

Ridgmont Lower School

PARENT NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2 Spring term 1st March 2010

Staffing:

We warmly welcome Mrs. Foster who has joined the staff as a classroom assistant and as a new lunchtime supervisor for class 1.

Mrs Abbey has extended her Nurture Group facility to two afternoons per week. The children are really enjoying the benefits of the small group activities and circle times.

Bedford Credit Union Ltd:

This organisation introduces and sets up school savings schemes to encourage pupils to develop money management skills from an early age. The Credit Union is lottery funded, it is a member of the ABCUL (Association British Credit Unions Limited) and it is FSA regulated.

The scheme is already well established in many Bedfordshire Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. The Headteachers I have spoken to in other schools say that the scheme has been very popular with parents and children. (You may have seen the full page article in last months Bedfordshire magazine) I would like to offer this opportunity to the pupils at Ridgmont School.

We are having an assembly this week to introduce the children to the idea of 'saving' and we will be launching the school bank scheme on Monday 8th March.

A representative from the Credit Union will organise the scheme for the first six weeks with the support of a member of staff. Then, once it is set up I am hoping that there may be a parent volunteer that can help support the school staff in administering the process.

The school bank will be open every Monday morning from 8:30am until 9am. so that the children can deposit their savings. I will send more details to you this week. If you think you could help with this project I would be really happy to hear from you.

Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers:

We are collecting these again this year; please ask all your friends and families to help us if they don't have another school to support.

Snacks:

Can I just remind you that all pupils have the opportunity to have a piece of fruit at break time, but if you prefer to send them in with their own snack will you ensure it is **not chocolate or sweets.**

Bags to School:

We have more bags in the office if you need them. Please note the bags will be collected on Tuesday 9th at 9am so will you make sure we have them by then. Unfortunately we do not have the space to store any bags which miss the pick up time.

Marathon Club:

You may remember that I told you we were going to introduce a Marathon Club at school in collaboration with the Schools Sports Partnership. We are a little late in starting due to the bad weather, but we intend get it 'running' this half term. The goal is for children to run, walk or skip laps of the playing field in order to build up distances of 1,2,3,4 miles etc working towards quarter, half or even a full Marathon. In reality I don't think we are going to get many full Marathons, but the children will get certificates for their 'mile stones' along the way. Please can you ensure that your children have their trainers in school every day during this term so that we can organise this whenever the weather permits. It will happen at lunchtimes as part of our Huff and Puff activities and sometimes in one of the children's PE sessions during the week. All the children will take part with age and ability related expectation. A sponsorship form will come home shortly and I hope you will encourage your children to be fit and healthy and do their best!

Clubs:

Please encourage your children to join a lunchtime/ after school club this term we have:

Football, Recorders - free, Chess and draughts -free.

Gardening - free, after school Thursdays. This year we will provide indoor activities should the weather prevent us from doing outside jobs.

Curriculum Information Evening:

It was good to see so many parents at the curriculum information evening in January. Comments were very positive from the parents who joined us. They were able to find out more about how their children are taught and how they can support their learning in mathematics at home and the methods of calculation we use in school. Thanks to Husborne Crawley Lower School for hosting the session.

Tag Rugby:

Unfortunately the tag rugby tournament for children in class 3 which was cancelled due to the snow has been re-arranged for a day when we already have commitments; therefore the children will not be able to take part this time.

School Lunch:

We had 15 visitors joining the children for lunch on the 10th February. The children really enjoyed having their friends and families in school. I have arranged another family lunch for Wednesday 31st March.

World Book Day:

Book tokens will be given to all children on 4th March, (which is world book day) these vouchers can be used against purchases from the Puffin Book Club leaflet, which will be sent home, as well as at participating book shops. Please note our book day assembly is on the 10th March, one week later than this published date due to other commitments. Start preparing their costumes now!

New Diary Dates for your information:

Monday 1 st March	School Saving Scheme Assembly Mr. Roy Bedford
Thursday 4 th March	Gardening club starts
Wednesday 10 th March	Peer Mentoring Training - Class 3.
Wednesday 10 th March	WORLD BOOK DAY. DRESSING UP AS CHARACTER FROM A BOOK
Thursday 11 th March	K'NEX challenge work shop Class 3 'Windmills'
Wednesday 17 th March	Multisport class 3 (more information, venue and permission slips to follow)
Monday 22 nd March	New Parent Open morning 9:30 – 11:30
Wednesday 31 st March	Friends and Family Lunch
Tuesday 30 th March	Year 4 residential Trip Caythorpe
Thursday 1 st April	Finish school Easter Holidays
Tuesday 20 th April	Children return to school for the summer term
Thursday 22 nd April	K'NEX challenge work shop Class 3
Tuesday 27 th April	RE Faith Tour Trip Bedford Class 2 (more information and permission slips to follow)
Thursday 29 th April	Mr Cardwell from Fulbrook assembly
Monday 3 rd May	Bank holiday school closed
Wednesday 5 th May	Dr Barnardos whole School assembly
Thursday 6 th May	Possible school closure due to Polling Station TBC
Monday 24 th May	Mrs Clancy and Fulbrook Yr 5 to lead assembly and spend time with Yr 4 as part of the transition project
Friday 28 th May	Bedfordshire Music strings section to perform to whole school
	School closes for Half term

All letters and return forms can be downloaded from the school's website at

www.ridgmont-lower.org.uk

All letters and return forms can be downloaded from the school's website at www.ridgmont-lower.org.uk