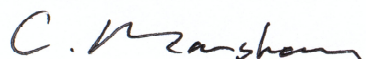


Number 2 - Autumn 2009

Dear Parents & Carers

As we come towards the end of the first half term, it's amazing to look back at how busy we've been during the past six and a half weeks! Highlights have included our two residential trips (Year 5 to Grafham and Year 6 to Ironbridge); our curriculum afternoons and evenings which were so successful and which in turn led to our Key Stage 2 Maths evening because you, the parents, requested it (and over 100 of you turned up!); multicultural dance sessions for the whole school; day trips to the library (see below), Hemingford Manor and the Free Church; and two events this week – the Year 6 Victorian Day and the PAWS cheese and wine evening. Tomorrow (yes, Saturday!), several people will be coming in to work on our new Foundation Stage Outdoor Area. I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to any of these important events, plus all the other activities that I simply don't have the space to mention!

I look forward to seeing you next week for our first Parent Consultations of the new academic year. With best wishes to you and your family,



Chris Marshall
Headteacher

Parentmail

Earlier this week we sent a letter to all parents with information about Parentmail. We are really excited about this new service, which will enable us to send letters and messages home to you promptly and efficiently. We will also be using Parentmail to send you reminders about functions and events. If you have not yet returned your data capture form please could I ask that you do so as soon as possible. I will be sending the forms to Parentmail just before half term and hope to start sending home letters using the new service by the end of November. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact me. Thank you.

Mrs Dadds.

Parent Consultations

A reminder that Parent Consultation Evenings take place next week. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for your appointment in the school reception area. We will be inviting you to sign Home-School Agreements and help us by filling in a Parent Questionnaire – we really appreciate your support with these documents.

Applications for Secondary School

A reminder that the deadline for applications for secondary school places is Friday 6th November. All children in Year 6 were given a letter with full details of the application process some weeks ago. Please contact Mrs Dadds if you have not yet applied for a place.

Applications for a Reception place in September 2010

If your child was born between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2006 they are due to start school in September 2010. The County Admissions Team is now taking applications places.

You can apply on line www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or call in to the office for an application form. The deadline for applications is 4 December 2009.

Supervision of Children After School

We have received complaints from a number of parents concerning two recent incidents where children were urinating on, or near to, the school grounds. For everyone's sake, please do not allow your child to do this – if they urgently need to use the toilet please ask a member of staff if they can use one in school. More generally, we have been very concerned about supervision of children in the school grounds after school. We recently had a “near miss” where a child ran across the car park in front of a moving car! Again, please help us by supervising your children closely and leaving the school grounds as soon as reasonably possible. Thank you for your support.

A message from the Reception classes

If anyone has any stories or rhymes on CD that their children have outgrown, and that are suitable for Reception children, please could you send them our way! Thank you.

Year 4 visit to St Ives Library

Year 4 recently had a fantastic trip to the library. The children thoroughly enjoyed the talk by Richard Young, who gave them lots of ideas of good authors to try, and whose love of reading is very inspiring. A whole range of books on all sorts of topics were borrowed and most children have now become members (don't forget if you haven't yet that you can easily do this by popping into the library any day except Thursdays). The children behaved superbly and were a credit to Wheatfields. Thanks also to the parents who volunteered their time to help.

Healthy Packed Lunches

Please could we remind parents that children should not bring sweets and chocolate to eat with their packed lunch. However, chocolate covered cakes and biscuit bars (e.g. Penguin bars) are fine. In addition to their water bottle, children who are having packed lunch should also bring a lunchtime drink in their lunch box.

An Invitation to Dinner

Last year we invited parents to come in to school at lunchtime for a school meal with their child. This was extremely popular and was enjoyed many parents, grandparents and, of course, the children themselves. After half term, we would like to extend the invitation once more. **So from Tuesday 3 November if you would like to come and join your child for a meal please would you:**

- Make a booking at least 24hrs in advance. Please call in or telephone the office and speak with Mrs Dadds who is keeping a 'reservations' diary.
- Pay for your meal at the school office (the cost is £2.70 per adult). Please do not send payments in with your child's dinner money.
- Arrive at school for 12 noon; when your child will come to Reception to meet you
- Remember to sign in – your child will take you back to Reception to sign out and say 'goodbye' once you have eaten.

On Special Meal Days and during the last two weeks of term (7 – 18 December) we will not be taking adult reservations. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mrs Dadds.

Wheatfields Kids Club

Kids Club is conveniently situated in one of the mobile units behind the main school building, providing childcare before and after school and during holidays.

The club is run by a qualified friendly team of playworkers, currently led by acting coordinator Michelle Smith.

There are places available during most sessions at the moment. To book a place or for further information, please come in or ring the club direct (not through school) during opening hours. Telephone: 01480 497783 or 07908 386827

Opening Times & Costs:

Morning: 7.30am - 8.45am: £3.00

Afternoon: 3pm - 6pm: £3 up to 4pm / £5.55 up to 5pm / £7.55 up to 6pm

Holidays: 7.30am - 6pm: £11 up to 5 hours / £20 over 5 hours

Emergency Contact Details

Please could we remind you that we must be kept up-to-date with home, mobile and work telephone numbers. It can be really distressing for a child when they are unwell and we are unable to contact mum or dad to come and collect them. Please help us – and your child – by giving us details of changes, new numbers etc as soon as possible.

Shopping Trip to Milton Keynes

We have organised a coach trip to Milton Keynes on Saturday 21 November. The coach leaves the school car park at 8.30am and returns at 5.00 – 5.30pm. Tickets are £8.00 and available on a first come, first served basis from reception.

Remembrance Poppies

Poppies will be on sale during the week after half term, 2 – 6 November.

School Dates for Autumn Term 2009

A reminder of the dates for forthcoming events. We have added the dates for the KS1 Christmas performances. There will be two performances on each date. As usual, we will send letters home giving full details of each event so please keep checking your child's book bag!

October	
Parent Consultation Appointments	Wednesday 21 October (3 – 7pm) Thursday 22 October (3 – 5pm)
Reception Teddy Bear's Picnic	Friday 23 October
Half Term	Monday 26 – Friday 30 October
November	
Year 2 visiting place of worship	Date to be advised
Year 5 visit to Duxford	Wednesday 11 November
Year 5 WW2 Day	Tuesday 17 November
BBC Children in Need	Friday 20 November
Anti-Bullying Week	Monday 16 – Friday 20 November
PAWS Xmas Fayre	Friday 27 November
December	
Key Stage 1 production(s)	Wednesday 9 December Thursday 10 December
Children's Xmas dinner	Tuesday 15 December
Burgess Hall Production (Years 3-6)	Thursday 17 December
Christmas Parties / Disco	Friday 18 December
Autumn Term closes	Friday 18 December
Professional Days	Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 January
Spring Term opens	Wednesday 6 January