
Little Chalfont Primary School

Newsletter

Summer Term

20th April 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for the start of the summer term. I do hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and had a good Easter break. We certainly benefited from really beautiful weather and long may this continue. The children all seem very pleased to be back and enjoying being able to play on the field during their playtimes.

As usual the summer term is packed with lots of fun activities. A diary of all the events scheduled for the term is attached to the back of this newsletter.

Forthcoming Ofsted Inspection

It is extremely likely that at some point this term the school will be having an inspection by Ofsted as it is now six years since our last inspection in May 2001. We will receive about two to three days notice of when the inspectors will be arriving and the inspection will be short – just one or two days. No dates are known as yet.

Parents have an important role to play during the inspection as your views on the success of the school are particularly valued. When we receive notification of our inspection date an Ofsted questionnaire will be sent to all parents inviting you to comment on particular aspects of the school. In addition the Ofsted inspector may choose to be present at the school gate to meet with some of you if time on the schedule allows.

As you know, the staff at the school work extremely hard to provide a first class education and a happy school environment for all pupils. We are hopeful that this will be the findings of our inspection report.

SATs and Tests in School

The month of May in schools is traditionally the time that pupils sit a variety of tests to help teachers assess how well they are learning. Tests will be carried out for all classes from Years 2 to 6 and results will be shared with parents on the pupils' annual reports which will be available on Friday, 6th July.

Pupils in Years 2 and 6 will take SATs. These are statutory, national tests which all schools are required to do and are well presented, interesting tasks for the pupils to complete. **Year 2** pupils take a variety of tests in reading, writing, spelling and Maths. **Year 6** are tested in English, Maths and Science. The SATs will take place during the week beginning **Monday 14th May**. Healthy eating and early bedtimes are strongly recommended during this time to help the children do their best, and please avoid all absences if possible.

Pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 will carry out Q.C.A. tests which are very similar to SATs and these will be held during the same week. They will measure your child's performance in the National Curriculum and enable us to show you how well your child is achieving.

Class Photographs

You will remember that last term Tempest School Photographers were in school to take class photographs and group photos of the netball teams and school council. These are now available to order and pupils have already brought home the order form envelopes. Copies of the photos are on display on the board outside Mrs Dowsing's office should you wish to see a larger print.

The closing date for the return of the order envelopes to the class teacher is **Monday, 30th April**. If you miss the deadline it is still possible to make a late order directly with Tempest but there will be an additional service fee of £6.

Cake Sales

Last term we had a fantastic fund raising initiative running to raise money for our partner school in Sri Lanka. Every class held a cake sale on Fridays after school and the final total raised throughout the term reached £998.45 after the final sale by Year 1 on the last day of term. The staff have kindly rounded this up to £1000 from our tea and coffee fund which makes a really superb total to reach in just one term! Well done everyone!

Supermarket Vouchers

As you know, the school is participating in two supermarket initiatives that are currently taking place. Tesco's are running their 'Computers for Schools' initiative until 13th May and you will receive a voucher for every £10 spent. Sainsbury's are running their 'Active Kids' initiative for sports equipment until 29th May and again you receive one voucher for every £10 spent. We are collecting these vouchers and have collection boxes for both initiatives in the school foyer.

We have just been informed that during the last week of the promotion Tesco's will be offering double vouchers – 2 vouchers for every £10 spent! Double vouchers are on offer from 7th – 13th May so please bear this in mind when planning your shopping as these vouchers really help us gain valuable resources for the school.

Return of School Tracksuits/T.Shirts

We started the year with 20 school tracksuits for teams to wear on special occasions. Currently Mrs Cook has only 11 in her store cupboard which means 9 have gone missing! Please look around at home and if you still have one please return it as soon as possible.

Pale Blue T. Shirts were loaned to the members of the Amersham Singing Club for the 'Echoes' concert. Not all have been returned so if you still have one please send it into school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Volunteer Drivers (Key Stage 2)

We would like to express our thanks to all parents who have helped to transport children to 'after school' sports fixtures during this school year. Without this help it would be impossible for our pupils to take part in all the exciting sports competitions that are available to them. We are most grateful.

However, in order to conform to new BCC regulations concerning educational visits, all parents who give lifts to sporting fixtures are now required to complete a 'Volunteer Driver's Form'. If you are happy to use your own car in order to transport our pupils to various venues, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your co-operation.

Curriculum Plans

Going out to all parents over the next few days will be a Summer Term Curriculum Plan for each class. This will give you an idea of the work that is going to be covered in each subject throughout the term and give you some suggestions about how you can help at home. Please take a few minutes to read them carefully and discuss them with your child.

Class Assemblies

During the Summer Term three classes will be taking a turn at performing a class assembly to the school. Parents with children in these classes are most welcome to come and watch and the dates are as follows:-

Reception	-	Wednesday, 13 th June at 9:10
Year 1	-	Wednesday, 4 th July at 9:10
Year 4	-	Wednesday, 11 th July at 9.10

Morning Procedures

Mrs Hayes has asked me to remind all parents to please wait by the front fence and gate when bringing pupils to school until after the whistle has gone and the classes line up. This request is made in the interests of pupil safety and to ensure that the teacher on duty has good visibility of all the pupils on the playground. Your support in this matter is appreciated.

School Prayer Group

This term the school prayer group will be meeting twice to pray for important issues facing the school. All parents are welcome to join these sessions which take place at 9:00am on the first Wednesday of the month in the school library. The two prayer group meetings will be on Wednesday 2nd May and Wednesday 6th June – please join us if you can.

Going for Gold Update

Thank you to all of you who are still continuing to support this initiative. We are very pleased that so many children are still walking and keeping cars out of Oakington Avenue. Now with the warmer weather and lighter evenings we hope that even more children will walk.

This term all pupils have been given a new passport card and there have been some changes made to the scheme. The new cards record all walks **to** the school. Parents no longer have to stamp the card for the return journey. The new card is also shorter and will take 8 weeks to complete for a child who walks everyday. In addition the cards are now named bronze, silver and gold, to help indicate how many cards a child is completing. Please continue to support the scheme as it really is good for your child's health and helps to keep down dangerous traffic congestion around our school.

Water Bottles

Now that the warmer weather appears to have arrived at last I should like to remind everyone about our school policy on water in school. We have several drinking fountains around the school but in summer term we like to encourage pupils to have easier access to water in class by bringing in their own water bottle. With the onset of warmer weather, and knowing the benefits of drinking water regularly through the day, the P.A. kindly sell transparent 500ml water bottles which have a non-spill, screw-on sports cap. The caps have the house colours of blue, red, yellow and green, and the bottles have a clear name space for easy identification. Many children have these already and they are now able to bring them in once more.

Attachments

Attached with this newsletter are several forms and papers for your perusal: -

Pink Paper - School uniform orders (Please return by Monday 30th April)
White paper - Volunteer Drivers Form (For Key Stage 2)
Yellow paper - Diary of events

And Finally..... I should like to wish everyone a happy and successful term and I look forward to seeing many of you at forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T.L. Dowsing
Headteacher

Term Dates for 2007/8

SUMMER	Tuesday	17 April	Friday	25 May
	Tuesday	5 June	Friday	20 July

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY 7 MAY 2007 FOR THE BANK HOLIDAY

	<u>Open on the morning of</u>		<u>Close at the end of afternoon of</u>	
AUTUMN	Wednesday	5 September	Friday	19 October
	Monday	29 October	Friday	21 December

2008

SPRING	Tuesday	8 January	Friday	15 February
	Monday	25 February	Friday	4 April

SUMMER	Tuesday	22 April	Friday	23 May
	Tuesday	3 June	Wednesday	23 July

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY 21 MARCH AND MONDAY 24 MARCH FOR THE EASTER WEEKEND AND ON MONDAY 5 MAY FOR THE BANK HOLIDAY

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN ON THE FOLLOWING STAFF TRAINING DAYS:

2007/2008	Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 September	Monday	7 January
	Monday 21 April	Monday	2 June