

## **Happy New Year!**

The holidays seemed to fly by and we are all settled back into the school routine again. The children are looking very smart - there are copies of the uniform list in all classrooms should you wish to check anything.



The Holiday Maths and English Challenge was popular with 55 entries being received. Our congratulations go to the winners.

## **Reading Focus**

We all recognise how important it is for the children to become confident readers. It is a great boost to their self-esteem and is crucial in helping them access all areas of the curriculum as they get older. We put a lot of emphasis on hearing children read in school. Volunteers spend much of their time hearing readers, all children have a dedicated guided reading session every week, teaching assistants and teachers hear children read as often as possible, particularly where the need for support and encouragement is greatest. The older children share class readers and free readers are still expected to read at home, although not necessarily to an adult. Mrs Onslow runs an intensive programme for small numbers of year one emerging readers where daily sessions help the children to make accelerated progress.



In order to continue to promote reading we are introducing two changes this term -

- *Literacy homework in year 3 and 4 will be that all children must read at home at least three times a week. This must be recorded in the child's Reading Record please. Children can read out loud to an adult or to an older brother or sister. Where free readers are reading on their own, an adult at home must sign the Record to say that this is happening. No further literacy homework will be set apart from the ongoing support you give the children with their weekly spellings.*
- *Reading Raffle. Any child in school who has read at home 5 times in a week will automatically be entered into a Reading Raffle. This will be drawn during Friday's Best Efforts assembly and the lucky winner will take home a prize.*

## **Entry to reception class for September 2012**

This is the last reminder that today is the closing date for applications to be made for places in our reception class for September. Schools do not deal with these admissions and applications must be made to the local authority either by post or online. Please ask at the office if you need help with this. Children are entitled to a reception class place this September if they will be 5 any time between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

## **School Packed Lunches**

School packed lunches are proving quite popular with the children. Please remember these need to be ordered on a Monday (even if your child is entitled to free school meals) when all school dinners are ordered. You will need to indicate which days are school packed lunch / hot dinner as the children do not always remember and Mrs Wilson prepares the quantity of food accordingly.



## **New Music Opportunities**

Suffolk County Music Service are offering all children in Year 4 free membership to KS2 beginner ensembles which take part at Castle Manor on Saturdays 10:20-11:00 am.



## **Governor Vacancies**

With this Newsletter you should find enclosed an information sheet introducing our school governors. Governors represent the views of parents, staff, the local authority and the local community and are elected for a four year term. The level of commitment varies according to each individual but governors need to attend a termly evening meeting as a minimum and are encouraged to join a committee, take an interest in an area of the curriculum and generally challenge and support what we do in school. There is an in-school induction process as well as local authority training. At the end of January, there will be vacancies arising for both staff and parent governors. We will send out further details later this month and you are welcome to speak with me or other members of the governing body if you would like to find out more about what the role involves.

## **School Nurse Drop-in**



Annie Chiang will be in school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January from 8.30 to 9am. There is no need to make an appointment - just drop-in and see her!

## **Old Christmas Cards**

Mrs Chapman, Mrs Reed and Mrs Cianciola would be delighted with any old Christmas cards you still have. Our nursery and reception children love cutting and sticking with the brightly coloured pictures. Please drop the cards into the school office or to the early years staff. Thank you.



*Please have a look at the PE questions and answers on the back of this newsletter.*

With best wishes from

**Mrs Farrow**

## **P.E. Q and A**

A number of queries have been raised about P.E. recently. Please check the questions and answers below.

**Q: Do children have to do P.E.?**

*A: Yes. It is part of the national curriculum just like English and maths and children are expected to take part in two hours of physical education every week.*

**Q: Do the children have to go outside for P.E.?**

*A: At key stage 1 it is sometimes necessary to go outside and children are encouraged to wear extra layers to keep them warm. At key stage 2 (year 3 and above), the children will need to go outside for one of their P.E. lessons most weeks. This is because the curriculum broadens to include areas such as Outside and Adventurous Activities and more team sports such as football, hockey and beginners rugby. The children will need extra layers to put on with them in school. This should not be their school uniform sweatshirt (as this is not good hygiene practice, especially for the older children, and their clothes may get muddy) but could include a hat and gloves. It is helpful to have a change of socks to put on for P.E. in case these get wet during the lesson when the ground outside is soggy.*

**Q: What should I do if my child is not well enough to do P.E.?**

*A: In general, if the child is well enough to be in school then they are well enough to do P.E. They already go out to play and run around at break and lunchtime so P.E. is not much different to this, as long as they are suitably dressed. If there is a medical reason why the child cannot do P.E. such as an injury that has required medical treatment at the doctor, then please give a written note to the class teacher. Children who cannot actively participate are still expected to join their class to watch, take notes and join in with discussion sessions.*

**Q: Is it okay for my child to keep their earrings in for P.E.?**

*A: Children should not wear earrings for P.E. as they can get caught or knocked which is very painful. The child should be able to take their own earrings out and have a box or bag to put them in to keep them safe. If ears have just been pierced (it may be better to do this at the beginning of the summer holidays when P.E. is not an issue), you may send in tape to cover the child's earrings although it is worth remembering that tape can fall off and is difficult to stick on in the first place. Parents of younger children may prefer to take the earrings out and leave them at home on P.E. days.*

**Q: Can the P.E. kit stay in school?**

*A: Yes! This definitely saves it being forgotten and we will send it home if it has got very muddy. We will always send it home at least every half term or you may prefer your child brings it home on Friday and back the following Monday.*

**Q: What happens if P.E. kit gets left at home?**

*A: School will lend P.E. kit so your child can still participate. If P.E. kit is forgotten 3 times in a half term, the child will do a lunchtime detention.*