

January 8th 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR



It was good to welcome the children back into school on Tuesday and to hear all about their Christmas presents and holiday activities. We would like to wish you all a very happy 2010.

*******NEW STYLE NEWSLETTER*******

In response to parental requests for more regular communication, I plan to write a fortnightly Newsletter. It will contain updates, news and information and will always go out on a Friday. It will be copied on to blue paper so that it is easy to recognise. I hope you will find this useful and would be grateful for any comments or suggestions of things you would like included.

UNIFORM

Thank you to all of you who remembered the changes to our school uniform that started from January 2010. The children look very smart and we hope you agree it helps to set a high standard that we can all be proud of. Please speak to me or the class teacher if you have any queries. Our sweatshirt supplier has been able to change the logo on the polo shirts and sweat shirts so that the school badge is embroidered rather than printed. This should wash and iron better and we have managed to keep the cost the same.

READING CERTIFICATES

To help the children enjoy books and be confident readers is one of our main aims.

Research shows that children make most progress when they read regularly, ideally every day. Adults also hear children read individually in school and all children have guided reading sessions where they share a book in a small group with adult support. We really appreciate your help in hearing the children read at home and in recording this in their Reading Record books.

We keep reading charts in school and I am delighted when I can award Headteacher's Certificates in assembly to children who have read 60 times at home. Children that achieve a second certificate during the year will have these presented in our Friday Best Efforts assembly to which you will be invited.

The first Best Efforts assembly of the term will be on Friday 15th January. Please come if you can - all welcome.



PHONICS

The phonics groupings from last term have been reviewed. This teaching happens after break each day and children work in mixed age groups where they learn letter sounds that they use in their reading and writing. They also join their letters as part of handwriting practice during this time. You will soon receive a letter from the phonics teacher showing you which letters and sounds the children will be learning this term. The children have enjoyed this different way of learning and many have made excellent progress.

LUNCHTIME PLAYGROUND CHANGES

The children asked whether they could all play together at lunchtime as they do in the summer, rather than staying on their separate playgrounds. We are trialling this at the moment.

Reception, year 1 and year 2 children will be able to play football on the big playground on a Wednesday lunchtime and year 3 and 4 on a Friday. On all other days it will be open play.



If the cold snap continues, we will also open a 'cold classroom' so that children who want to can come in and warm up, can. All children know they need a coat.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Class teachers are currently preparing curriculum information booklets so that you can see what the children will be learning this term. Some children really enjoy using books or the internet to research at home about some of the topics covered and class teachers are always pleased to see or hear what they have discovered.

YEAR 4

Year 4 children have a number of changes to their timetable this term. Violins will continue to be on a Tuesday morning but swimming has been changed from a **Monday** to a **Tuesday** starting from 12th January. They will walk to the swimming bus after violin.

Our year 4 violinists are invited to a free Beginners Ensemble at Castle Manor Business and Enterprise College starting on Saturday 9th January, 10.20 to 11am.

Year 4 will also work with a visiting sports coach on a Friday morning as part of their P.E. lessons. Year 2 really enjoyed the tennis with Mr Jeffs last term and other classes will get this opportunity in the future.

We had a great time in the snow on the last day of term. Despite the cold temperatures which meant the snow was not very sticky, we did manage to build a snowman as you can see.



**Happy New Year.
With best wishes from,**

Mrs L Farrow