

URSULA TAYLOR VC LOWER SCHOOL

29th September 2011 Newsletter

Snacks in School

I just wanted to remind all parents and children of the school policy on snacks for playtime. It was agreed in March 2010 by the Governor Curriculum & Policy Group and endorsed by Bedfordshire Healthy Schools that playtime snacks should be as follows:-

Fresh Fruit (plus dried fruit such as raisins) and vegetables will be allowed WITH THE ADDITION of plain crackers / breadsticks and cheese for those children who need extra carbohydrate. Please do not send in any other snacks.

Harvest Festival

Just to remind you that our Harvest Festival will be taking place next Wednesday at 9.15am. Contributions of packet and tinned food would be most welcome as well as fresh produce. Produce can be left by the harvest display in the school entrance foyer.

Thank you

Handwriting Policy

We have taken the decision in school to continue our policy of cursive handwriting (i.e forming letters with a join). From this term children in Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 will also learn to form the letters by starting each letter on the line, except for capitals. A copy of the letter formation is overleaf.

Toys in School

We are happy for children to bring toys into school which they can play with during playtime, but we do ask that these :-

- Will fit in a child's pocket
- Not electronic
- Are not expensive or precious toys (we cannot take responsibility for where the children leave their toys!)
- Are not brought in with the aim of impressing their friends!

Relief Midday Supervisors

We are looking to appoint midday supervisors to work occasional days (12.00-1.15) to cover staff absence. If you are interested please enquire at the school office.

School Policies

I would like to draw your attention to some important policies which can be found on the school website, ursulataylorsschool.co.uk

These policies include e-safety, behaviour and discipline and safeguarding of children. Please be aware that the designated teachers for safeguarding (child protection) are Miss Wintle and myself. The governor with responsibility for safeguarding is Mrs Julie Hewitt. Any concerns can be raised directly with any of us.

Volunteers in School

If you are interested in helping in school please ask at the school office. We do have a 'School and Volunteer agreement' which is important to read prior to committing your services. All volunteers should be aware that CRB clearance is required for anyone helping on a regular basis i.e weekly.

Languages in Key Stage 1

Currently all children start learning French when they enter Year 3. A two year course is followed which has been agreed by all schools in North Bedfordshire to enable the children to be well prepared for Middle School. Children are extremely enthusiastic about this new experience and, by starting as early as seven years, they get off to a flying start.

Learning a new language is also an excellent way of learning listening and speaking skills. We have decided to offer an extra curricular language taster club for children in Key Stage 1 who would be interested in learning some basic Spanish. Miss Whitty is a Spanish speaker and would be teaching the children. We have chosen Spanish rather than French because we do not want to detract from the children's enthusiasm for something new as they enter Year 3.

We shall run six week taster courses this term and next. We shall then evaluate the success of this to decide on future sessions.

The sessions will take place on Tuesday afternoons from 3.45-4.15pm, starting on Tuesday, 1st November and finishing on Tuesday, 13th December (no session on 6th December due to Christmas Performance).

We expect that there will be a good response to this so priority for this term will be given to Year 2 children. Before responding please discuss this with your child as we would like a commitment to the full six weeks.

Please return this reply slip by Friday, 7th October if your child is interested.

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Spanish Club – KS1 – November – December 2011

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

Would like to join the Spanish Group in November (please tick if interested)

Would like to join the Spanish Group, but would rather start in January.....
Please tick if this would be preferred.

Signed Date.....

