

URSULA TAYLOR VC LOWER SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

2nd May 2008

Dear Parents

First of all I would like to update you on some of the events which have been happening in and out of school in the first three weeks of term.

Zoo Lab – Key Stage 1 enjoyed a wonderful visit from Zoo Lab who brought a variety of creatures to visit the three key Stage 1 classes currently learning all about Life Cycles. The children were enthralled and many proved to be very brave in their handling of various animals and reptiles. The children are really enjoying their topic and producing some wonderful work. I do wonder how the Key Stage 1 staff managed to persuade a local blackbird to build her nest right next to Kingfishers' classroom – let's hope the children do not put her off laying her eggs!

Netball Team – Our two netball teams represented our school at the North Bedfordshire Schools' Trust netball tournament last Friday at the Bunyan Centre. They had a very exciting afternoon in which one of the teams came third from a very large number of teams. All the children played very well and we are very proud of their achievements. Many thanks to Miss Marks for training the children and to Mrs Mackillop for accompanying the children.

The Iron Man – On Monday the children from Year 3 classes walked all the way up to Bedford Modern School (and most of them walked all the way back again!) to spend the day in drama and music workshops alongside Bedford Modern Year 3 pupils and pupils from five other lower schools. The children learned songs based on the Iron Man by Ted Hughes and each school performed a drama based on one chapter of the book. The children thoroughly enjoyed their Junk Percussion Workshop so watch out Year 3 parents – your children have learned to play the water butt, the shopping trolley and the plastic bottles! The day ended with great support from parents joining us all for the afternoon performance. Many thanks to Mrs Mahaffey, Miss Wintle and Mrs Wood for preparing the children for this occasion.

The Wigloo – following their visit to Harrold Country Park Reception children have been involved in creating their own willow structure, a combination of a wigwam and an igloo. Do take a look!

Grafham Water Activity Day – Year 4 children are off to Grafham Water on Tuesday for a day of land and water activities. We hope that they have a wonderful day!

Reading Groups – our new guided reading groups are now in progress and we are very pleased with their success. Many thanks to those parents who have given up their time to help.

Spellings – it is good to see that most children are practising their spellings at home, but there are a few children who seem to be doing very little practice which means that their progress will be much slower.

Other News

I am pleased to report that Ms Cooper is making very good progress after her operation and we hope to see her back in school before half term. Mrs Groves will also be entering hospital before half term for surgery and we expect her to be off school for the rest of this term. We all wish her well and hope she enjoys a speedy recovery.

Before and After School Care – advertisements will be in the local paper this weekend for staff to manage our new Before and After School Care. Whilst it is possible that the new children's centre will not be ready for September we are still planning to start our new childcare facility at the beginning of the autumn term, even if we do have to use the hall or library. More details will follow shortly.

China / Olympics Weeks – for the last two weeks of term the whole school will be embarking upon a topic on China and, of course, the Beijing Olympics. Any resources would be most welcome.

Extra Dates for this term

PTA Summer fair – 3rd July

Sponsored Swim – Tuesday 8th July (reserve date 10th July)

A few moans to end with

- Please could you ensure that your children do not climb on equipment and trees at the end of the day. They have been warned!
- If you bring your dog with you to meet your child please could you be aware that some children are afraid of dogs and sometimes there are quite a number of dogs waiting at the entrance to the school. Please be sensitive to where you wait. Please note that dogs are not allowed on school premises.
- The office staff have been spending an awful lot of time chasing up reply slips and cheques etc. Please could you search your child's bag frequently for those letters which lurk in the depths of their belongings. We try very hard to give the children a rich and varied curriculum, but I am afraid that it does rely on your support and contributions.