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Newsletter 39

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Parents / Carers

### **OFSTED update**

As the end of this academic year approaches I would like to give an update on the progress we have made with addressing the main issues for the school following our OFSTED inspection in September. The following areas for development were identified by inspectors:

- Improve the consistency and quality of marking to ensure that all pupils understand how to improve
- Produce a revised and more detailed school development plan, focusing more precisely on raising attainment for all groups of pupils
- Raise standards in mathematics across the school, particularly for middle-ability pupils, by ensuring that tasks are accurately matched to pupils' capabilities.

A new marking policy was developed by the school immediately after OFSTED and the implementation of this policy has been monitored to ensure that pupils understand how to improve. A revised, and streamlined, school development plan has been produced with fewer priorities than in previous years, but each priority has been considered in greater depth and detail. In recent newsletters I have reported on our end of key stage results, and we have been very pleased with the standards achieved in maths. We consider that these results demonstrate steady improvement in maths and have analysed achievements for different groups. When OFSTED return, we hope that the actions we have taken since the inspection will be considered to have addressed issues.

As you know we participated in the 2010 KS2 SATs boycott and therefore these results are unvalidated. It is possible that OFSTED will complete a monitoring visit for schools who participated in the boycott next year and therefore I have asked all staff to hold onto a sample of books for children of all abilities which we will be able to make available to OFSTED should we receive a visit.

### **Reports**

Reports and class lists will be given out on Wednesday. Please do complete the acknowledgement slip accompanying reports as we do value the feedback given. Children will be given an opportunity to be with their new teachers and classes on Thursday.

### **Staffing**

We are saying goodbye to Claire Marchant who is retiring. Claire has been an inspirational member of staff to work alongside and she will be greatly missed by staff and children alike for her enthusiasm and dedication. Lyn Gray is also leaving us – she has been offering one day a week with the Y1/2 class for this term, and I would like to thank her for settling into this role so easily. Hopefully we will be able to maintain an association with both of these members of staff. Adam Hardman visited the school last week and will again be with us on Thursday of this week so he can meet with his new Y1/2 class.

I am aware that it has not gone unnoticed that Anna Bayly's waistline has been expanding and am delighted to be able to announce for Anna that she is pregnant. Anna will continue to work as a class teacher until the start of November. I am currently meeting with potential applicants to cover Anna's maternity leave. A second member of staff, Kate Harbour (finance officer) is also pregnant and will also be starting her maternity leave in the second half of the autumn term. I am currently recruiting for her replacement. I hope to be able to announce both of these appointments before the autumn half term.

Emma Hussey will be reducing her days to four days a week next term and Lara Comport will be covering her one day a week. It is always reassuring to have a 'familiar face' return to the school and we are very fortunate to have this happen so frequently.

### **Sports day**

Thank you very much to parents / carers who came to our sports day last week and helped to create such a positive atmosphere. Claire Keith was responsible for organising this event and I would like to thank her for her hard work.

### **Guitar performance**

We would like to congratulate the group of Y4 children who played the guitar in the Richmond Music Trusts 'Big Racket 2' rock concert at St Mary's University College on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July in the evening. They were part of a large ensemble including: guitars, ukuleles, percussions and keyboards, playing many tunes including Tubular Bells, My Little Suede Shoes, Summer Holiday and Another One Bites the Dust. It was a great atmosphere and the children played and sang very well.

### **North Road library**

We are all very aware of the many cuts that are being made to a range of services and the small library at the top of North Road could face being closed down. It would be greatly appreciated if support could be shown for the library, especially over the summer holiday. Please do visit the library and find out about the range of services that they offer. It would be a loss to the local community if this library were to close.

### **End of term**

Several Y6 events are occurring in this last week:

- Monday: Y6 afternoon performance
- Tuesday: Y6 evening performance
- Thursday: Y6 leavers' assembly (9.10am start)

These events are open to the whole school community and I hope that many of you will be able to attend.

All that remains is for me to wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday. Children in Y1 – Y6 return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Children in the nursery and reception have a staggered return and dates for this should have been provided. If you are unsure about when your child returns to school please ask at the school office.



**If you require this newsletter or any school documentation in larger print please ask at the school office.**