

# January Newsletter



31<sup>st</sup> January 2012

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Dear Parents, carers and friends,

I can hardly believe that we are already at the end of January; it seems a little late to say Happy New Year! I hope you all had a very special time at Christmas with friends and family; your children have enjoyed telling us about the many gifts they received.

2012 is set to be a very memorable year with the Olympics and Queen's *Golden Jubilee*. I have very vivid memories from my own childhood of the Queen's Silver Jubilee; I was devastated that I had chicken pox and couldn't go to the street party! We are already making plans to mark these occasions in school and hope they become part of the children's memories for positive reasons – preferably not illness!

## **New Topics**

In the holidays the staff in school worked hard to transform some of the corridors to set the scene for the new topics to be taught. I still keep walking into the pirate sleeping in his hammock when I show visitors around – even though I know he is there! The displays look fabulous and have helped to inspire the children's learning. The topics are particularly exciting this term as the children have been instrumental in choosing the focus of their learning. We launch each topic with a 'theme' or 'inspiration' day, when we immerse the children in a 'real' experience which inspires interest but also gives all children the same base on which to start their learning journey.

## **Foundation Patterns**

We had plenty of fun in Foundation during our Pattern Day! The children came dressed up in all sorts of patterns spots, zig zags, stripes and checks. We made patchwork Elmer elephants from milk bottles, painted rainbows and learnt about the famous artist Matisse who used tearing and cutting techniques to collage a snail.

## **Year 1 and 2 Hot! Hot! Hot!**

"We had a really good time at campfire day. We made a pretend fire. We got sticks and leaves. We gathered round. We had sandwiches and drinks. We brought blankets to keep us warm. We sang songs. We made pretend flames. We wore warm clothes". By Eddie



## **Year 3 and 4**

"On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January years 3 and 4 experienced an earthquake. We had to get under our desks. We learnt the safety procedures which are duck, hold, and cover. We got our sleeping bags or blankets (which we brought to school just in case an earthquake happened.) Our teacher yelled to the whole class "go to the safety room sensibly!" When we got there we found some people in the medics. We lay our sleeping bags and blankets out and found out what our jobs were. The jobs were rations, registration monitors, reporters, toilet monitors, medics, photographers and entertainers". By Grace

## **Year 5 and 6**

"Argghh! It be pirate day – Ahoy me hearties! Presently I'm still recovering from Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of January's events. On that day in Melbourn Primary School Year 5 – 6 all became pirates for a day to prepare them for our topic ahead. Here are my two favourite activities.

*To begin with, I'll tell you about fencing where we were taught how to swashbuckle. To warm up we ran around the hall, then we were given foil swords, and had to sidestep around with our foil facing the ground. Then we learnt how to parry and lunge. I paired up with Ryan and started to duel. Our first match was really nerve racking and halfway through I fell backwards onto a mat! Eventually I started my winning streak winning 3-2, then, 5-3 and finally 5-2!*

*From time to time I really appreciate drama as it lets you be free and let our imagination be wild. That's why I chose drama as my second activity. I had to start by telling a story of how I got a map before being allocated captain and leading a mutiny. The mutineers had to tap all of the crew members on the elbow and the crew had to tap us on the shoulder, I killed the captain Olivia and won the mutiny. We then had to row off to find the treasure. Even though the crew docked first and nearer to the treasure we still found it first.*

*As you can see we all enjoyed pirate day thoroughly and enjoyed the activities. I came third in the treasure hunt! I'm now ready for the term ahead. By Oliver*

### **Year 6 SATs evening**

Thank you to all those parents and children who attended the year 6 SATs workshop. We were very encouraged with the response and thrilled that we had to find more chairs! In response to comments from some parents we will be offering some additional tutoring sessions, after half-term, for parents and year 6 children who would like to come and work together at school. Details will be sent later.

### **Book Week**

Mrs Burlingham and Mrs Coleman are busy organising a fun packed 'Book Buster' week. We literally have something for every day of the week, including a visiting theatre group, a visit from James Mayhew – author and illustrator, a team book quiz, an event for pre-school children and a "come to school dressed as a book character" day; I can't wait! (My character was in a book before a film – there's a prize for the child that can name the book and author)



### **Team Art Afternoon**

I hope you have noticed the stunning displays in the hall. We had a very busy art afternoon in our house teams when the children created the work and I am sure you will agree that they transform the hall. If you haven't seen them – look out for them at Parent's Evening.

### **Head lice**

Please remember to check your child's once a week to help keep Melbourn 'nit' free!

Head lice tip: When screening for head lice infestations, remember that female lice lay their eggs, or "nits," in the hair. The nits adhere to the base of the hair shaft and hatch within three days to two weeks. Look for the nits along the nape of the neck and in the hairline behind the ears.

### **Entrance to the School Office**

To improve security at the front of the school we have had a new lock fitted between the reception lobby and the corridor beside the hall. If you need to go to the school office please enter by the front door at Mortlock Street.

### **Some reminders**

Please make sure your child has a named coat in school – we still go out to play in light rain and it is currently too cold to be outside without a coat.

If your child is unwell and vomits – please remember that the rule is that they do not return to school for *48 hours* after the sickness has stopped.

### ***Computer Games / Films***

It has come to my attention that some of the older boys in particular are playing on computer games involving warfare, with an 18 certificate. The age limit is there for a reason and the content is not considered suitable for primary aged children. We are seeing pupils acting out violence, talking with reference to killing and warfare and using language that I don't believe even adults should be using. As a parent myself, I think we should consider the consequences of allowing our children to play on these games; I am very concerned about the effects they have.

### ***You told us ..... so we have .....***

A number of parents have commented that the open classroom on a Thursday wasn't inclusive to parents who work on that day, so we decided to vary the open classroom day. We were pleased to see some of you on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and look forward to seeing you next on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

### ***And finally***

In preparation for 'Book Busters' I have been contemplating which book of the many I own would I say was my favourite? I have found this almost impossible to answer: I have my favourite book from my childhood; favourite that I read to my children; favourite novel; favourite cookery book and so it goes on.... ....Could you decide on one favourite book? I think we might need to do a poll of the primary school's favourite reads, what would yours be?

### **Dates**

- 10<sup>th</sup> February – School closed for staff training
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term
- 16<sup>th</sup> March – PTFA Spring Disco
- 16<sup>th</sup> March - PTFA Mother's Day Market
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Class Photographs
- 30<sup>th</sup> March – End of Spring Term
- 16<sup>th</sup> April – Summer term opens
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June – Half Term
- 20<sup>th</sup> July – End of Summer Term
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July – School closed for staff training

Best Wishes

Stephanie Wilcox  
Headteacher