

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

### Dates for your diary:

Monday 9th February	Parent interviews main school
Wednesday 11th February	Parent interviews main school
Tuesday 10th February	Class and individual photos
Friday 13th February	School closes for half term
Tuesday 24th February (8:30am)	School reopens
Wednesday 25th February	Paul Geraghty (author) visit Preschool parent interviews
Thursday 26th February	Preschool parent interviews
Saturday 28th February (1:30pm)	Parkside 7-a-side football tournament (Yr2)
Monday 2nd March	Nursery induction for Summer Term entrants
w/c Monday 2nd March	Future school interviews with Mrs. Harvey (Yr1 parents)
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Monday 9th March	Romans workshop in school (Yr2)
Thursday 12th March	Parents Meeting - School development
Friday 20th March	Open Morning
Monday 23rd March (2pm)	Music concert – Reception in hall
Tuesday 24th March (2pm)	Music concert – Year 1 in hall
Wednesday 25th March (2pm)	Music concert – Year 2 in hall
Thursday 26th March (noon)	School closes
Wednesday 22nd April (8:30am)	School reopens

### UNIFORM

May I remind you that the school winter uniform must be worn at all times this term. School scarves and grey or purple gloves/mittens only please. All items must be clearly named. Coats should be fastened when children arrive at school. Sports kit needs to be in school on the relevant day, regardless of the weather. The winter woolly hat keeps the children wonderfully warm at playtime and can be worn in place of the school hat during the spring term only when the weather can be bitterly cold. Please remember that long trousers and tights are only allowed during severe weather conditions.

### REGISTRATION FOR WGS

If you wish to register a sibling for the Nursery or Kindergarten class in September 2009, please contact Mrs. Skivington without delay as places are limited and offers are going out to prospective pupils in the next few weeks.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS ON TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

Class group photographs will be taken on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February alongside individual photographs of each child. We are experimenting with a new company who work solely within the independent sector and their portfolio of work is very exciting and we think you will be pleased with the results.

All children should come to school in their full uniform this day, bringing their PE kit to school if they require it that day. Please ensure your son wears a long sleeved white shirt. Thank you.

The Nursery children will not have individual photographs on this day. Their photos will be taken on April 30<sup>th</sup> by Aztec photographs who we used in the Nursery for the first time last year and whose product appeared to be very popular with parents.

## **PARENT INTERVIEWS**

Thank you for making your appointment to meet your child's teacher. Preschool meetings will also be held in the main school.

## **LETTERS FOLLOWING ABSENCE**

Just a reminder that we do need a note explaining a child's absence. This should be sent into school on the day the child returns. We require a note even though you have emailed or telephoned the school to report the absence. Thank you

## **TURNING CIRCLE**

All parents are reminded of the essential rules for safety in the turning circle. There is no facility for parking in this area **at any time**. The few parking spaces at the side of the driveway are for staff parking only. It is essential the circle is accessible at all times for emergency vehicle access, not only for the school but for 'The Retreat'. Cars parking, reversing etc. are an extremely dangerous hazard and threaten the safety of everyone entering the area.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

Just advance warning that the school will be celebrating world book day on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>. All children are invited to dress as their favourite book character on this day!

*From Mrs. Harvey.....The Spring term got off to a busy start with children from Year 2 continuing to visit future schools for their assessments. I have received confirmation of many offers of places and hope to publish a full list on the next newsletter. As this term progresses we expect to see consolidation of concepts already taught and enjoyment in learning as new challenges are set. I continue to monitor all children's work and am very pleased with the standards being reached across various aspects of the curriculum in the main school. It has also been a pleasure to listen to Year 1 children read to me and to be able to reflect on the enormous improvement they have made and also their enthusiasm for reading.*

*Traditionally the spring term has been dedicated to Year 1 parents to discuss future schools option. However in view of my recent letter, stating our intention to offer an all through curriculum to Year 6 and the very positive feedback we have already received, some parents may not need an appointment with me this term. Details and plans about the school's future will be presented at the meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.*

*This term year group assemblies with me have focused on our Christian ethos whilst celebrating other cultures. Last week pre-school children delighted us with their Chinese New Year Assembly, sharing their red lanterns, dragon dance, Chinese New Year Story and good luck envelops. Reception classes cooked Chinese food to enjoy with each other, whilst Years 1 & 2 retold the story through words and pictures using information from the library, materials that children brought to school and also their interactive whiteboards. Our recent Ofsted Report acknowledges the outstanding provision made in this area of the curriculum and the positive impact on learning, relationships and personal development of our pupils who have a strong moral sense and a real desire to be kind, helpful and get on with another. The Golden Rules emphasise our aims that children work and play in harmony, being respectful of each other's needs.*

*Links with the local community in Weston Green and Thames Ditton are very important to us and we endeavour to support and work alongside our neighbours. Father Philip was at school last Friday to share the story of Candlemas with all children in the main school at our Friday assembly. Also children from Year 2 classes visited the Vera Fletcher Hall to watch an excellent production of the Snow Queen.*

*Finally thank you all for passing on the messages re the enforced school closure earlier this week. May I remind you that messages are left by the school on the website in the 'news' section which appears under the 'information' heading. Everyone is happy to be back in school today after the excitement of the extended weekend.*