

URSULA TAYLOR VC LOWER SCHOOL

5th September 2008 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 our community.

We welcome Mrs Kate Windram to the staff team as teacher of Year 4 (Hawks) in the mornings. Many of our staff are now in new class positions and, of course, all children are now in different classes. The term seems to have got off to a very good start and the children have settled really well,

During the summer holidays much work has been going on within the school buildings. The Glyn Suite has now been extended to make a classroom and we are very pleased with the end result. The ICT system has been overhauled and hopefully this will have created a more efficient system, whilst all classrooms and the hall are now fitted with interactive whiteboards.

New for this term

This term we are introducing Values Education which means that every half term we shall be promoting a specific value throughout the school, in all lessons, around the school and through Collective Worship. For this half term we shall be concentrating on 'Respect', respect for ourselves, respect for other children, for adults and for our environment and property. In Collective Worship we shall be considering Respect from the Christian perspective. Children will be rewarded for showing respect by collecting leaves to display on the trees in the hall. After four weeks the leaves for each key stage will be put in a bucket and one leaf will be drawn out bringing a reward for the person whose name is on the leaf. Obviously the more leaves a child collects the greater their chance of winning!

We continue to welcome parents and friends to our Friday Worship at 9.05am when our certificates for good behaviour, achievements in class, and birthdays are celebrated. The children do enjoy having their parents join them on this occasion. Birthdays are celebrated for the Monday before the Friday to the Sunday afterwards.

Teaching and Learning

Our priority for this term is to raise standards of achievement in writing throughout the school, including spelling, sentence structure, handwriting and vocabulary. However, standards of writing will only improve by ensuring that children have good speaking and listening skills which will underpin all that we do in literacy.

More details regarding targets, topics and spellings will be sent home shortly for individual year groups. In the meantime we hope that you will continue to support your children through encouraging good listening skills and encouraging conversation and imaginative play.

Uniform Shop

This will take place after school on Friday 12th September, outside if fine and inside if not.

It is good to see that most children are now wearing white tee-shirt and dark shorts for PE. Please could we see all children wearing these from now on. Children must also have plimsolls.

All uniform should be named.

Earrings – just to remind you that children should not be wearing earrings on the days on which they have PE. Any earrings should be plain studs please.

Car Park

Please would you not use the school car park for dropping off or collecting children as there is barely enough room for our own staff and visiting staff. We had problems last term when deliveries and waste disposal could not get into the school.

Swimming for Year 4

This will take place weekly after half term during school time for all children in Year 4. Details will follow.

Active Kids Club

This is our new Before and After School Club which provides care from 8.00-8.45am and 3.30-6.00pm every day. The club has got off to a really good start thanks to the hard work over the holidays of Mrs Proctor and Miss Lane. If you would like further details please ask for a brochure at the school office. If you would like to visit the club to see how it operates please speak to Mrs Proctor.

Tag Rugby

This will start on Monday 15th September for 10 weeks for Years 2, 3 & 4 (Priority for older children). Details will follow next week.

Street Dance

This will start on Wednesday 10th September at **8.00am** for Years 3 and 4 for 7 weeks at a cost of £14.00 for the seven weeks. Beginners and more experienced dancers are welcome. Children should wear appropriate clothing for the session and bring their school clothes and shoes in a bag.

Please complete the form below and return to school on Monday to secure a place.

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STREET DANCE

Child's name..... Class.....

would like to participate in Street Dance.

I enclose cash / cheque (made payable to Ursula Taylor Lower School) for £14.00.

Signed..... Date.....

