

# January Newsletter



Melbourn Primary School 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010

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## Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable break and Father Christmas brought you everything you wished for. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as the school copes with the current snowfall. If the weather deteriorates during the school day we **will always stay open until 3.30pm** when the children would normally leave. However we may invite parents to collect their children earlier if they wish, at which time a comment will appear on the school web-site. At present the school does not have the facility to text parents with closure messages but this is something we will look into in the future.

## Christmas Nativity and Carol Concerts

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your kind comments about the children's performances at the end of term. Both the Reception / KS1 nativity and the KS2 carol service were performed to appreciative audiences and built upon the earlier Harvest Assemblies. The collections at the end of the Christmas performances raised £455.19 for the Friends of Chernobyl's Children. Thank you very much for your kind donations.

## S.E.A.L.

The school is to start delivering the Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning scheme (S.E.A.L.) as part of the curriculum. These lessons will encourage the children to develop a vocabulary and an ability to explain how they are feeling. They will be taught to develop strategies to deal with different situations such as losing their temper and setting their own goals and achieving them. During the spring term the whole school will cover 2 topics:-

- a) Getting on and falling out
- b) Going for goals

Weekly lessons will be supported by whole school assemblies and a standard approach used by teachers, teaching assistants and lunch time supervisors when dealing with issues between children on the playground. This programme of lessons has been implemented in schools across the county and the country with very positive results and we hope to achieve the same results at Melbourn Primary School. We will keep you informed about the progress the school is making and will be inviting you to join us for a special S.E.A.L. assembly at the end of the summer term.

## E-Mail

As we move further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century the government is keen to encourage schools to communicate with parents using e-mail. However, this appears to be causing us a few teething problems. A number of parents said they did not receive ticket request letters for the Christmas productions and attachments sometimes don't remain attached to e-mails that we send. To try and avoid these problems in the future we intend to follow the procedure below:-

- Parents who are not on the e-mail list will continue to receive paper copies of all letters via their youngest child if the letter is going out across the entire school or by a child in a particular year group if the activity is age specific.
- Letters that require no response from parents such as newsletters and information letters will be sent as an attachment to an e-mail from the school.
- Letters that need a reply slip to be returned to school will come home via your children but an e-mail will be sent to you explaining that a letter is on the way.

**Healthy Schools Status**

I am pleased to say that at the end of last term the school gained national Healthy School status, reflecting the schools efforts to encourage our pupils to follow a healthy lifestyle. I would like to thank Miss Moss, who began the process and Miss Rimmer for completing all the paper work involved in us achieving the award.

**Mrs Leadbeter**

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Mrs Leadbeter will not be returning to teach in Turquoise Class for the immediate future. I am certain you will join with me to wish Mrs Leadbeter a speedy recovery. In the meantime Mrs Bryant will continue to work in the class for 3 days per week and will be supported by Mrs Eldridge, who the children already know, until Mrs Benson returns to the school in February.

**After School Clubs**

After school clubs will start again during the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Letters about these clubs will be sent out before then allowing parents to sign their children up to the specific activity they would like to attend.

**And Finally...**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> December Mr Pudwell and myself took a 5 a side football team made up of year 5 and 6 pupils to Melbourn Village College to take part in a round robin competition with 4 other local primary schools. The team was made up of the following players Joshua Bates, Ben Greenaway Joshua Hutton, Cameron Montgomery, Fabian Wheeler and Theo Windred. The team played four games and showed great determination and resolve. Game 1 was against Meldreth School which we lost 2 – 0. Game 2, against Hauxton, was a 0 – 0 draw and the remaining 2 games against Harston and Fowlmere both ended in draws 1- 1 against Harston and 2 – 2 against Fowlmere. Our overall position at the end of the competition was 4<sup>th</sup>. The children thoroughly enjoyed the competition and Mr Pudwell was pleased with their team and individual performances.

Yours faithfully

Gary Casey  
Acting Headteacher

**2010** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February - School closed for staff training  
15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February - Half term  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April - End of spring term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - School closed for staff training  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Summer term opens  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - May Day Holiday  
31<sup>st</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> June - Half term  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - School closed for staff training  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - End of summer term

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September - School closed for staff training  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Autumn term opens  
25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October - Half Term  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December - End of autumn term