

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we are now at the end of 2008 we can look back upon another year of continuing success for our school.

We have had another great set of academic results with our KS1 results being at the highest levels that they have ever been and our KS2 results have again been excellent above the Ealing and National averages.

Of course a school is about much more than just mere test results. We have enjoyed the successes that our football team had in the competitions and the fantastic OFSTED report we received in July was accredit to all of the children, staff and parents who make up our school community.

It has been extremely gratifying to see so many of our parents/ carers achieving through our Family Links, ESOL and Keeping Up With the Children courses. I firmly believe that a school is a learning community for everyone involved and it is great for the children to see that adults are continuing to embrace learning opportunities.

Our school has become well known and respected amongst the local Southall schools for the ways in which we open our doors and actively encourage our parents/ carers to be an active part of our school community. I am eternally grateful to Mrs Poonai and her very hardworking group of staff and volunteers for their enormous efforts in these areas.

We look forward to continuing and building upon our successes in 2009 as we strive to further improve the quality of education that we provide to all of our children and their families. I wish you all a very safe and relaxing break over the holiday period and a prosperous New Year in 2009.

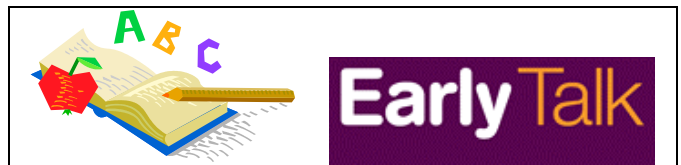
Best Wishes
Mr Dave Woods
Head Teacher

CURRICULUM NEWS

During our weekly staff meetings this half-term the staff have looked a variety of topics such as Gymnastics teaching, Assessment, Phonics and the International Primary Curriculum.

We had a very good INSET Day on the 28th November with the Foundation Stage staff having training in Early Talk and Communication skills while the rest of the staff looked at the creative and humanities aspects of the curriculum and we made plans to develop these areas across the school.

Our next INSET day is on Monday 26th January 2009. School is closed to children on this day.

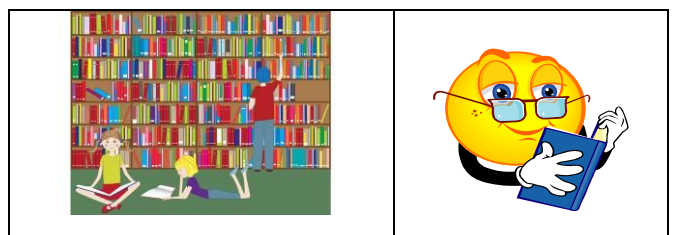


Phonics and Reading

Phonics is what most of us know as “sounding out letters”, but it is much more than just this. Having a good knowledge of phonics is essential for reading and excellent reading skills are essential for almost everything that we do in life.

Phonics is now one of the key methods used for the teaching of early reading. Over the past two years staff in school have benefitted from some intensive training and support for phonics teaching.

We are now making sure that the skills used to teach phonics in Nursery, Reception and Year1 are also being used across all classes in the school to help children who are having difficulties with reading.



International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

From January 2009 the children in Year 1 to Year 6 we will begin following a course of study known as the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). This curriculum is used in over 60 countries around the world and over 500 schools in England.



The IPC covers study in science, history, music, geography, art, drama, personal development, ICT and International studies. Over time we will establish links with schools following this curriculum in other countries through email and video conferencing to enable pupils to develop a broader understanding of the world in which they live.

Foundation Stage (Nursery/ Reception)

The children in the nursery have been getting their hands “*very messy*”. We have been using cornflour and shaving foam. The children have been using words “dry” “wet” “light” and “melting” to describe what they see and feel.



We have been learning about shapes and we’ve been exploring shapes around the nursery. We have made our own books with shapes.



In Reception the children have enjoyed using the puppet theatre to act out their own shows. It has been very exciting to have the cave in reception along with the light box.



Murtaza and Harnoor enjoying the puppet theatre.



Ali enjoyed using the light box to make symmetrical patterns.

The children loved listening too and acting out the story of “*The Three Billy Goats Gruff*”. They used lego to build bridges for the Billy Goats to use.



Year 1

The children in Year 1 have been investigating and tasting different foods to develop and improve their vocabulary to describe the appearance, taste, smell and texture.



This activity provided opportunities for children to learn about hygiene and to prepare plates of tasty healthy food.

Year 2

The children in Year 2 have been learning about the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole as part of their work in history.

Mary Seacole



Mary Seacole was born in 1805. Mary Seacole died in 1881. When Mary Seacole was young, her mother was a nurse. When Mary grew up she loved to watch boats and wanted to travel. One day she travelled to Crimea. Then Mary heard that a war had begun just near Crimea. Mary opened a hotel in Balaclava far away from the war. Mary looked after sick people. Everyone loved her and called her mother Seacole because Mary looked after them. After the war ended, Mary had lots of things leftover. No one bought these things any more. Mary died and she was buried in England.

By Devangi and Mujtaba (Year 2)

They have also been focusing on using “instructional writing” in literacy lessons.

How to make a cup of tea



Things we need

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Cup | Milk |
| Teabag | Sugar |
| Spoon | Water |
| Kettle | |

- First get the cup.
- Then put the teabag in the cup.
- Third boil the water.
- Next pour the water in the cup.
- Get the teabag out of the cup.
- Next put the sugar and milk in the cup.
- Finally stir it and drink it.

By : Muntaha and Gabriele (Year 2)

Year 4

At the very end of the last ½ term the children in Year 3 & 3 went to the cinema to see a film for free as part of National Schools Film Week. Ehsan and Ismail have written about their day out.

The trip to the cinema

It was freezing! We took a train to Paddington train station. Next we took another train and after that we stopped. We went in a tube and after that we walked a bit. We were exhausted! We watched 'Horton hears a who'. It was about a tiny spec it was funny and a little bit sad. It finished and we went back to school. Then we ate our lunch and finally we went outside to the playground to play.



Year 4 have also been doing instructional writing. Mahisa and Sandeep have written instructions about how to make a clown face.

How to make a clown face

First we get a clown face. Next we put a hole in its tie. Then we get a motor and put it in the hole. After that we attach the wires to the motor. Finally we put the bow tie & then it will....spin!

By Mahisa and Sandeep



P.E. Sports News

Our football team has already been in action playing some competition matches and also a friendly match.



Currently we are tied for equal 4th place in the Southall League having won against Lady Margaret and lost against Dairy Meadow. We have a friendly match coming up soon and more competition matches to play in 2009.

PUPIL NEWS

Educational Visits

Year 5 travelled to Gunnersbury to look at history from the River Thames.

Our trip to Kew Bridge

Year 5 went to Kew Bridge to learn what we could find out about life in London in the past from things left behind in the river. We travelled there by train and got off at Gunnersbury. We walked to Kew Bridge and went into a room with lots of different bits of broken artefacts like old bits of bone and glass. We had to look at the artefacts carefully, we also had a book of each kind of ancient material.



We had to look at the bits carefully and see what we could sort out into groups to tell how old they were. In the

afternoon we went down to the River Thames to look for the things like the those we were looking at in that room. We had to put on Wellington boots so our shoes wouldn't get muddy. Amit and Anjali both found a tooth and I found a piece of a plate, a Victorian plate. I learnt that there is lots you can find out about the history of London from the river.

By Jade (Year 5)

Assemblies

Harvest Assembly

On Friday 7th November we celebrated our annual "Harvest Assembly". This is when we think about those less fortunate than ourselves and those people around the world who do not have safe drinking water or enough food to eat.



We would again like to thank all members of our school community for the generous donations of foods, fruits and vegetables. Our collection was donated to "Milap Day Care Centre" and "Manor Day Nursing Home"



Guru Nanak Assembly

On Friday 14th November Year 4 did an assembly about how we celebrate the birthday of Guru Nanak. Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. He also liked travelling around the world to share his knowledge. All Guru Nanak could think about was God.



Year 4 looked at the life of Guru Nanak. The class was divided into 5 groups to show different parts of Guru Nanak's life. By Rajpreet & Safa (Year 4)

Eid-ul-Adha Assembly

On Friday 5th December 2008, Year 5 performed an assembly for Eid-ul-Adha, a very special festival for Muslims. The story of Eid-ul-Adha is of Ibrahim and his dear son Ismail. Ibrahim was going to sacrifice something really important to him, his own son Ismail, for the love of God. However, at the last moment God told Ibrahim that he had proved his love for God so he could sacrifice a goat instead.



When it is Eid, Muslims go to each others houses and give each other gifts. Also Muslims go to the Mosque to say a very special prayer. Mrs Akram was very kind to share one of her best memories of Eid-ul-Adha in Bangladesh when she was only 7 years old. I acted out the part of Mrs Akram and Jade played the part of Mrs Akram when she was a child. We all enjoyed hearing about her story want to say a **BIG** thank you to Mrs Akram. Year 5 wishes everyone a Happy Eid or...

EID MUBARAK !!

By: Simran (Year 5)

Christmas Assembly



On Friday 12th December the children in Year 1 and Reception presented the Christmas assembly, "The Sleepy Shepherd". It was great to see so many parents come along to encourage our youngest pupils.



Anti-Bullying Week – November 2008

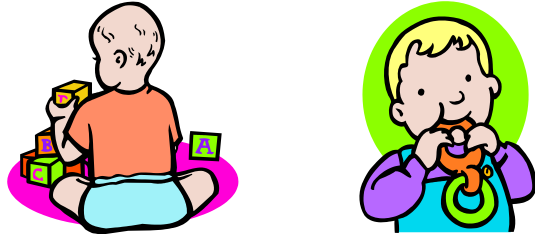
In November we took part in Anti-Bullying Week along with many other schools across the country. On Friday the 21st November the children came to school dressed in something “BLUE” to make a joint public statement that we do not accept bullying. At our assembly we launched our Anti-Bullying Policy (copy attached).



COMMUNITY NEWS

Parent/ Carer & Toddler Group

As part of our range of extended services the school offers parents with young children (18 months up to 3 years) the opportunity to come along to a weekly Parent & Toddler Group on Friday mornings. These sessions will take place in the Hall each week from 9:20am straight after the assembly.



This is a great opportunity for parents/ carers with young children to meet other parents together for tea/ coffee and a chat while the children get to play and mix with other young children as well.



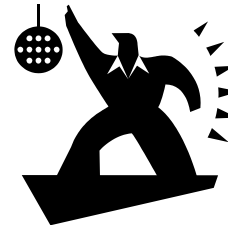
Please speak to Mrs Poonai if you have any questions about joining this group. Our group begins again on Friday 9th January and we look forward to seeing you joining us.

Autumn Disco

It was terrific to see so many children and parents come along to the annual disco last Friday night. The disco is a wonderful opportunity for the school community to celebrate at the end of the long autumn term.

Congratulations to all of the raffle prize winners and a big thank you to all of the shops and

businesses who helped us out with donation of prizes and food for the evening.



With your generous support of this event we were able to raise over £450 to go towards school resources.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES



Lost Property

School Uniform

Please ensure that children come to school each day wearing the school uniform, **including black shoes (not trainers or boots).**

In these colder months it is very important that you make sure that children’s shoes have some “grip” on the soles so that children do not slip easily when the playground can be wet or frosty.

Every term we end up with a large amount of lost property that does not have any names on them. Please check the lost property box (located near the playground door) for any missing clothing items.

School Dinners

Please do not include crisps, biscuits, sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks as part of packed lunches.



Parents who continue to provide these items in lunches will receive a warning letter and then they may be called for a meeting.

On a Friday (**only**) children having a packed lunch are permitted to have crisps or biscuits or a small chocolate bar as part of their lunch. This is in line with our policy on promoting responsible healthy eating.

Dinner Money

Another big thank you to all those parents who send in their money regularly either half termly or weekly on a **Monday morning**. It is very much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to **Harrison Catering Services Limited**.



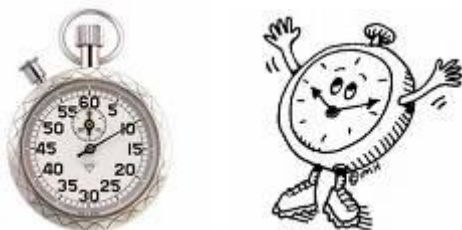
The cost of school dinners for the first half of spring term will be **£55.10**

(5th Jan – 13th Feb 29 days @ £1.90 per day).

Please remember that if children wish to change from school meals to packed lunches or vice versa, the school should received written notification giving four weeks notice.

Punctuality

School begins at 8:50am every day. **Children are late if they are not in their class line at 8:50am.**



Playground supervision before school begins at 8:40am. Children should not arrive on the playground before this time.

If the weather is wet or cold you should allow some extra time for your journey to school.

The law requires that children should be in school on time for the 190 days of the academic year. Parents/ carers can be fined or taken to court for persistent lateness or absence.

Working Parents:

If you have difficulties collecting your child at 3.20pm then why not take advantage of our **after-school club**.



We provide an after-school activity club from 3:30pm to 5:30pm every weekday afternoon. The children receive fruit and refreshments and they undertake time for homework, ICT, games, art activities and PE. activities.

We do have places available in our after-school club at present. Please ask at the office for an enrolment form. It costs just £1.50 per hour (£3 per day) for the after-school club. You may elect for all five days or just some of the days.

Requests for Leave (Holidays)

The school now operates a policy of not granting any approved leave during term time. This is strictly enforced at all times.

This is because of the disruption that occurs for the child who is away but also to the rest of the class.

School is open for 39 weeks of the year leaving another 13 weeks when holidays can be taken. As parents/ carers you would be very annoyed if staff were to take holidays/ long periods of leave during the term time and so we must apply the same standards to everyone across the school. Therefore the governing body have decided that parents who do take their children out of school during term time will not have the leave authorised.

When we look at the results every year, we see that the children who achieve the lowest levels or make the slowest progress in learning are those that have taken long periods of absence or those that take frequent days of absence.




If children are away for extended periods of time they may lose their place in school to someone who is on the waiting list.



The education welfare service will chase up persistent absence and they may at their discretion impose on the spot fines or issue a court summons for lateness or non-attendance.

Below are our approved school holiday dates through until December 2009. Please note these dates and ensure that any holiday bookings are made outside of the school terms.

TERM DATES 2009

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Spring Term 2009</p> <p>Monday 5th January 2009 – Friday 13th February 2009</p> <p><i>Half term – Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2009</i></p> <p>Monday 23rd February 2009 – Friday 3rd April 2009</p> <p>INSET Day : Monday 26th January 2009</p> | <p>Summer Term 2009</p> <p>Monday 20th April 2009 – Friday 22nd May 2009</p> <p>Bank Holiday – 4th May 2009</p> <p><i>Half term – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2009</i></p> <p>Monday 1st June 2009 – Friday 17th July 2009</p> <p>INSET Day: Monday 8th June 2009</p> |  An illustration featuring a black wireframe globe on a light blue background. Below the globe is a white suitcase with a black handle and a pinkish-red detail on the side. |
|  A photograph of a white commercial airplane with blue accents on the tail, flying against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. | <p>Autumn Term 2009</p> <p>School Resumes for pupils on:</p> <p>Thursday 3rd September (to be confirmed)</p> <p><i>Half term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2009</i></p> <p>Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2009</p> |  A cartoon illustration of a yellow emoji with a wide smile, wearing blue sunglasses and holding a blue suitcase. The suitcase has a red 'PARIS' label, a white star, and a red circle with a white diagonal line. |