

May Newsletter



Melbourn Primary School 15th May 2009

SATS

Our Y6 children have taken part in a busy SATs week along with other Y6 children across the country. I am sure that they all did their best and I'm also sure they are now looking forward to the weekend! Other children across the school have also taken part in an assessment week and Y2 children will be undertaking their SATs teacher assessments this month, so we are all involved in one way or another!

REPORTS

Teachers are currently writing end of year reports for each child which will outline their progress in each curriculum area. Following feedback from last year, individual grades will not be given, but strengths and areas for development will be included for each subject.

SWIMMING

The children are enjoying their extra swimming lessons. The heated changing rooms have been very well received and the children are making good progress. Our next plan is to get the interior walls of the changing rooms painted with murals selected by the School Council.

Recently our Y6 children took part in a local school Swimming Gala which was held at MVC. We did



really well, competing against 7 other primary schools and winning the trophy by a long way, which was great. We also won every race except two, and both of those were closely contested. A very well done to all concerned: you made us really proud. The team comprised: Daniel Jones, Cameron Laight, Daniel Atkins, Carrick Livingstone, Sophie Biddlecombe, Lauren Bishop, Abbey Deadman, Taylor Hart, Louis Bodrozic, Sam Champion, Briony Edwards, Katherine Webb and Dominic Dunklin.

MATHS CHALLENGE

We also did really well in the County Maths Challenge, an annual event to which pupils that score well in an entry test are invited. In our first local heat we came a close second to Bourn Primary, and we hope to be invited to the next round based on being closest runners up. Well done to Reece Andrade, Hope Winter, Darienne Chesham and Joshua Bates who took part representing our school.

PARKING

Our neighbours, the Baptist Church, kindly allow parents of children attending Melbourn Primary to park in their driveway at the beginning and end of the school day. Please be reminded that this is a privilege not a right, as there have been a couple of inconsiderate acts of parking recently. The Church would also like to inform parents that during the period June 21st until July 19th, they will host the Friends of Chernobyl Children's Charity and as such the car park will be much busier than usual. Yet again, we have had reports of parents parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside school, this of course increases the risk to our pupils, and therefore can parents ensure they park correctly when dropping their children at school.

HEALTH ISSUES

We have had a bout of sickness and diarrhoea in school of late. Please be reminded that current guidance states that children should remain at home for 48 hours after the last bout, to prevent further outbreaks. Cold symptoms have also been in evidence so remind children about using tissues and hand washing. On a final health note, several cases of threadworms have been confirmed. The symptoms of this are an itchy bottom and constant hunger. The condition can easily be treated by an over the counter medicine, but bedlinen and towels must also be washed on a hot cycle. Threadworms can be prevented by lots of careful handwashing (as can swine flu!) so the message is hand wash, hand wash, hand wash! The school has purchased anti-bacterial hand gel and school cleaners have been instructed to disinfect all high density surfaces such as door handles. There have also been some cases of headlice in the school, bug buster combs are available from the office at a cost of £1.

NEW FENCES

You may have noticed the colourful picket style fences which have been erected on the patios of our KS2 classes. These extend the classroom spaces to include an outside area as well as making organisation of the children easier at the beginning and end of the school day. They are not playpens for toddlers!! Please do keep small children outside of these areas so that work in the classrooms can continue undisturbed until the end of the school day.

CYCLE RACKS

We have already outgrown our new cycle racks which is great news, so I have managed to fund two additional "minipods" on which both cycles and scooters can be stored. These are located both next to the swimming pool and near the entrance from Orchard Road. If you come in that way, please park your bicycles/scooters at the red minipod and this will save congestion near the offices. I am pleased to say that children are remembering to wear their cycle helmets (which can be stored with their bicycles) as well as being accompanied by an adult. Y6 Cycling Proficiency training will begin soon. Please remember that for safety reasons children (and parents!) should not ride bicycles whilst on the school premises.

BUILDING WORKS

We have been advised by one of our neighbours at 43 High St, that building works have commenced on their premises. This should not

Dates for Your Diary	
18 th to 22 nd May	Cycling Proficiency (Year 6)
21 st May	Amber Class Assembly 3pm
22 nd May	Class Photographs
25 th to 29 th May	Half Term
1 st to 5 th June	Hobbies Week
1 st to 5 th June	Residential Visit to Scarborough (Year 6)
9 th June	Grafham Meeting (Year 4 Parents) 6.00pm
9 th June	Techlinks at Duxford (Year 3)
9 th June	Class Trip to Shepreth Wildlife (Reception)
11 th June	Indigo Class Assembly 3pm
16 th June	Healthy Eating Workshop
18 th June	Azure Class Assembly 3pm
25 th June	Amethyst Class Assembly 3pm
26 th June	Melbourn Village College Visit (Year 6)
29 th June to 1 st July	Trumpet Club Trip to The Sage Gateshead
1 st July	Open Evening – 6.30 to 8.00pm
1 st July	Sing Up (Year 3 & 4) MVC
2 nd July	Scarlet Class Assembly 3pm
3 rd July	Annual Reports
6 th to 10 th July	Hoodwinked Production Week (KS2)
8 th July	Parent Consultations
9 th July	Ruby Class Assembly 3pm
13 th July	Sports Day (PM)
15 th , 16 th , 17 th July	Residential Visit to Grafham (Year 4)
16 th July	Cobalt Class Assembly 3pm
16 th July	Leaver's Evening (Year 6)
17 th July	End of Summer Term
20 th July	Staff Training Day

affect school but be aware that the access area for this is in the “Spar” car park close to that school gate. Children should stay well clear of this area. The school will be having a drainage inspection on Tuesday 19th until Friday 22nd May, during this time the front gates will be closed. Please use the side gate and Spar entrances for these days.

EXTENDED SERVICES

Our range of clubs continues to grow with some activity taking place every day. A family survey carried out at the School Fair highlighted the need for clubs for Reception children, so we will be looking at that for the future. Our request about the need for after-school care fielded only 5 responses, so if you haven't yet contacted us to express an interest, please do so. We would need to demonstrate the need for at least 35 places before we could seriously look at this provision. A new Orienteering Club will take place later in the term, run by one of the school's Healthy Lifestyles Mentors, details to follow.

SCHOOL FAIR

Fortune smiled on us this year with the weather and the PTFA and school managed to raise close to £3000! This was a fantastic community event attended by many local residents including senior citizens and residents of Meldreth Manor. Our musicians “busked” and managed to raise over £50 “in the hat”. It was great to see them perform so confidently. Class stalls run by teachers and our children were well attended and raised plenty too. Many thanks to all sponsors (of raffle prizes), and to the PTFA, staff, children and community members who made this day such a success.



PTFA

I am please to announce that Mrs Caroline Roberts will take over as Chair of the PTFA with immediate effect following the departure of Mrs Jane Leach. The PTFA is a fantastic support to the school organising a number of events for your children throughout the year whilst raising a huge amount of money for the school. Our gratitude goes to Mrs Leach for being such a fantastic and productive Chair and we thank Mrs Roberts for stepping up from committee member to Chair and look forward to working with her. We are SO lucky to have such a pro-active PTFA and I know they are always on the lookout for new members, particularly from the younger classes, so go on sign up today!

SHOES

Please be reminded that when you are replacing school shoes for the summer these should be black either sandals or shoes but should for safety reasons attach securely to the foot.

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Our recently formed Partners in Learning staff group has been instrumental in setting up and running a KS1 Maths Games Library which is held after school each Monday in the Hall. This has been so successful that we plan to extend it to KS2 in September. Feedback from parents has been that there is the will to form a working group to develop ideas, alongside some Mathematics workshops for parents, so watch this space!

GO GO CRAZY BONES

Many of the children have been bringing in "Go Go Crazy Bones", the little plastic figures which can be played as a numbers and strategy game. Although we have had some problems with "swaps", I am loathe to ban them completely as game playing and turn taking form an important part in child development. Mrs Judith Garley, a new member of staff has kindly offered to run a "Go Go" Club for Y3/4 children with details to follow. Go Go's should only be sent in to school for this activity.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Just a reminder that our Class assemblies this term which run on a Thursday afternoon at 3pm, include an invitation to parents. Please see the diary date section for relevant dates. We look forward to seeing you there.

HOBBIES WEEK

During the week beginning 1st June 2009, the whole school will be involved in a "Hobbies Week". As part of this we intend to share/showcase skills and interests we are passionate about with the children, to provide the opportunity for them to learn something new. We are keen to involve people from the community too. So far we have various contributors, talking about subjects such as, our local swift colony and bird ringing, Indian Cookery and Floral Art, amongst others. If you or anyone you know in Melbourn or beyond has a skill or interest they would be willing to share, please do contact us. We can be flexible on timings and groupings so don't feel as if it needs to be something "big"! Please contact the office by Wednesday 20th May if you can help, as we really want to make this a community event as well as contributing to our aim of "making learning irresistible".

IN CONCLUSION

As you will now be aware, I am leaving the school in the summer due to changing family circumstances. The Governing Body is working on a strategy for appointing my successor and will be in touch with you soon to outline their plans. Many thanks to the large number of parents who have contacted me to give me their good wishes, as well as thanking me for the work I have done. I do appreciate it. Have a wonderful weekend.

Jacqueline Bell-Cook
Headteacher