

**URSULA TAYLOR C of E LOWER  
SCHOOL**

6<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**The New Year**

On behalf of the staff I would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

We ended last term with many children suffering from sickness and flu-like symptoms. We do everything possible within school to minimise and prevent the spread of infection, but we are aware of the increase in flu and other illnesses this winter. For you as parents and carers the advice from the health protection agency is that children should be kept away from school until they have been **clear of symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting for at least 48 hours.**

**Please also inform us on the first morning of absence of your child's illness and whether it is a sickness and vomiting bug.**

**Perseverance**

Just to remind you that the school value for January is perseverance. As part of their PSHE children are being encouraged to think about one goal which they would like to work towards using perseverance. Please could you discuss this with them. This may be a goal they want to work towards at home and we would certainly appreciate any feedback on their progress towards their goal!

In our Collective Worship we shall be hearing stories from the Bible which demonstrate perseverance, but it would also be great if children could share any examples of members / friends of their families who have shown perseverance.

**Supporting children's learning**

One of our school priorities for this year is to improve children's mental calculation skills i.e using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Years 1 and 2 teachers would like to express their appreciation for parental support for the half termly numeracy focus. We are extending this to Years 3 and 4 and ask that parents support their children's practice of their half termly focus / target. Years 3 and 4 staff will be sending home information on this shortly.

Please can I remind you of the huge importance of ensuring that your child reads regularly at home. Although children read a variety of materials each day in class, the encouragement of reading and the enjoyment of books at home makes so much difference to a child's progress.

***WANT TO BE ABLE TO HELP YOUR  
KIDS WITH MATHS OR JUST BRUSH  
UP YOUR SKILLS?***

**Starts Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at  
Sharnbrook Upper School**

**Time 6-8pm 12 week course**

**City & Guilds Level 1 or 2 qualification**

**Book your place by 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served**

**Contact Debbie Murphy 01234 291362**

**[dmurphy@bedford.ac.uk](mailto:dmurphy@bedford.ac.uk)**

**Dates for this term:-**

Year 4 Visit to Captain Safety Performance – 24<sup>th</sup> January (Letter to follow)

Half Term – 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive) PLUS – Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February  
(Staff Training Day)

Sports Festival – Kingfishers – 16<sup>th</sup> March (Letter to follow)

Parents' Consultations – 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March (3.45-6.00pm)

Last day of term – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April