

URSULA TAYLOR VC LOWER SCHOOL

8th September 2011 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 also welcome to the school, Miss Mitchell as Deputy Headteacher and Year 2 teacher, Miss Whitty as Year 4 teacher and Mr Burton as Year 1 teacher. We hope that they will be very happy in our school.

The school building is looking extremely good for the start of the year and is in a good state of repair. We would like to thank Mr Ruff and his hard-working team for all their efforts during the holidays. Unfortunately the swimming pool suffered from further vandalism during the holidays.

Meet Your Child's Class Teacher

On Monday, 12th September you are invited to meet your child's class teacher and teaching assistant at 9.05 am on Monday once the children have been registered and have gathered in the hall. The purpose of this meeting is to gain information about the type of learning your child will be involved in routines for the class with time for general questions which you may have. We appreciate that some of you have more than one child and we suggest that you may wish to ask a friend to feedback to you from the other class.

School Uniform

The uniform shop, which is now running through the school office, will open on Thursday afternoons 3.00-3.30pm. Payments must be made at the time of purchase. Uniform cannot be purchased at any other time.

Grand opening of the New Clapham Preschool building

On Saturday 10th September, at 2 pm the New Building will be officially opened. We would like to share this opportunity with all the people who have sat on the committee/attended/supported the preschool over the years. We hope to see you there !

Golden Assembly

We continue to welcome parents and friends to our Friday Worship at 3.00pm when our 'Value Certificates', achievements in class, and birthdays are celebrated. The children do enjoy having their parents join them on this occasion. All children who have had a birthday from the previous Monday to the Sunday following have their birthdays celebrated in the Friday assembly eg. on Friday 9th September we shall celebrate the birthdays from Monday, 5th September to Sunday, 11th September. We shall also be celebrating birthdays from the previous week, i.e the 1st to 4th September.

Don't forget, we also celebrate out of school achievements for sporting, musical and dance achievement.

Values

As most of you will be aware we place enormous importance on the acquisition of values in this school. Every month we concentrate on promoting a different value. For September our value is Friendship and this is how it will be promoted in school:-

- Staff modelling friendship
- Discussions in class
- In Collective Worship we will be looking at examples of friendship in the Bible and what friendship means
- Rewarding demonstration of being a good friend within each class
- The Golden Assembly 'Value Certificates' will be given to those showing good friendship skills
- Woodpecker Class will be the lead class for this value (each class will take responsibility for a value during the course of the year).
- We shall be giving the children a 'take home task' on friendship next week; this will be decided by Woodpecker Class.

The skills of friendship which we aim to develop and encourage are:-

- Caring for and about each other.
- Welcoming
- Being loyal
- Listening
- Sharing
- Considering the feelings of others
- Learning to 'make up' and to forgive
- Offering friendship to others
- Allowing friends to be friends with others

At home you can help your child by:-

- Pointing out good examples of your own friends
- Praising your child when they have played well with a friend at home
- Talking over with your child how their friends might feel
- Helping your child to reconcile / make up with a friend

Credit Union

Just to remind you that the Credit Union Savings Bank is in operation every Thursday morning from 8.40-9.00am in the Glyn Suite (accessed from the outside door next to Miss Marks' classroom). On joining all savers have their own credit union membership number and receive a savings card, which is the saver's record of all payments and withdrawals. Membership is free and there is no minimum deposit. They will also receive a pencil case, pen and, in due course, certificates indicating their involvement as members. Please feel free to call in on a Thursday morning.

Important dates for this term

Individual & Family Photographs – Monday, 10th October

Harvest Festival – TBA

Book Fair – 12th – 17th October

Bedtime Story Evening – TBA

Parent Consultations – Tuesday, 18th October 3.45-6.00pm
Thursday, 20th October 3.45-6.00pm

Half Term – 24th – 28th October (inclusive), plus **Monday 31st October** when the school will be closed for staff training

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) – Christmas Performance – 6th December at 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) – Christmas Performance – 8th December at 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Foundation Stage (Reception) – Christmas Performance – 13th December at 9.15am

End of term – Friday, 16th December

There will be further details sent out for all the events above.

L M Fraser

**Term Dates for Schools in Bedfordshire
Academic Year 2011/2012**

Autumn Term 2011

Tuesday 5 September 2011 – Friday 16 December 2011

(half term – 24-28 October, inclusive, plus Monday 31 October when the school will be closed for staff training)

Spring Term 2012

Wednesday 4 January 2012 – Friday 30 March

(half term – 13 – 17 February, inclusive)

Summer Term 2012

Tuesday 17 April 2012 – Friday 21 July 2012

(half term – week 4 – 8 June, inclusive)

(***May Day*** – Monday 7 May 2012)

Holidays in Term Time

We strongly request that holidays are not taken in term time as children do miss so much of their valuable time for learning. Children are often unsettled before and after a holiday which also affects their learning. However, occasionally there can be exceptional circumstances when travel in term time is unavoidable. In cases such as these a form can be obtained from the school office which should be completed, stating the reason for travel / holiday being taken in term time and returned to the office. In such cases the governors may be willing to authorise this absence for up to 10 days.