



Newsletter 3, October 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's half term already, quite unbelievable. I think that we have all been confused by the lovely weather we have had this Autumn.

I am sure that you will be interested to know that we have been looking at some initial plans for the proposed development of the school. It all looks very exciting but staff and governors have a lot of questions. I know that the governors hope to be able to share some draft plans with you soon. We are also considering the interim arrangements for our new Reception class for September 2012. There is a news item below telling you when we will be having a meeting to tell prospective parents what we will be doing. As you know this is all dependent on the outcome of the public consultation which closes on November 23rd but we do need to plan ahead for the best outcome possible for our children.

We have a new homework policy that has been developed by staff and discussed and agreed by governors. It is available in the normal way on the school web site so please do go and have a look. Homework is a great way to reinforce learning, for you to see what your child is doing in school and to share in their school learning. Homework should not take a long time to complete and if it's proving too long, too difficult or too easy please have a word with your child's teacher. The recommended times can be found in the homework policy.

The governing body will be looking for a new parent governor in the next few weeks. More information will be coming out soon but if you have any interest do talk to me or any of our existing governors. It's a busy but very important and interesting role in the school.

Have a lovely half term.

Best wishes

Valerie Blackwell
Headteacher



Soap in lower school toilets

A Year 3 parent has mentioned that there does not seem to be soap in the lower school toilets. Can I reassure you that the soap is there but it comes out as a very fine mist.

New Reception Class September 2012

Meeting for parents of prospective pupils on

Tuesday, November 29th
7pm to 8pm

Come and hear how the new class will look and be organised.

This meeting is dependent on a successful outcome to the public consultation now taking place.

Car problems

The school has received a couple of complaints about poor parking and some potentially dangerous driving. Please can I ask you not to park across the driveways of any of our neighbours. Can I also ask you to drive carefully around the area of the school. I know it can become very congested outside the school but we need to be aware of the safety all our children. I know that parents would not forgive themselves if any child was hurt due to careless driving or parking. On a positive note it is great to see so many children (and adults) cycling and scootering to school.

Maths Master Class

On Wednesday 19th October, four Year 6 pupils went to Rydens to do a Maths Master class. There were other schools there, such as Oatlands, Cleves and Chandlers Field. In pairs we were mixed with a pair from another school and, using as many colours as possible, we had to create different combinations of PE kits. It was lots of fun and at the end we learnt methods to find out the different combinations.

Jack Gurney and Thomas Atkey from 6QH

*If your child has **school lunches**, the cost for next half term is £10.00 per week, due on a Monday or £72.00 for the half term. If paying by cheque please make them payable to Surrey County Council.*

Please Help



Year 6 are planning an exciting sculpture project during the next half term for which we need old bicycles. If you have any old or unwanted bicycles of any type - racers, children's, BMXs, even unicycles - that you no longer need and are willing to donate to us, we would be very grateful.

Please pop in and have a chat with Mrs Howard in year 6 if you can help. Thank you!

Choir News



Well done to the Bell Farm choir who performed so well on Monday night with Ashley and Hurst Park schools. Miss Blackwell, Mr Arnell and a large number of parents really enjoyed listening to such excellent singing.

Applying for Free School Meals can help the school budget.....

Did you know that even if you don't want your child to have a school dinner applying for free school meals can really help the school budget!

Many of the grants that the school is eligible for are related to the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals. However, many parents don't apply as their child has a packed lunch or they feel there is a stigma attached to applying.

If you think you might be eligible do pop into the school office and ask. Our budget needs your help.

'RHS Get Your Grown Ups Growing' Bell Farm Gardening Morning

A large number of pupils, staff, parents and friends of Bell farm turned up last Saturday morning and had a very enjoyable if busy morning. Bulbs were planted, ground cleared and the wild flower area strimmed.

Thank you to everybody who helped and to the Friends for providing tea and some amazing cakes. They were so good it was hard to work afterwards.

A photograph and a short article is in the local papers this week.

Our Harvest Festival and Farm Africa



Dear Miss Blackwell

We have written about Farm Africa for the newsletter. We hope you like our ideas.

Last Friday everyone at Bell Farm dressed up as a farmer or a farm animal to raise money for Farm Africa and to celebrate Harvest. We learnt that Farm Africa help people to grow better fruit and vegetables and care for animals so that they can feed themselves and live healthier lives. It was interesting to learn about farming in Africa and it was fun in assembly when they announced the winner of the dressing up competition. The winner was Abi in 4AL who dressed as a rice farmer. Altogether we raised £290.60.

We have attached a photo. We hope you like our report.

From 3IB

Letters you may have missed...

- 07/10/11 Walton Festival Of Light Workshop
- 10/10/11 Bell Farm Friends newsletter
- 12/10/11 Presentation about animals
- 14/10/11 Friends-recycling for cash
- 14/10/11 Christmas Production
(if your child has successfully auditioned for a part)
- 18/10/11 Year 6 - Globe Theatre
- 19/10/11 Year 4 - Sayers Croft Residential

Class assembly dates for the rest of this term

- 09.11.11 6OG
- 16.11.11 3FW
- 23.11.11 5LP
- 29.11.11 4CD (changed date)

All class assemblies take place at 9am

Parent Support Group for parents of pupils attending Primary and Secondary Schools in the Elmbridge Area to help parents support their children with difficulties they may have experienced in school. Held at Walton Youth Centre every Thursday (term time only) 10 - 12.

Please contact Maureen Kirk - 07815 778936. See copy in school notice board for further details.

Monday 24 th October		Half term
Monday 31st October		School Inservice day(2) - school closed to children
Tuesday 1 st November		Children in school at 8.35am for an 8.45am start
Wednesday 2 nd November	Y6 parents	SATs information evening 7pm
	Y5 & 6 gifted & talented groups	All Souls Day ceramics display at St Mary's following workshops
Thursday, November 3rd	All parents & carers	Friends meeting 7.30pm in the staff room
Wednesday 9 th November	Y6 parents	Sex education meeting 7pm
Monday 14th to 25th November	All	Anti bullying week
Thursday 17 th November		Governing body meeting
Friday 18 th November	All	Friends Family Bingo 7pm
Tuesday 29 th November	4CD	Changed date for class assembly
Tuesday 29 th November	Reception class parents 2012	Parents meeting for Reception class 2012 at 7pm
Wednesday 7 th December & Thursday 8 th December	All parents	Parents evenings
Wednesday 14 th December & Thursday 15 th December		School Christmas play performances (no matinee) 7pm
Monday 19th December	children	Christmas disco. Y3 & 4 from 1.30pm to 3.00pm Y5 & 6 from 3.45pm to 5.15pm
Tuesday 20 th December		Last day of autumn term, 2.20pm finish
Wednesday 21 st December		Christmas holiday starts
Wednesday 4 th January 2012		Spring term starts, children in school
Wednesday, 8 th February	All	Safer Internet Day
Monday 13th February		Half term
Monday 20th February		School Inservice day(3) - school closed to children
Monday 12th March to 14th March	Y4	Y4 residential trip to Sayers Croft
Friday 30 th March		Last day of Spring term
Monday 2nd April		Easter holiday begins
Monday 16th April		School Inservice day(4) - school closed to children
Tuesday 17 th April		Summer term starts, children in school
Monday 23 rd April to Friday 27 th April	Year 5	Year 5 residential to Marchants Hill
Thursday May 3rd		Election day and inservice day (5) – school closed to children
Saturday, May 12th		May Fair
Tuesday, May 29th	Choir	Royal Albert Hall Concert
Monday 4th June		Half term
Monday 25 th June to Friday, 29 th June	Y6	Y6 residential to the Isle of Wight
Friday 20 th July		Last day of summer term

Don't forget to look on the school web site for the calendar