

Market Harborough Church of England Primary School



Newsletter 28th October 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all managed to get out somewhere during last week's glorious weather because despite the fact that my clematis and rosebush are still throwing out new buds, it looks like Autumn has well and truly arrived.

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Silvester would like to say a big 'well-done' to all our Foundation children who have settled in so quickly after the half term break. And an equally big thank you to everyone for making sure that children get off their bikes and scooters when they come into the playground.

Please have all photo orders in to the school office by Monday, as the parcel is being collected first thing Tuesday morning. The take-up has been good but we have received one complaint directly about the quality, and the office would welcome any other feedback – good or bad – as we need to book the photographers well in advance and any widespread dissatisfaction would clearly influence our choice.

We are extremely lucky to have so much support from you all and we are grateful to the growing number of parents who volunteer to help in school, but you can never have too many extra hands. So I'd like to make a plea on behalf of Y4 and Y1 in particular, who are desperately in need of day-to-day classroom help – changing books, putting letters in book bags etc. These are very important tasks but they take up a lot of time and take staff away from direct support of children's learning. Even if you could only spare an hour or two a week, you would be welcomed with open arms! Please talk to Miss Pickett, Miss Booth or Miss Taylor if you think you might be able to help. CRB checks for volunteers are free.

We have nearly a page full of dates already for the remainder of this term – please see the attached list...

Successes, Achievements and just Plain Fun ~

Our Harvest fundraiser showed once more what a caring and generous school community we have, with £158.92 being raised for TreeAid.

We are very proud of the way the school is establishing and growing its links with the local community, and of local recognition of our commitment to sustainability and 'green' issues. This week Y3 were invited on a tour of the local Co-op to see at first hand how the business has become the first of its kind to send **absolutely nothing** to landfill. (See 'What the Children Say' overleaf).

KS2 had a wonderful time on Wednesday morning thanks to Mrs Rodi and Mrs Guiver, who spent the weekly singing session teaching the children an Indian bhangra dance to acknowledge Diwali Day – unfortunately I didn't get to join in but they did call me through to watch the final performance and it was quite wonderful!

Reminders

Please remember that the allotments are private property; there is no access for public parking, and also that parking in between the school gates puts everybody at risk. It is embarrassing for everyone concerned to have to ask parents to move their cars, but our children's safety must come first.

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If you have any outgrown items of uniform (but not white polo shirts!), please bring them in to the school office by Thursday of next week, ready for the second-hand uniform sale at the PTA coffee morning on 7th November.

The next two parent/child workshops run by Mrs Fellows and Mr Flynn are as follows:

Dads and Lads' 'Literacy Rocks'	22 nd November	5 – 6pm School Hall
Mums and Girls' Maths	29 th November	5 – 6pm School Hall

The next Fairtrade snack bar will on Friday 4th November. We are waiting to hear whether our recent application for renewal of our Fairtrade status has been accepted. I am sure Miss Stephens will let you know as soon as it is confirmed, and I would like to thank her for all her effort and commitment to this very worthwhile cause.

Please don't forget to return your annual data collection sheet to the office as soon as possible – we have already had incidents of being unable to contact parents because phone numbers were out of date.

School Food Support Service are looking for casual helpers in the kitchen. If you are interested please contact the school office.

What the Children Say... Year 3

Year 3 visited the Co-op on Wednesday afternoon and Andy the manager spoke to us. The Co-op NEVER put any of their waste into landfill. All their waste is recycled or re-used and they are the first retailer in the UK to do this.

The Co-op's food waste is put through a machine which strips off all the wrappings, heats up the old food and uses the methane that's given off, to make electricity. The final waste product is made into pig food!

The Co-op sorts all its waste into cages down in the stockroom and this gets taken every week to be recycled. All in all, 9 million litres of waste is saved annually from going to landfill.

As well as supporting Fairtrade farmers, the Co-op sells One Foundation Water and they donate 3p for every litre to The Foundation. In turn, Play Pumps are installed in countries where there is no access to clean water. The One Foundation installs the pumps which are actually roundabouts so that as the children turn them and have fun, so clean water is brought to the surface!

Year 3 was amazed by the Co-op's actions and wondered we didn't know about them before. Each child was given a goody-bag which contained Fairtrade chocolate, a bottle of One Foundation Water, a question sheet and a competition sheet.

Attendance	
Week beginning 12 th September Best class attendance ~ 2HM 98.6% Whole school attendance ~ 93.4%	Week beginning 19 th September Best class attendance ~ 2HM 4SB 100% Whole school attendance ~ 94.2%
Week beginning 26 th September Best class attendance ~ 2HM 99.1% Whole school attendance ~ 93.9%	Week beginning 3 rd October Best class attendance ~ 2HM 3JG 4SB 100% Whole school attendance ~ 94.2%
Week beginning 10 th October Best class attendance ~ 4SB 98.4% Whole school attendance ~ 93%	Class of the Half Term ~ 4SB 98.4% Whole school attendance ~ 93.6%

October Dates

Sunday 30th – Friday 4th November Y6 Kingswood Residential
Monday 31st Parents' Evening FS – Y5
Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block

November Dates

Wednesday 2nd Parents' Evening FS – Y5
No Homework Club (resumes 9th November)
Thursday 3rd Green Team, 3.30 – 4.30pm
Friday 4th Bonfire Theme Lunch
Monday 7th PTA FS / New Parents' Coffee Morning
& second-hand uniform sale, 9am Art Block
Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block
Wednesday 9th FS New Parents' Visit (FULL)
Friday 11th Y3 to Memorial Service, Town Square
Week beginning Monday 14th Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 14th Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block
Tuesday 15th 3HS Class Assembly, 9.15am
Thursday 17th Y2 Christmas Craft Club, 3.30 – 4.15pm Art Block
Friday 18th Children in Need Theme Lunch
Monday 21st Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block
Tuesday 22nd 6CR Class Assembly, 9.15am
FS New Parents' Visit, 2pm
Thursday 24th Konflux Theatre – Cyber-Bullying Show
Y2 Christmas Craft Club, 3.30 – 4.15pm Art Block
Monday 28th Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block
Tuesday 29th 1CB Class Assembly, 9.15am

December Dates

Thursday 1st Green Team
Friday 2nd Y3 Beaumanor WWII day
Monday 5th Fun & Families, 7pm Art Block
Tuesday 6th Y5 Year Group Assembly, 9.15am
KS1 Nativity, 6.30pm
Wednesday 7th FS New Parents' Visit, 11am
KS1 Nativity, 2pm
Thursday 8th Y2 Christmas Craft Club, 3.30 – 4.15pm Art Block
Friday 9th PTA Christmas Fair, 3 – 4.30pm
Tuesday 13th KS2 Carol Service, 7pm St Dionysius
Thursday 15th KS2 Swimming Gala
FS Nativity, 2pm
Tuesday 20th School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21st Y6 Beaumanor Victorian Christmas
Thursday 22nd End of Term Service, 9.30am St Dionysius

Thursday 22nd December, 3.15pm – End of Term
School opens Monday 9th January 2012