



SCHOOL NEWS

12th March 2010

Dear Parents

Since our last newsletter we have had a really successful visit from our Comenius partners. All went away with a very good impression of our school and were most impressed by the friendly way in which our children greeted them and looked after them. A very big thank you to Mrs Taylor for the considerable time and effort that she put in to organising the week.

As ever the International Evening was extremely well attended and a great success. Fantastic food, colourful costumes and a great atmosphere ensured that all had a wonderful time together. The fashion show was a particularly successful addition to the evening and one that will undoubtedly feature in the future. Our thanks go to the PTA organising committee for their work before, during and after the event.

It doesn't seem possible that Ms Billingham's maternity leave is coming to an end! In fact before you receive the next newsletter, Ms Billingham will be back in school. She is due to return on Friday 26th March to resume her role as the year 3 teacher.

This of course means that Mrs Harrison's time at the school is coming to an end. Mrs Harrison has been working in the school for over 2 years and we would very much like to have an opportunity to thank her for all the work that she has done and wish her the best for the future. We will

therefore be organising a farewell for her in our final Sharing Assembly of the term - Thursday 1st April. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Best wishes

Sue Grundy

Royal Mail Creative writing competition

We would like to congratulate 3 of our pupils who have been short listed as finalists for the Thames Valley region. The entrants were asked to write letters to their heroes. Only 6 pupils were short listed for the whole of our region so this is an amazing achievement. Our finalists are Ali Greig who wrote to the athlete Eric Liddell, Millie Paggett who wrote to James from the Roald Dahl story, 'James and the Giant Peach' and Amelia McBryan who wrote to Florence Nightingale. Very well done to all three pupils - we are all very proud of you! Fingers crossed you will move forward to the national final.

Science Week

Next week is Science Week and this year we will be working with Science Oxford on the themes of Light and Shadows and Rockets. The children will be presenting some of their work at next week's Sharing Assembly.

Sainsbury and Tesco Vouchers

We are collecting the Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers to claim equipment for our school.

Collection boxes have been placed on the piano in the hall and we would very much welcome your support.

Yenworthy

Our Year 5 pupils and staff will be setting off for their residential at Yenworthy Lodge on Monday morning. We wish them a very enjoyable and successful week. Daily updates will be posted outside the school office.

Oxfordshire Goes Wild

FREE fun for the family at

Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

Saturday 20th March, 12 - 4pm

Meet live bats, owls, snakes, fish and bugs, go pond dipping; shake a dinosaur's claw; use microscopes; try lots of wildlife activities..... and much more.

Maths Day

All the classes swapped their teachers for part of the day last Friday during our Maths Day. Each class worked with their own teacher and two other teachers in school to explore a range of maths activities linked to shape, space and measures. The children were able to share their learning at the end of the school day when we got together for a Maths assembly. Thanks go to Mrs Archard, our Maths Coordinator, for organising the special day.

Gardening Club

We may have found a couple of parents who will be willing to run our gardening club. In the meantime, we would like to thank Rachel Stancliffe and Kate Hanke for the time that they put in to working with the children over the past year or so.

Certificate Competition

All the children have voted for their favourite Headteacher's certificate and we are therefore able to announce that Jacob Pagett is the winner of the FS / KS1 competition and Mazin Mohammed is the winner of the KS2 competition for the second year running! Their certificates will be sent to the printers so that they can be awarded in Sharing Assemblies. Congratulations to both children and well done to all those that entered.

Phonics website - Helping your child with their reading

The following website was passed on to us by one of our parents. It provides a very useful explanation of the sounds that the children are using in class and that you can therefore support them with at home.

<http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/phonemeChecker.html>

Table Top Sale

Are you planning a spring clean and clear out over the Easter holidays? New Marston Preschool are holding a Table Top Sale of good quality children's clothes, toys and books from 10.30 until 12 on Saturday April 24 in the Scout Hall. Tables cost £5 but you keep all the money you make and can always share a table with a friend to keep costs down. We're also offering small amounts of floor space (approx 1 square metre) for £1 to any children who would like to try their hand at selling! To reserve a table or a patch of floor space please contact Clare Allan (claresugden@yahoo.co.uk or 723483).

Bookworms Book Fair

The Bookworms Book Fair has been in school for a week and thanks to your support, we have been able to claim just under £100 worth of books for school.

Our Value of the Month for March

is

FORGIVENESS

The focus for our Collective Worship is

'Lent - A Countdown to Easter'

Dates for the diary:

Sharing Assembly Dates:

19th March: Sharing Assembly (except Year 5)

26th March: Sharing Assembly (except Year 1)

1st April: Sharing Assembly (all year groups)

15th March: Year 5 residential at Yenworthy

19th March: Yr 6 IMPS visit

22nd March: Cycle Helmet safety checks

23rd March: Ark Project - year 5

30th March: Easter Service in church (2pm)

1st April: **End of term (Thursday)**

19th April: **Beginning of term**