

Frederick Bremer School

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Website: www.bremer.org.uk | Headteacher: Ms. Jenny Smith BA jt hons, NPQH



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now at the end of a very busy and successful term. You will find in this letter information about the events at the end of this term and the beginning of next. Further information about the successes of this term can be found in our newsletter which will be available on the website from the end of term (<http://www.bremer.org.uk>). This term will finish on **Thursday 28th March at 12pm.**

Our inclusivity matters

Inclusion is not idle rhetoric at Frederick Bremer School. We support and stand with every member of our community, and this is reflected in our Equalities Agenda. This half term we have been celebrating neuro-diversity, and next half term we will be celebrating LGBTQ rights and successes.

On Friday 15th March, our school marked the UN Day Against Islamophobia by holding various activities within the school. Many staff fasted alongside our Muslim staff, and the money we saved has been donated to support those currently facing starvation in Gaza.

On Wednesday 20th March, we celebrated Harmony Day. Everyone was able to wear their cultural dress, and this was an opportunity to share our cultural heritage, and understand our differences.

Over the Easter break, many in our community will be celebrating Easter, Eid or Holi. We wish you all a very joyous celebration. Happy Easter, Holi and Eid Mubarek!

At a time where hate and intolerance appears on the rise, it is crucial that we are confident to support those who experience prejudice and we stand up to injustice where we see it. As Gandhi says, 'we need to be the change we wish to see in the world'

Start of Term

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Monday 15th April at 8:25am** in full school uniform.

Year 11

Written GCSEs will begin on Thursday 9th May 2024. This means that Year 11 only has 18 school days left before their exams after the spring break, and practical assessments have already started. All pupils have copies of their exam timetable, and should have completed their revision timetable, as they should now be revising when they are not in school. We recommend an average of 2-3 hours in the evening and at least 5 hours over the weekends. During the holiday it is recommended that Year 11 treat the weekdays like school days and follow their normal school timetable to spread their revision equally. There will be some revision classes taking place in the school during the Spring break, and you will receive separate information regarding this.

Parent View

Your feedback is important to us. We are now in the window for our next Ofsted inspection, and we would greatly appreciate parents & carers completing this [short questionnaire](#).

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality is essential to success at school. Pupils must be at school by 8.25 am at the latest. The school continues to perform well in this area in comparison to National data, Attendance does matter and we need your continued support in ensuring that your child's attendance is as high as it possibly can be.

Parent Governor Elections

We welcome 2 new Parent Governors to the school, Bhakti Mesuria and Baptiste Bourgouon. Congratulations to both of them!

School Meal Price Increase

Over the past year LBWF Catering has been challenged by continuing rising costs of food, labour and cleaning materials. In the last 12 months alone, they have seen food costs increase by 15%, and labour costs rising by 9%.

As such they have reached the hard decision to increase the school meal prices from £2.68 to **£2.82** for pupils. This was not an easy decision but we hope you can appreciate that, given the current climate, this was a necessary change.

Supporting our community

We have a number of ways that we continue to offer support to our community. We would like to take this opportunity to outline and highlight some of this support as we know that many are finding rising household costs challenging.

- **Community Fridge**

We continue to operate our community fridge for our families and the wider community. It is available Mondays 12:30pm to 3pm and Wednesdays 9am to 12pm during term time.

- **Hardship fund**

We operate a hardship fund, which is available to families that might need financial support during their child's education. The Hardship Fund is a discretionary source of financial help. It is in place to aid families who may be experiencing unexpected and unplanned financial difficulties due to life events such as sickness, death, loss of employment, loss of housing.

For further information about our policy, please click [here](#).

If you are experiencing financial hardship you can apply to the hardship fund [here](#).

We will normally reply within 48 hours during term time.

- **Breakfast Club**

We continue to offer free breakfast from 7:30am to 8:15am. At the end of the day pupils can take a snack on their way out. All pupils are welcome.

- **Free school meal eligibility**

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals please apply [here](#).

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Goodbyes to staff

Two teachers will be leaving us at the end of this term. We will be saying goodbye to Mr Dixon (Head of PE) and Ms Dhedi (Maths Teacher). We wish them well for the future.

We have also just said goodbye to Ms Piercey, who has gone on maternity leave. We wish her all the very best! Ms Kenny, who is the current Head of Y11, will be taking over as Head of Year 10 for the Summer Term.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school at school@bremer.waltham.sch.uk or on 020 8498 3340.

We wish you all a restful and relaxing Spring break. Happy Easter, Eid Mubarak and Holi to everyone celebrating.

Kind regards,
Jenny Smith
Headteacher
Frederick Bremer School