



Darell Primary School, Darell Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4LQ
Website: www.darell.richmond.sch.uk E-mail: info@darell.richmond.sch.uk



Newsletter 39

Monday 18th July 2011

Dear Parents / carers

Farewell

One of my wisest decisions over the last eight years was to end the coconut dance tradition for staff who are leaving. As a result, I am able to leave with my dignity relatively intact! I have enjoyed my eight years at Darell enormously and have been very proud of the provision for children during this time. I am particularly pleased to be able to leave the school having managed to oversee many improvements to the building, including some less obvious improvements such as a new flat roof, new fire escape and new windows. I am slightly disappointed not to be in post to oversee the completion of our new unit, main entrance and administrative block, but hope to be back for a 'grand opening'. I remain the Headteacher of Darell until the end of August when hopefully much of this work will be completed. It is also really pleasing to leave with such strong results from Y6 and to know that our maths results, in particular, have been greatly improved. I have always felt very appreciated by the school community and would like to thank the staff, children and families that I have worked with over the last eight years.

Building update

It will now be obvious to all that the building project has started in earnest. The reception toilets have been demolished and work is underway to create our new unit. Over the holiday contractors will also try to complete the office spaces. This work was scheduled for the Autumn and if it is possible to complete during the summer holiday it will reduce disruption to the school later in the year. This will mean that over the holiday it will not be possible to access the main entrance to the school and the entrance by the school kitchen will be used. When the school re-opens in September we anticipate that the way in will be through the new food technology area (previously the external door to the small hall). Hopefully this will be for a relatively short amount of time while the new main entrance is completed.

The building work is not the only work being completed during the holiday. We are having built in storage constructed in nearly every classroom. This will result in rooms having furniture stored in the centre of each room and some rooms need to be fully emptied. There are limited spaces for furniture to be stored and we will use the large hall for this purpose. We would like to start sorting classrooms on Thursday after school and therefore the hall will be out of action on Friday. **As a result we would like to ask that all children bring a packed lunch on this day (Friday)**, which hopefully can be eaten outside if weather is good, or alternatively in classrooms if needed. We will carry forward a credit for families who pay for school meals or reimburse costs to families whose children are leaving. If families who are in receipt of free school meals would like a packed lunch provided please let Shelley know tomorrow (Tuesday). We would also appreciate any help with packing up classrooms and if any parents / carers can offer to assist, either on the Thursday after school or during the day on Friday, please let class teachers know who can consider what they need doing. Many thanks.

Leavers performance

Y6 are performing their Alice in Wonderland performance this afternoon and on Tuesday evening. During these performances there will be a collection for Cancer Research.

Leavers assembly

Y6 will be holding their last assembly on Thursday 21st July at 9.10am. Parents / carers are welcome to attend. With the hall being out of action on Friday this will be the last assembly of the year. At this assembly governors will also ask parents / carers to complete the Y6 questionnaire to inform governors of views on a range of areas.

Staffing

Rebecca Tucker will be leaving on Thursday of this week as she is attending training at her new school on Friday. Harriet Jenkins has been appointed as the new Y1 teacher. Harriet was able to visit the school last week and meet with some of the children she will be working with next year.

Jeff Thompson will also be leaving at the end of this term. Jeff has worked extremely well with the Y1/2 class during this last half term and in the short time that he has been with us has been fully involved in the life of the school. Patrice Fentiman will be responsible for the Y1/2 class next year. Patrice is best known to the school as one of our teaching assistants, but is an overseas qualified teacher. She trained in America and has previously taught in another Richmond school for 2 years. She is known to children and is knowledgeable about the ethos and approach of the school, and is a skilled maths teacher.

Laura Whateley was involved with both of these appointments with the Senior Management Team when she visited previously to interview candidates. Laura joins the school as Headteacher in September and I know that she will be made to feel welcome by the school community. I am sure that everyone will find her approachable.

Reports

You will be aware that we have devised a new format for reports which we would appreciate some feedback on. Please complete slips commenting on the format as well as the content regarding children's achievement.

Governors' review

Governors have produced a review of the year with each committee providing an account of achievements over the year, which will be distributed this week. I would like to thank governors for their hard work and involvement in the life of the school.

PTA

I would also like to thank the PTA for all of their help over the year and for making such a contribution to the school. The PTA will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 13th September at 8.00pm, so please put this date in your diary.

End of term

Please remember that Friday 22nd July is the children's last day at school and they finish at the usual time. I hope that you all have a lovely summer holiday and wish you all the best for the future. The children return to school on Wednesday 7th September.

For Sale

Izaak, John and Judi are moving back to Australia and need to leave behind a number of household goods. If you are interested in any items 10% will go to PTA.

Bookshelves £7 and £5, standard lamps x 2 £5, small drawers two and three drawers £10, SAD lamp £20, fan £7, sideboard £5, office desk (black) £15, shredder, printer and table £15.

Kitchen items: cutlery £5, crockery (plain white) £5, microwave £10, coffee machine £10, pots, pans and utensils £15 the lot.

Vax wet/dry vacuum cleaner £20, portable clothes line £7, clothes iron £5. And other stuff....

Phone Judi: 07861 416615

Laura Khalil
Headteacher

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