

Market Harborough Church of England Primary School



Newsletter January 13th 2012

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to another exciting term at C of E. I know it was hard work carrying on almost until Christmas Eve, but I think it was worth it in the end – children and staff all came back looking like they had really had a proper holiday!

One member of staff added another celebration to the Christmas festivities and I'm sure you'd like to join me in congratulating Mr Nick Lee on his very recent marriage, and in wishing him and his wife Lucie a long and happy life together.

We are planning to make a real effort this year to make our grounds as exciting and enticing as the inside of our school, and we would really appreciate your help. You may have noticed that some of the smaller grassy spaces have been taped off and we'd be very grateful if you could make sure that children don't tamper with the tapes or go on these bits of ground because we'd like to be able to re-seed them in the Spring. We are also hoping to put in a bid for some funding to improve our courtyard, and turn it into a Garden of Peace and Contemplation. If you have a flair for garden design, or know someone else who has and would be interested in helping a group of children plan a re-vamp, please contact either me or Mr Flynn. And finally if you're a keen gardener and find yourself with spare cuttings or seedlings later in the term, any donations would be very gratefully received – some of our tubs are looking very sorry for themselves.

Please be on the look out for a letter about changes to the policy for dinner money debt. Responsibility for this has been transferred from the Local Authority to the school and the letter will explain the changes in detail, but I would like to pre-empt it by explaining their potential impact on your child and on our school. The changes will almost certainly increase admin duties for our office staff and will leave the school liable for any outstanding debts. There is no funding in the budget to meet these debts, so this means that money which has to be paid out for them will have an impact on **every** child, whether it means fewer books, fewer visits or fewer playground toys.

As well as the January and February dates, we have a number of clubs starting over the next week or so – all the information is on the attached sheet.

Successes, Achievements and just Plain Fun ~

On 8th February we'll be taking part again in the annual Sign to Sing world record attempt, and over the next few Wednesdays Mrs Rodi will be teaching the children to sign a brand new song ready for the attempt. It can be difficult sometimes to copy the signs exactly from the DVD, so if you know British Sign Language yourself or know someone else who can sign, and would be able to spare us half an hour or so on a Wednesday morning, it would be lovely to know that we were getting it right!

The girls' football team have already been in action this week with the first of their league games held at Harborough Town football club yesterday afternoon, but because of a problem with the floodlights, in the end the girls played in almost total darkness! Even so, we were awarded an automatic win because Kibworth pulled out of the competition, and Yasmin Flint and India Evans scored the goals against Badgerbrook in the game we did play, so 8 points out of 8 – what a great start!

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Reminders

Please remember that although the school system has changed significantly from this term, under 5s are still entitled to free school milk, but this must now be ordered online.

And please could you let the school office know by next Tuesday (if you have not already done so) if you as a family have an income of less than £16,190 and are entitled to benefits, so that the information on our census return, and the amount of school budget we receive, are both accurate.

Unlike some schools, we do allow you to take photos of your children taking part in school productions, but as we say at the start of every concert, these should be for personal family use *only*, and we have asked quite specifically that they are not posted on social media sites. As a school we have to seek permission before any photos are published, and therefore we are responsible for any photos taken in school. We would like to continue to offer this opportunity to you because it's lovely to capture those memories, but if we think that children's safety could be compromised we may have to reconsider our position.

What the Children Say...

We are very lucky to have so many helpers at our school, but I don't think there can be any mistaking who the favourite ones are in 4BT and 1AP. The children in these two classes have two very special four-legged friends, Pugly and Ruby, who help them to learn all sorts of things, in all sorts of different ways.

Mia Whitmore and Megan Burford sum up their visit from Miss Pickett's dog - Pugly Pug - and I have to say that watching the children snuggle him in blankets and read him stories was an utter joy to behold!

"I liked Pugly because he was funny. He was soft and had a wrinkly face and a curly tail."

"Pugly liked being stroked and liked playing with the children."

And the children in Miss Taylors' class also love having Ruby in with them – I had lots of comments but these ones really stood out:

Joshua Pollard ~ "I like Ruby coming in because I don't have a dog and I would really like one."

Lora Barber ~ "I like Ruby coming in because she makes me feel more confident when I meet new people and do new things."

Nathan Keenoo ~ "I like Ruby coming because it makes me work quicker so I can stroke her."

Attendance

Week beginning 12th December
Best class attendance ~ 4BT 100%
Whole school attendance ~ 93.4%

Week beginning 19th December
Best class attendance ~ 1CB 97.9%
Whole school attendance ~ 90.1%

Class of the Half Term ~ 1CB 97.7%
Class of the Term ~ 1CB 4BT 4SB 97.1%
Whole School Attendance – Autumn Term ~ 93.3%

Sue Bovill

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January Dates

Tuesday 17 th	FS & Y6 – Height and Weight check Y2 Parent Information meeting, 2.40pm Y2 classrooms (please sign in at office)
Monday 23 rd	Fairtrade Steering Group, 3.30 – 4.30pm Fun & Families (1 st of 7 sessions), 7pm Art Block
Thursday 26 th	Girls and Mums' Maths is Fun, 5 – 6pm Y5 classrooms PTA Mad Science Family Night, 6.30 – 7.45pm Hall
Week beginning 30 th	Life Education Centre visit
Monday 30 th	Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block
Tuesday 31 st	4BT Class Assembly, 9.15am

February Dates

Thursday 2 nd	Green Team, 3.30 – 4.30pm Lads and Dads' Literacy Rocks, 5 – 6pm
Friday 3 rd	Y6 Parents' SATs Information Evening, 6pm Art Block
Sunday 5 th	Education Sunday
Week beginning 6 th	Starwalker Week
Monday 6 th	Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block
Tuesday 7 th	2HM Class Assembly, 9.15am
Wednesday 8 th	Sign 2 Sing record attempt, whole school Parents' Evening Y6 only , 3.30 – 7pm

Half Term – Monday 13th to Friday 17th February

The following clubs are running from week beginning 16th January:

Monday

KS2 Science, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by Y4/5 door

Y5/6 Cookery, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by Y3 door

Tuesday

Y5/6 Cookery, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by Y3 door

Music Ensemble, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by Y4/5 door
Confirmation letters will be sent separately

Needlework, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by Art Block door

FS – Y3 Multisports, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by main entrance

Wednesday

Y3/4 Dance, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by Art Block door
Flyers are being sent out tonight

KS2 Homework, 3.30 – 4.15pm Leave by Y4/5 door

If your child is already on the Homework Club register they will need to let Mrs Holton know if they are coming – thank you

Hotshots Basketball, 3.20 – 4.10pm Leave by main entrance

Thursday

KS2 Dodgeball, 3.30 – 4.30pm Leave by main entrance

Friday

All Years Fun & Fitness, 8.00 – 8.45am