully funded place please contact: enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk or Tel: 07850 518216 \*Please quote the course code and your mobile number





#### **Supporting Families** with Protective **Behaviours**

For Mums, Dads & Carers

Online courses starting October 2025





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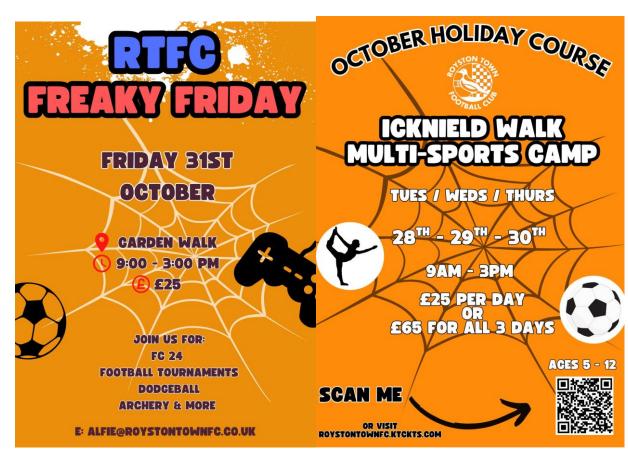
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\*Please quote the course code and your mobile number













## Weekly online Workshop and Support: Every Tuesday 10am-12pm during term time.



Each week there will be an hour long workshop on a specific topic that you can listen to and ask questions. Following this there will be an hour where we open to discussions/chats about any topic or concern and can offer help support and guidance.

Weekly topics are detailed on our programme.

Monthly in person support Letchworth and Stevenage: Will be running on a Wednesday see programme for dates





Our podcasts series "Neurodiversity Chats" cover a wide range of topics, search "Neurodiversity Chats" on Spotify or Apple Podcasts or listen on our website: https://angelssupportgroup.org.uk/podcasts/

Follow us on social media for updates:

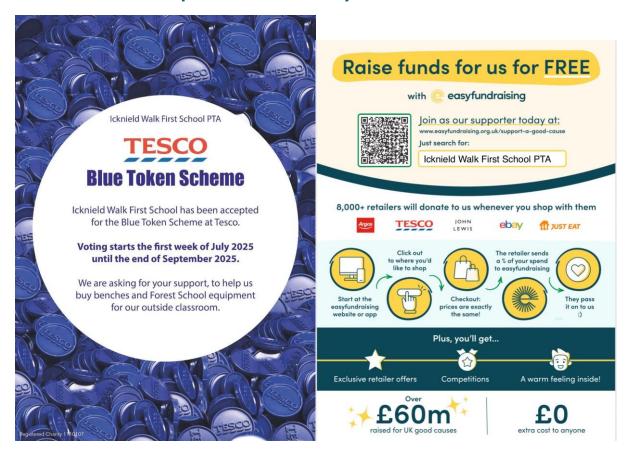






www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk

## Help us to raise money for our school



#### Weblinks that can help you

NSPCC - Online safety.

Smartphone Free Childhood

Angels Support (ASD & ADHD)

Herts CC Relationship advice

Families Feeling Safe

NESSIE - Positive Mental Health - Lots of talks and courses to help you and your child with their mental health.

Supporting Family Links - Promoting Strong Family Relationships with children up to the age of 12, lots of online courses to help.

Herts CC Cost of living resources - cost-of-living-flashcard (thegrid.org.uk)

North Herts Family Support Services - www.hertsfamilycentres.org

www.supportinglinks.co.uk - Workshops/training courses for parents/carers of children (up to age 25).

BeeZee Bodies - www.beezeebodies.com

North Herts Special Provision updates - look here for SEN and Behaviour support

Free School Meals

**Neurodiversity Support Hub** 

Lumi Nova - Fun digital therapy for childhood anxiety - https://luminova.app/

Mind Hertfordshire Network - https://www.withyouth.org/