

URSULA TAYLOR VC LOWER SCHOOL

9th September 2009 Newsletter

First of all I would like to welcome back to school all children and families. I would also like to welcome all new families to our school and hope that you will soon feel part of the school community. The term seems to have got off to a very good start and the children have settled really well.

Stingrays (Year 4) – We had been promised a mobile classroom by the Local Authority last November to be in place for this term for our increased number of children. Unfortunately, due to a problem with planning permission, this was delayed. I have been assured that the mobile will be in place by the end of September at the latest, but in the meantime the Local Authority have agreed to us using the Children's Centre temporarily until its opening in October. The children (and staff) are already very settled and I am very grateful to our staff who worked so hard in the holiday to ensure the room was ready.

Swine Flu

In view of the possible return of swine flu in the autumn please could you tell your child's class teacher or Mrs Fraser if your child has already had swine flu.

Collective Worship and Values

Our school value for this term is 'Courtesy / Good Manners'. Children will be rewarded for their good manners with pebbles which will be displayed on our 'sea display' in the school hall (in line with our 'sea creature' classes). Our value will be further developed from a Christian perspective through our Collective Worship theme of Community.

Parents / Carers and friends are once again invited to join us for our Golden Assembly on Fridays. The children do love to have members of their family in school for this occasion. This year Golden Assemblies will be held at 3.00pm. and the format is as follows:-

- Award of Good Behaviour Certificates for the week (one child in each class)
- Golden Book celebration of those children whose work / efforts in each class have been outstanding
- Celebration of out of school achievements (eg swimming, ballet, football certificates)
- Birthdays (from the previous Monday to the following Sunday)

Collective Worship (Assemblies) are now being held at 10.10am on other days

Mornings

Parents of children in Reception are welcome to take their children into class and Mrs Lee will have explained this already.

Children in Years 1 – 4 should come into school on their own. This is to develop their independence, to enable class teachers to devote their time to the children and to avoid

congestion in school. However, should you need to see the class teacher / teaching assistant urgently please tell Mrs Fraser in the playground before going in with your child. Appointments can always be made to see your child's class teacher out of school time. Parent Consultations will take place in October (see date list).

Class Information for Parents / Carers

Reception children will have contact diaries for parents and teachers. In Years 1 and 2 all class information will be sent home in the children's orange books. These are for communications between teachers and parents, not for use by the children.

In Years 3 and 4 children will be issued with diaries in which they will record messages to take home. Parents may also use these for sending messages to the class teacher.

Reminders for delivering and collecting children

- Please do not bring your car into the school car park due to lack of space. Permits are available from the school office for any disabled parents / carers who deliver / collect their children.
- Please keep your children on the playground and away from equipment before and after school
- Please keep your children on the path when using the Church Walk gate as there are badger holes.
- Please could you stand away from the steps after school so that children can wait there in their classes.

Library Books

Please could you check at home for library books from school. We seem to be missing a few and would welcome any returns, even if they were borrowed some time ago!

Uniform

All uniform should be named – children are very good at losing their clothes!

Earrings should not be worn on PE days. Any earrings should be just plain studs, please. No other jewellery should be worn, except for wrist watches.

Active Kids / Holiday Care

A number of children attended our Holiday Care during the last two weeks of term which was led and organised by Mrs Proctor and Miss Lane. The children had a wonderful time and enjoyed two weeks of a wide range of activities. Photographs can be seen shortly on the school website. We intend to run the Ursula Taylor Holiday Club next summer during the first two weeks of the holiday which may just help you in planning your holidays. We will also accept siblings and ex pupils up to the age of eleven.

Active Kids' out of school care continues to thrive under Mrs Proctor's leadership. Details and brochures are available from the school office. Active Kids' Club is open from 8.00am and from

3.45 – 6.00pm, except Fridays when we close at 5.30pm. We will be moving from the library into the Children's Centre at the beginning of October.

Kids' Chamber Orchestra Concert – Teddy Concert – 'Bach to Beatles'

Coming up on Sunday, 20th September is the Kids' Classics Teddy Bear Concert at St Peter's Church, De Parys Avenue from 4.30-5.30pm (Poster on the main school door). These are wonderful concerts and are very much enjoyed by children and adults alike. Do go along.

Date List for the Autumn Term

Harvest Festival	Friday, 2 nd October (details to follow)
Individual Photographs	Monday, 12 th October
Book Fair arrives	Tuesday, 13 th October to 19 th October (details to follow)
Parent Consultation	Wednesday, 21 st October, 3.45-6.00pm
Parent Consultation	Thursday, 22 nd October, 3.45 – 6.00pm
Half Term	Monday, 26 th – Friday 30 th October inclusive AND the school will closed Monday, 2nd November for Teacher Training

Years 1 – 4 Christmas performances

Christmas Performance Rehearsal	Monday, 7 th December
Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm	Tuesday, 8 th December
Christmas Performance 2.00pm	Wednesday, 9 th December
Christmas Performances 2.00 and 6.00pm (Reception Christmas Performance yet to be decided)	Thursday, 10 th December
Reception Christmas Party	Tuesday, 15 th December - morning
Years 1 and 2 Christmas Party	Tuesday, 15 th December - afternoon
Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party	Wednesday, 16 th December – afternoon
Break up for Christmas	Friday, 18 th December at 3.30pm

Holidays for the rest of the year

Spring Term begins	Tuesday, 5 th January
Spring Term ends	Thursday, 1 st April
Half Term	15 th – 19 th February inclusive
Summer Term begins	Tuesday, 20 th April
Summer Term ends	Wednesday, 21 st July
Half Term	31 st May – 4 th June inclusive

Holidays during term time

The school cannot authorise a child's absence for a holiday taken during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Forms are available from the school office requesting permission for your child to absent from school for reasons other than illness.