

URSULA TAYLOR VC LOWER SCHOOL

15th July 2009 Newsletter

On behalf of all staff I would like to wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer and to thank you all for your support over the past year. In particular I would like to thank members of the PTFA who have worked tirelessly to raise funds for the school and to provide facilities for our learning environment. Our thanks and best wishes go to Mrs Gristwood who has worked so hard as Chair of the PTFA and will now be leaving Clapham with her family for pastures new in Rome. We are very grateful for all the time that has been given over the years. I would also like to thank all those of you who have helped in school with guided reading, swimming, cooking, school visits and other activities, too many to name. We also wish to thank the Governing Body who have supported, challenged and encouraged us all to do our very best for the children of this school. I would like to pay tribute to all members of staff who have worked so hard to bring out the very best in each and every child, but made so worthwhile by the enthusiasm of all our children. In this newsletter I have included some of the events of this term and achievements of this school year.

Autumn Term 2009

Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December

New Reception children will start on Wednesday, 9th September

Half Term - week beginning 26th October

Training Day - Wednesday 2nd September and Monday 2nd November

Dinner Money for next term

37 days at £1.70 = £62.90

Friday lunches 8 weeks at £1.70 = £13.60

Milk

37 days at 30p per day = £11.10

Cheques should be made payable to Eden Foodservices and placed in a named envelope.

A reminder to all parents that you are entitled to claim free school meals for your children if you are in receipt of either:-

- Income Support, or
- Job Seeker's Allowance (Income Based), or
- State Pension Credit (Guaranteed Credit), or
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) , or
- Child Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs which does not exceed £16,040.00.

If you would like an application form or have any questions, please contact Carol May at Bedford Borough Council on 01234 228948.

Please do claim if you are entitled to – the process is discreet and no embarrassment will be caused to your son/daughter.

The Two Tier/ Three Tier Debate

More information regarding the consultation can be found on the North Bedfordshire Schools' website:

http://www.northbedfordshireschools.co.uk/page_viewer.asp?section=Welcome+to+our+Home+Page&sid=2&page=School+Organisation&pid=138

Staff News

I am very pleased to announce that Mr Roderick will be joining the staff in November when he will take over from Mrs Wood as teacher of her Year 1 class. Mr Roderick is an Early Years' teacher with a sporting, science and maths background.

I am sure that you will be sorry to hear that Miss Lane will be leaving us at the end of August. Miss Lane has been working as Playworker in Active Kids since last September and has worked hard in the setting up of the club this year. I know that she will be missed by all the children and parents. Miss Lane joined us straight from university last year and in September she will start her year's training to become an Early Years' teacher for which we wish her well. Miss Lane will still be with us for the Holiday Care.

Recent Events

The last few weeks have been somewhat dominated by assessments, details of which will be found below. However, lots of exciting teaching and learning have been going on within the school at the same time. Early June saw a very successful **Global Week**. All classes chose one country to study in depth and this culminated on the Friday with a celebration Assembly for all the school and parents. KS1 and FS in the afternoon, with passports in hand, visited the other 'countries' and discovered what other children had been learning. The highlight for everyone was the 'Lion Hunt' in Kenya (alias Foundation Stage) where we all had to endure various obstacles,



challenges and wild animals (in the form of Reception children!). Many thanks to everyone who gave their support from parents talking about the country of their birth to parents who provided artefacts and wonderful costumes for their children.



Two technology challenges, based on the 1969 lunar landing, took place last week for Years 3 and 4 and Years R, 1 and 2 the week before. The aim of the challenges was to provide the children with the opportunity for solving problems and working together. The challenges worked very well and it was wonderful to see how well the children worked with those from other year groups. Many thanks to Mrs Fidler for organising the challenges.

Thank you to all of you who braved the heat and supported us on our Sports Day. I am sure that you will agree that it was very well organised and enjoyed by children and parents alike. Many thanks to Miss Wintle whose organisation meant that the event ran like clockwork!

Reception had a very enjoyable day last week at the Butterfly Park and came back full of the sights they had seen. I am not sure whether it was hotter outside or inside on that day, but the children remained unperturbed! Many thanks to all the parents and carers who accompanied the children.

Year 1 participated in a very enjoyable sports festival at Sharnbrook and were able to experience an event in which other schools from North Bedfordshire were involved.

Years 1 and 2 spent an interesting morning meeting a range of mini-beats although the staff, who, I am told, **were less brave than the children, reported that there was nothing 'mini' about the creatures!**



Perhaps the biggest event of this half term has been the Year 4 camping trip to Great Barford. The children (and adults!) had a wonderful time, scaling the climbing wall, taking part in the archery, bell boating, a camp fire and home grown entertainment, problem



solving, besides, of course, discovering the joys of a night under

canvas! Many thanks to Miss Wintle, Miss Marks, Mrs Windram and Mr Bill who braved the night air whilst I escaped home for a few hours. Needless to say, Year 3 children have now written to me to request that the trip should take place again for the next summer! Further details will arrive next term.

Without the hassle of going all the way to London we were treated to a superb production of Oliver under the fine direction once again of Ms Campbell. There were certainly a few lumps in throats when our fine soloists sang! The pirates of Year 3 then entertained us with Treasure Island and their hearty singing and dramtised poetry.

Reminder - Y4 Leavers' Service – Friday, 17th July at 2.00pm – Parents / Carers of Y4 invited

Standards 2008-2009

I am very pleased to inform you that this year the results in Years 2 and 4 (the years on which we report to the Local Authority) have shown very good progress.

In SATs Year 2 have performed above national averages in reading and writing and slightly above the national average in numeracy.

In Year 4, pupils have made above expected progress in reading and numeracy and excellent progress in writing.

Although we do not report to the Local Authority on Year 3 and there are no national averages our internal assessments have shown also that progress in reading and writing has been very good and in numeracy progress has been good.

Writing has been our priority area this year and we are pleased that all the hard work of staff and pupils has paid off. Writing will continue to be a priority for next year, but we will also be concentrating on further raising standards of numeracy.

Prior Warning – our value for next term will be 'Courtesy and Good manners'. We shall be looking for those role models who have been practising over the summer holidays!