

March Newsletter



Melbourn Primary School 5th March 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

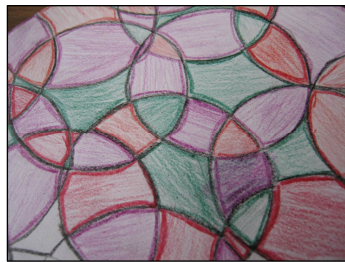
It is hard to believe that we are just over half way through this academic year and this is the 7th newsletter that I have written. The new build project that the school has been talking about for a number of years has begun and I am sure that this will bring its own challenges over the coming months.

Maths Week 2

This was our second “pause week” of this academic year. Children from across the school were engaged in a range of maths activities.



In Key Stage 2 children created treasure maps to practice their work on coordinates and plotting routes, took part in investigations where they had to work out all the possible outcomes in a logical and clear manner, designed their own board games which allowed them to practice different mathematical skills and produced scale plans for their ideal school. Across the whole school the children produced art work based on themes such as tessellation and symmetry. In Key stage 1 and Foundation pupils followed maths trails and created their own around the school grounds, recorded their sporting performance using stopwatches and measuring tapes and tried out different maths board games.



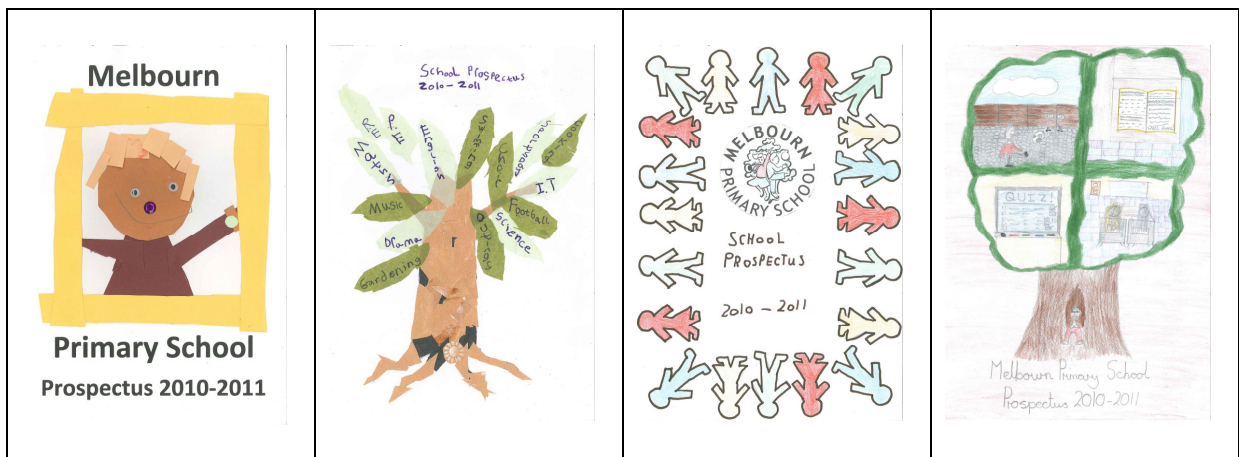
It was also great to see so many parents and children at the maths evening on Wednesday 24th February where written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division were shared. The booklet that was handed out at the evening will be available soon from the school office for anyone who was unable to attend the evening and eventually from the school website.

New Build

If everything has gone according to plan when you receive this newsletter the mobile classrooms that were moved onto the school site during February half term should have electricity, gas, water and steps. These rooms will be used to house Scarlet and Sapphire Classes when the main building project begins over the Easter holidays. The current plan is that after Easter access to the old block will be restricted to the hall. There will be a new entrance through the area that is currently Sapphire Class. The rest of the building will not be used as it is to be refurbished and turned into the Children’s Centre, Playgroup room, and staffroom.

School Brochure – Front Cover Competition

The response to the half term homework to create a new front cover for the school brochure was fantastic and selecting the winning entrants was extremely difficult but eventually we were able to select four covers that we will use next year. They are pictured over the page and special certificates were presented to the children in this week’s achievement assembly.



Melbourn Village Plan

The school has been contacted by the Melbourn Village Plan group to see if we can help them with 3 initiatives:-

1. To create a logo for the project – there are competition entry forms for this at the school office along with a post box for completed designs. All entries have to be handed in by the end of March.
2. Our Year 2 children will complete a short questionnaire about what they like about the village and what facilities they would like to see in the future.
3. A small user group is going to be established to make recommendations to the steering group about the play areas in the village. The group wish to hear the opinions of children and parents about the current play areas at Clear Crescent and the Moor. If your children regularly use these areas and you have a view about their condition or a view about how they can be improved then please contact: Peter Hills on 01763 262646 or email: melbourn.planning@googlemail.com.

Pirates on Parade

At the start of this week the school was invaded by marauding pirates as our Year 1 and 2 pupils began this half terms topic. The children clearly enjoyed the chance to dress up and the activities on offer during the day.

Safer Routes to School

In January many of you filled in maps showing how your children get to and return from school. This information was collected by Melanie Baker who is our Safer Routes to School Coordinator. What we now need to do is establish a working group made up of parents, the police and staff at the school to develop the project further. I already have one parent who is willing to be a member of this working group, two members of staff and one of the local PCSO's. However, it would be great to have two or three more parents who would be willing to join the group. Meetings will be held on a Thursday morning and the first meeting will be 18th March. If you are interested please let the school office know.



Breakfast Club

The school's breakfast club has almost been running a year and is slowly going from strength to strength, with increasing numbers of pupils using the club before school on a regular basis. The club is run by Mrs Bysouth, Mrs Evans and Mrs Townsend and opens at 7.55am. Children receive a

healthy breakfast and take part in a range of activities until 8.55am when they join the rest of their classmates and come into school. The cost for the hour is £3.50.

There is a second option where children can arrive at the club at 8.30am and not have breakfast but take part in the activities until school starts at 8.55am at a cost of £1.50. If you would like to make use of this club please sign up and pay at the school office in advance.

Financial Information

At the beginning of February, the school's financial arrangements were examined by an independent assessor and we were judged to have achieved the standard required by the Government's **Financial Management Standard in Schools**. This means that we have good arrangements in place for deciding what the school's budget is spent on and making sure that we get the best value possible for our money. Governors have prepared a summary of the school's finances in the last financial year so that you can see in general terms where our money comes from and how it is used, this can be found at the end of this newsletter.

And Finally...

It is token collecting time; both Sainsbury's and Tesco have started their sport and computers promotions again. The school does really benefit from these schemes and in the past has been able to "purchase" computer hardware, software and sports equipment. I am sure we will be able to rely on your support as we have done in the past. However in the interest of fairness other supermarkets are available!

Yours faithfully

Gary Casey
Acting Headteacher

2010 - Thursday 1st April - End of spring term

Monday 19th April - School closed for staff training

Tuesday 20th April - Summer term opens

Monday 3rd May - May Day Holiday

31st May - 4th June - Half term

Monday 7th June - School closed for staff training

Thursday 22nd July - End of summer term

Wednesday 1st September - School closed for staff training

Thursday 2nd September - Autumn term opens

25th to 29th October - Half Term

Friday 17th December - End of autumn term

2011 - Tuesday 4th January - School closed for staff training

Wednesday 5th January - Spring term starts

Friday 18th February - School closed for staff training

21st - 25th February - Half term

Friday 8th April - End of spring term

Tuesday 26th April - School closed for staff training

Wednesday 27th April - Summer term starts