

September 2026 Newsletter



Dates For Your Diary

Monday 28th September - Wednesday 7th October: **Donations to Foodbank Collections are Welcome**
Thursday 8th October: **Year 1 Visit to North Enfield Food Bank**
Monday 12th - Friday 16th October: **Year 2 Power of Reading Week for parents and carers**
Thursday 8th October: **Flu Vaccine Programme** - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 13th October: **Nursery and Reception 2027 - School Tour - 1:30pm-2:30pm**
Friday 16th October: **Red Card to Racism Day** - Children are invited to wear something red to school
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October: **Year 1 Power of Reading Week for parents and carers**
Tuesday 20th October: **Individual School Photographs**
Friday 23rd October: **Non School Uniform Day** - Winter Fun Contributions Day (information to follow)
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October: **School Closed** - Half Term Break
Monday 2nd November: **School Closed** - Staff Training Day
Tuesday 3rd November: **Children return to school**
Thursday 5th November: **Fluoride Treatment Programme** - Nursery Reception and Year 1
Monday 9th - Friday 13th November: **Reception Flying with Phonics Week for Parents and Carers**
Thursday 12th November: **Nursery and Reception 2027 - School Tour - 10:00am - 11:00am**
Tuesday 17th - Wednesday 18th November: **Parent Consultations**
Friday 20th November: **Children in Need Day - Children's Dress up Day - Donations Welcome**
Friday 27th November: **Decoration Day - Non-School Uniform**
Tuesday 1st December: **Reception Winter Fun Event**
Wednesday 2nd December: **Year 1 Winter Fun Event**
Thursday 3rd December: **Year 2 Winter Fun Event**
Tuesday 8th December: **Year 1 Theatre Trip - Artsdepot**
Wednesday 9th December: **Year 2 Theatre Trip - Milfield Theatre**
Thursday 10th December: **Year 1 Performance to Parents**
Tuesday 15th December: **Nursery and Reception 2027 - School Tour - 10:00am - 11:00am**
Friday 18th December: **Last Day of Term - Non-School Uniform** School will be closing at 1:20pm

Reminder!

The school day starts at 8:45am
Registers will be taken at 8:50am, if your child arrives after 8:50am they will be marked as late. All children must be in time for registration. The school day ends at 3:15pm. Children being picked up late from school may be charged for After-School Club.

Attendance Matters

Our attendance figure since the start of term is 95%, well done to everyone who has been in school on time everyday since we came back in September, you have helped us reach this mark. The target set by the Government for us though is 96% so we are still short of this at the moment. Our Education Welfare Officer has begun her weekly visits to school and she will be in touch with any parents whose child's attendance is of concern.

If your child is going to be absent from school, we ask that parents and carers contact the school before 9:00am on the morning of the absence. Prompt communication helps us ensure that all children are safe and accounted for.

Attendance awards will show on your Arbor App for any child who has 100% attendance for a month, half term, term, and also for each attendance week. The next attendance week is **Monday 5th - Friday 9th October**

The best classes in each year group so far are Dolphin with 97.8%, Rhino with 97.7% and Tiger with 95.5% attendance. Thank you for your continued support in helping children attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. Every day in school counts! 🍌🌟



Our Breakfast Club!

All children from Reception age and above are invited to enjoy our FREE 30-minute Breakfast Club every morning from 8:15am.

To support those needing an earlier start, we open from **7:45am** for a small charge of **£1 per child**.

We're thrilled to be able to offer this to all of our families. More flexibility, **a great start to the day** and full tummies all round! Breakfast Club can be accessed via **Autumn Close** every morning.



Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all of our families returning this year, and a special welcome to the new families who have joined our school community. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and working together to support your children as they learn, grow and thrive.

It has been wonderful to see how well so many children have settled into their new classes and routines. At the same time, it is important to remember that every child is different. Some children settle quickly, while others may need a little more time, reassurance and support. This is completely normal, and our staff are here to help every child feel safe, happy and confident in school.

At our school, our curriculum focuses not only on academic achievement but also on children's social and emotional development. Children start school with a wide range of experiences and are at different stages of development. As they grow, they are still learning important skills such as sharing, taking turns, managing their emotions and communicating when they feel unhappy or frustrated.

In an ideal world, no child would ever be hurt or upset by another child. However, in a busy school environment with over 200 children learning and playing together each day, disagreements, friendship difficulties and conflicts will sometimes occur.

Please be assured that staff take any concerns seriously and work hard to support children in developing positive social skills and relationships. When incidents occur, staff investigate what has happened, support the children involved and use these situations as valuable learning opportunities. We explicitly teach children how to build resilience, manage their emotions, resolve conflicts appropriately and seek adult support when needed.

While many children develop these skills quickly, others need more time, practice and guidance as they learn and grow. Our aim is to support every child in becoming a kind, respectful and confident member of our school community.

We kindly ask that if your child has been hurt or upset at school, you do not approach another parent directly. Instead, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you continue to have concerns, you are welcome to speak to the relevant Year Group Leader:

- Ruth – EYFS Lead
- Adam – Year 1 Lead and Assistant Headteacher
- Sonia – Year 2 Lead and Assistant Headteacher

I am also always happy to speak with parents if concerns remain.

Thank you for your continued support. We greatly value our partnership with families and believe that children achieve their best when staff and families work closely together. We are always open to hearing your ideas, suggestions and feedback.

Finally, I would politely ask that any concerns or worries are raised directly with the school rather than discussed on WhatsApp groups or social media. We want to know if something is troubling your child or family so that we can support you and work together to find a positive solution.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a happy and successful year ahead.

Best wishes,

Sarah Clements
Headteacher



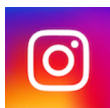
Important Reminder for Child Collection

As we start the new school year, we remind parents and carers to please inform the school office if someone not listed on the Permission to Collect form will be picking up your child. This is especially important at the beginning of the year when staff are still getting to know our new families. Your cooperation helps us ensure the safety and well-being of all our children.

Follow us on Instagram

Our School Instagram page has now moved to [@carterhatchinfant](#). If you were following our previous account, please make sure you follow our new page to keep up to date with school news, learning activities, celebrations and special events.

We look forward to sharing more of our children's learning and achievements with you! ✨



Reading Corner



Welcome to our new Reading Corner, a special space in our newsletter dedicated to celebrating the joy of reading. Reading opens doors to new worlds, sparks imagination, builds knowledge, and develops vital language skills. Whether it's a favourite story, an exciting new author, or a book recommendation from one of our pupils, we hope this section inspires everyone to enjoy reading at home and at school. Don't forget our **Extreme Reading Challenge!** We'd love to receive photos of children reading in unusual or exciting places, such as the park, beach, garden, on holiday, or even dressed as their favourite book character. We have already received some fantastic photos for our library display and look forward to seeing more! 📖✨



Wear Red Day

At Carterhatch Infant School, we work hard to promote kindness to all. Teaching the children to value and respect the differences between us. As part of their Thoughtful Thursday lessons, the children will be learning about Black History Month; supporting the discussion around race and respect. On Friday 16th October, we are asking children and staff to show the red card to racism by wearing something red to school on that day. Parents please do not feel you must go out and buy an item of red clothing, something red can be as simple as a hairband or a pair of socks! So that everyone can feel part of 'wear red day', if your child is not able to wear red, we can paint a small red symbol their face, if they wish.



☀️ Parent Shout-Outs! ☀️

We love celebrating the amazing work our staff do every day, and we know you do too! If you've seen a member of our team go above and beyond, or simply want to recognise their kindness and hard work, we'd love to hear from you

✉️ **How to share:**

Follow the link [Parent Shout Out](#) to send us a quick message with the staff member's name and what you'd like to say. We will share your shout-outs in our staff meetings and on our staff bulletin board.

Learning Friends

Our learning friends help promote positive attitudes to learning. They are also linked to our school values.

Kindness Kai	Challenge Chico	Polly Perseverance	Ruby Resilience

Children's achievements are celebrated with our learning friends' certificates. The certificates are linked to the areas our learning friends are promoting – kindness, challenge, perseverance and resilience. Staff, governors and children were involved in the decision making of what our learning friends should represent and what they should be named.

Foodbank

As part of our harvest learning, a small group of our Year 1 children will be visiting the Enfield North Foodbank. We kindly ask for your support in donating items for the children to take with them.

Suggested donations include:

- Non-perishable food items (tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereals, long-life milk, etc.)
- Toiletries (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, sanitary products, etc.)

All donations will go directly to the foodbank to help local families in need. Please send your contributions to school by Wednesday 7th October. We will have a trolley at the front of the school for donations to be collected.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Applying for Year 3, Reception and Nursery September 2027:

Have you applied for your child's school place for September 2027?

Reception: If your child was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023, you will need to apply for a primary school place by 15th January 2027. Your child will start reception in September 2027. Please note that you do NOT automatically move up to Reception if your child attends our Nursery.

School Nursery: If your child was born between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024, you can apply for a nursery place linked to a school for 15 hours. You need to apply for a place by 15th February 2027. Your child will start nursery in September 2027. (If you are eligible for 30 hour funding you will need to apply before 31st August 2027. Please let school know that you require 30 hours when you accept your 15 hour place in our school.

Year 3: Children in Carterhatch Infant School will need to apply for a year 3 place in Carterhatch Junior School. The deadline for on time applications is 15th January 2027.

Further information can be found online via the [Enfield Council Website](#) and in the [Applying for a Primary School in Enfield, Information for Parents brochure](#).

We are delighted to welcome prospective families to visit our school. Details of our upcoming school tours can be found on our website calendar and in the Dates for Your Diary section of this newsletter. To book a tour, please contact the school office.

If you need help with applying for your child's school place, please see Sandra, our Family Support Worker.

Thank you for your Support

We want to say a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to join us for their year group meetings and our Macmillan Afternoon Teas. It was fantastic to see so many of you in school, sharing cake with your children, getting to know other parents, and having those all-important chats with your child's new class teacher.

We hope you found the year group information helpful and that it gave you a clear picture of the exciting year ahead. For a re-cap of information around your year group, please follow the link to our school website [Welcome To Your Year Group](#). Our Macmillan events were a real highlight. The children had a chance to learn about kindness, community, and what it means to give something back and they absolutely loved it! Your generosity was incredible, from the beautiful cakes homemade and shop-bought alike, to your donations and the time you gave to support the event.

Last but not least, a shout out goes to our parent volunteer, Pinar, who supported us on the day to serve and make parents feel welcome. A Special thanks also to Sina's parents for generously donating delicious cupcakes for our raffle. We are very grateful for your support. Congratulations to Mina, Geo, Aya, Akai and Deniz for winning the raffle prizes. We hope you enjoyed the delicious treats!

We're thrilled to announce that together we raised over £300, which will be shared between Macmillan Cancer Support and our school. It was a joyful, heart warming event and it simply wouldn't have been possible without you.



A Message from Year 2

Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.

A very warm welcome back to school! We hope you've had a memorable summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. We are excited to begin our learning journey in year 2.

This year will be important as the children continue to build their skills and grow in confidence, independence, and resilience. Over the coming weeks, we will be focusing on strengthening key skills in reading, writing and mathematics, while also exploring exciting topics across the curriculum. In English we will be paying attention to using capital letters, full stops and sentence structure to develop confident, accurate writing. In mathematics, we will be working on the four operations whilst developing number fluency and problem solving.

'A house without books is like a room without windows.' (Horace Mann).



We ask that children read at home for at least twenty minutes a day (this can expose children to over a million words a year). Little and often makes the biggest difference – daily reading practice helps children build fluency, widen their vocabulary, and develop a love for books. Research shows that children who read regularly outside of school make significantly faster progress in both reading and writing and tend to achieve higher outcomes across the curriculum, not just in English.



Power of Reading Week Monday 12th - Friday 16th October

As part of our Power of Reading Week, we are delighted to invite parents and carers into school to join their child for a reading session. This is a wonderful opportunity to see how reading is taught in school, share in your child's learning, and pick up some helpful tips for supporting reading at home.

Individual invitations with dates and times will be sent out shortly. We look forward to welcoming you into our classrooms and celebrating the joy of reading together! 📖✨

A Message from Year 1

Welcome to a new year at Carterhatch Infant School!

Year 1 children have settled into their new classroom routines and have adapted to their new year group brilliantly. We have been focussing on our first core text, 'The Bog Baby'. The children have enjoyed getting to know the characters from this story and they have had the chance to show their writing skills, their acting talents and even their art skills as you can see from some of the Bog Babies that the children have made. Next week, we will be making habitats for our bog babies, so if anyone has any empty shoe boxes at home they could donate, that would be a big help! The whole team are looking forward to a fun-filled year, and getting to know your year 1 children.

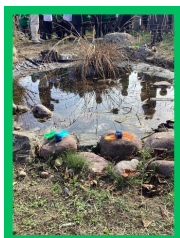
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How can I support my child at home?

Counting: Does your child know how to count forwards and backwards within 100? Can they count in steps of 2 and 10? When you are out and about, what numbers can they see? What is one more and one less than that number?



A Message from Kangaroo and Joey Class

Kangaroo and Joey Class welcomed their families in for the afternoon to share and explore all of the wonderful activities they have been taking part in so far this term - they even got to taste our delicious cake and biscuits! We would like to thank everyone for attending, they children really enjoyed showing you their environment and engaging in activities with you.



A Message from Reception



A warm welcome to all our new Reception children and families.

We are so proud of how well the children have settled so far into their new Reception environments, rules and routines. In these first few weeks we are working on children understanding and following the key expectations we have in class. We have seen many children showing kindness to their new friends; sharing and taking turns. We have seen children showing wonderful manners with saying 'please' and 'thank you' and helping to tidy up at tidy up times and we have seen the children's confidence growing as they interact with new people and make new friends. All of these things really help in building a kind, calm and secure environment for our children to thrive in.

We are supporting the children in developing their independence through;

- Tidying away when they have used something and not leaving it for others to do
- Hanging their coats and bags up on their pegs when they arrive
- Putting on their own coats, shoes and jumpers
- Cutting up their own food at lunch times.

Obviously the adults are supporting, modelling and helping the children with this but your help at home in encouraging this too, would really support them embedding these skills in to their daily routines.

See how our children are practising how to put their coats on here: [Putting on our coat](#)

We have begun the children's daily phonics sessions and at the end of each week you will receive a phonics sheet showing all the sounds and words the children would have been practising that week. We ask all parents to please practise these sounds and words further at home, even 5 minutes a day at home can make such a difference in the children developing these early reading and writing skills.

If you have any concerns this year, please do speak to the class teacher as your first point of call, so we can support you and your child in having a wonderful year in Reception.



A Message from Nursery Turtle and Otter Class



A warm welcome back to our Nursery children who have returned to continue their learning journey with us this year, and a special welcome to the new families who have recently joined our school community.

We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all during our home visits and Stay and Play sessions. It has been wonderful to see the children settling into their new classes, building positive relationships with staff and friends, and growing in confidence and independence each day. We look forward to an exciting year ahead together.

On World Environment Day, our children planted sunflower seeds. We were delighted to see how tall they had grown when we returned in September. It has recently bloomed and the children have loved exploring the seeds and petals.



A gentle reminder to help prevent things becoming lost or misplaced PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS ARE LABELLED CLEARLY, this includes water bottles, bags, spare clothes and coats as this helps staff to be able to support children quickly and effectively.

During the Autumn term, children are expected to have with them:

- A warm, waterproof coat as the weather turns wetter and colder.
- A clearly labelled reusable, plastic, water bottle.
- A drawstring bag with spare clothes including underwear and socks in case of toileting accidents or if children are particularly wet or dirty.



Acceptable Use Policy

We ask all children, parents/carers, staff and governors involved in the life of Carterhatch Infant School to read and sign an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) to outline how we expect them to behave when they are online, and/or using school networks, connections, internet connectivity and devices, cloud platforms and social media (both when on school site and outside of school) Children in year 1 and 2 sign the AUP in their Thoughtful Thursday sessions. A copy is on the school website for you to view [here](#). Children in Nursery and Reception build an AUP during the year based on this.

After School Club

Our After School Club runs every day from Monday - Friday, offering a safe, fun and engaging end to the school day for all children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

We are excited to introduce new themed activity days, which will be running on

- **Monday** - Arts and Crafts



- **Thursday** - Board Games

Alongside these activities, children can enjoy a range of opportunities to play, explore and develop new skills. Weather permitting, children have access to our **Adventure playground**, where they can build their physical development through active play. They can also enjoy **riding bikes and scooters**, **taking part in team games** and building friendships through cooperative play. For children who enjoy creating and problem-solving, we offer **Lego and construction activities** that encourage imagination, teamwork and creativity.

We will be introducing more themed days and activities throughout the year, so keep an eye on future newsletters and school communications as our After School Club offer continues to grow.

After School Club continues to offer two session times: until 4:30pm or until 5:30pm, with a snack provided (or children may bring their own).

For more information or to book a place, please contact the school office.

Arbor

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the Arbor App. We use Arbor to share school updates, check pupil information, and manage payments for trips and clubs. If you have not yet signed up, please use the link sent to you. If you need help accessing your account, please contact the school office.

A Message from Carterhatch Junior School

We would like to invite the parents and carers of the current year 2 pupils to a meeting on Thursday 15th October at 9:00am. We will give you a tour and information for their start in Year 3 in September 2027. We look forward to seeing you then.

For how to apply for your child's year 3 school place, please see admission information above.

Scooters

It is lovely to see so many children riding their scooters to school each day. Actively travelling to school helps children to reach their daily exercise goal of 60 minutes and helps them to concentrate better at school! For health and safety reasons and to stop any accidents from occurring, we ask that scooters are not ridden on school property. We are happy for scooters to be stored on the front school fences however, school cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage that may be caused by doing so. We suggest that you bring a lock to secure them to the fence.

♥ Strengthening Families Programme – Places Still Available!

Enfield Family Hubs and the Best Start in Life Programme are currently running the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities parenting programme at Carterhatch Infant School, and there are still places available for parents and carers who would like to join.

This welcoming programme supports parents in building strong family relationships, understanding children's needs, developing positive parenting strategies, and boosting confidence in everyday family life. It also provides a great opportunity to meet and connect with other local parents.



Every Wednesday



9:30am - 12:45pm



Hosted at Carterhatch Infant School

Whether you're looking for practical parenting tips, a supportive space to share experiences, or new ways to strengthen family relationships, this programme has something to offer.

If you would like to find out more or register for a place, please speak to Sandra, our Family Support Worker, who will be happy to help.

Places are still available, so it's not too late to join!



For more information about the [Strengthening Families programme](#), please follow the link on our website. ☀

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)
Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years. Education Endowment Foundation: London.
Available online: eef.li/literacy-early-years

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