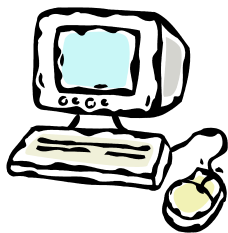


Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have reached the halfway point of the school year and pupils and staff continue to be as busy as ever with work, class visits and other exciting activities.

We have experienced a very cold winter this year and we look forward to the warmer months ahead. It has been exciting to see our parenting programmes continuing to expand under the guidance of Mrs Poonai. We now have our first adult ICT class taking place each week and our third group of parents completing the Family Links course.



We have seen some excellent assemblies during this half-term and even a film premiere. It is always lovely to see so many parents come along and join us for class assemblies.

We are having further building re-decorations take place during the half-term with additional works planned for the Easter break and the summer holidays.

I wish everyone a very relaxing and safe half-term break and I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at school events in the next few weeks.

Kind Regards

**Mr Dave Woods**  
**Head Teacher**

## Curriculum News

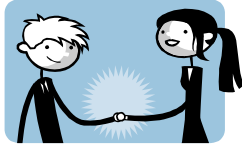
Training for staff during these past weeks has continued to focus on early reading and phonics. Our Inset Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> January on developing a “Beaconsfield Creative Curriculum”.

## Some scary facts about the future

- Children who started in Nursery in 2008 won't retire from work until approximately 2070
- The first text message was sent in December 1992 and now the number of texts sent each day is larger than the population of the Earth
- All of the top 10 most in demand jobs in 2009 did not exist in 2004
- School leavers in 2009 will have an average of 14 different jobs by the age of 38

We are working hard in school to develop a curriculum that will help to prepare children for the future. We are focusing on developing key learning skills that will let children be able to access information from a range of information sources. Over the next 12-18 months you will hear the children talking more about different technologies that we are using in school and exciting projects that are taking place.

## Citizenship Fortnight (27<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February)



Over the last two weeks all classes from Nursery to Year 6 have been taking part in activities, competitions and educational visits for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Citizenship Fortnight.

Our main theme has been “**Caring for the Environment**”. Children have been busy working on competition entries with posters, powerpoint presentations, persuasive letters and collage pictures. Children from each class have been selected as competition winners and they will receive their prizes after half-term.



As a school we will be sending our letters to The Rt. Hon. Ed Milliband (MP) who is Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. We look forward to receiving replies from the minister about our requests for the Government to support schools to become more environmentally friendly.

A number of class visits have also taken place during this time. Please read about these further into the newsletter. The Year 4 visit to the Tower of London was affected by the snow. This visit will be rescheduled for the class. Our activities concluded with the Key Stage 2 debate on “Whether Heathrow Airport should build a third runway”.

## Foundation Stage (Nursery/Reception)

In the Nursery the children have been preparing and tasting healthy foods. The children had great fun helping with the food preparation and learning to be very careful with kitchen tools.



As part of Citizenship Fortnight, Reception have been trying to improve the garden area outside their classroom. We have been planting flowers in the new containers and have been planting vegetable seeds.



We hope to be able to cook and eat some of the vegetables later in the year and to enjoy looking at the flowers.



Reception class went to the Sports Centre to play some Team games. We learned how to work together while having a lot of fun.

## Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2)

### Year 1

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Year 1 presented their Chinese New Year assembly to the school to celebrate the year of the ox.



During the lead up to the assembly, Year 1 enjoyed a whole week of fun activities relating to the Chinese New Year including learning a dragon dance poem, making their own dragons, making traditional Chinese hats and lanterns.



### Year 2

**Be inspired by Year 2 's yoga assembly**

Do yoga

Be fit and healthy.

Don't believe because scriptures say so.

Don't believe because someone says so.

Do it! Experience it! And then believe it!!



## Key Stage 2

### Year 3

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February the children in Year 3 travelled to Kew Gardens despite the rain and sleet to visit the tropical palm house. This was linked to their work on tropical rainforests.



### Year 4

The children in Year 4 have been having fun with cooking activities. Jasmin has written about the cooking day.

## My Cooking Day

On Friday I went cooking with Mrs Paul first we all had a turn weighing the butter and having a look how much we needed then we put it in a bowl. Then we had to find out how much flour and margarine we needed to mix together, we had done that so we started mixing the butter and margarine together.

Before that we had to spread something on the cooking tray to make sure our melting moments don't get stuck on the cooking trays. After we rolled the mixed flour and margarine. We put them on the tray and spreaded the ripped coconut on the little balls and put the balls in to the oven to cook for 10 minutes, we were lucky because we had some cake from Mrs Paul because we were being good. Meanwhile the biscuits were made we went home and had lots fun eating them my mum was proud of me.

By Jasmin

## The End

## Year 5

As part of the activities in Citizenship Fortnight the children in Year 5 travelled to the London Assembly building to learn about the role of the mayor.

As part of citizenship week Year 5 visited the City Hall in central London. We went to find out about the Mayor of London (Boris Johnson), the London Assembly and the Greater London Authority. We travelled by train and then got on two different tubes. It took us about 10 minutes to walk there. On the way to City Hall we saw many interesting things including an amazing metal water fountain in the middle of a shopping centre. We walked by the side of the River Thames and saw a massive war ship called HMS Belfast. On the opposite side of the river we saw 'The Tower of London'. We also saw Tower Bridge.



Finally we got to City Hall and the building was very impressive. It looked like a giant glass egg! Before we could go into City Hall we all had to go through a security check. All the adults had their bags checked in a special machine. One of their security guards even mistook Kashmir for one of the adults and wouldn't let her go in at first!

When we walked in there was a giant map of London on the floor. We tried to spot Southall but some men were in the middle of changing the exhibition so they had pictures all over the floor. Maybe we'll see it next time. A man called Richard came and took us into a meeting room where we ate our lunch. Then he gave us a quiz all about different things about London and its history. He also taught us a lot about the Mayor of London (Boris Johnson), the London Assembly and the Greater London Authority. We had to think about what we liked and didn't like about London and what we would change if we were the Mayor.



We were hoping to see the Mayor but unfortunately he must have been busy somewhere else for the day. The most impressive thing about the building was a gigantic spiral staircase which curled up the middle of the building. Richard let the whole class climb up the stairs. By the time we got to the top of the stairs we were very tired. But it was worth it. At the top of the stairs we went out onto a balcony right at the top of the building. It was very windy and cold but it was a beautiful sunny day and we could see for miles all over London! It was a really good view. We had a really good day and we learnt lots about our city, the Mayor and the London Assembly.

By Rahima and Priya

**Year 5 also visited the Ragged Museum to experience what school was like in Victorian Times. Mohib has written about the visit.**

Year 5 visited the Ragged School museum to find out what life was for children in Victorian times. The Ragged School was set up by a very special man called Dr Barnardo. He set up schools where very poor children could go to get a free education, food and sometime somewhere to sleep. The Ragged School was a very creepy old building with creaky floorboards. The man took us to the lunch room and told us "wait here for five minutes".

After five minutes he told us to line up like the Ragged School students did. There are 2 rules for you to line up: 1. Put your hands straight at your sides. 2. Chin up and stand up straight. Just then the man took us to the class. The class teacher was called Mrs Perkins. She was tall, scary, very strict and wore a dark red Victorian dress. There were 2 rows of benches and 1 table between 2 students.



Mrs Perkins told us she needed 6 monitors, 3 boys and 3 girls. She chose me, Faisal and Manraj for boys. We had to give out slate boards, pencils and cloths for us to write on. First we had to do hand writing practice. We needed to write alphabets in Victorian style hand writing and Mrs Perkins was very cross if our handwriting wasn't neat enough! We had to draw a butterfly in art and then it was time for history. Mrs Perkins made us learn this list of English Kings by heart: 'First William the Norman, then William his son. Henry, Stephen and Henry. Then Richard and John'. After wards we had to do arithmetic which is what we call numeracy. We learnt about old English money like farthings and guineas and had to answer some mental maths questions about shopping. Before we left, Mrs Perkins showed us some of the Victorian punishments. Ubaid had to wear the dunce's hat and Melissa wore a back straightener to make her sit up straight! After we finished all the things we could ask the teacher thing we wanted.



After our lesson a man came and took us to the Victorian kitchen. He told us all the things about the Victorian kitchen, including how they did washing, cooking and where they kept their food in a box outside to keep it cold and fresh like a fridge. The washing sounded like very hard work and took a very long time to do. We are lucky to have washing machines in modern times! We all had a really good day and we learnt a lot about how hard school was in Victorian times. BY Mohib (Year 5)

## Year 6

During Citizenship Fortnight the children in Year 6 were able to visit Parliament House in Westminster to see the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

### Ikra writes:

*What I enjoyed most about Parliament was the House of Lords because it was really beautiful, most of it – red. The Queen's magnificent throne was especially spectacular but unfortunately we were not allowed to sit on it. They were so strict they did not let us sit on the seats over there. We saw the place where all the Lords met and debated different issues and Bills. It was a day packed with fun and excitement!!*



I enjoyed our trip to Parliament especially the when we entered the House of Commons. It was really interesting to hear about the queen not being allowed to go in the House of Commons and all the debates that take place in there. Out of all the things, I have to say it was when we were allowed to stand where the Prime Minister Gordon Brown stands. I felt very important it was a special moment... By Khaleed



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Parent/Carer and Toddler Group



Our group continues to meet each Friday morning from 9.30am to 11.15am for toddlers aged from 18 months up to age 3.

This group is open to parents/carers of children in the school and to friends with young children. The school has been successful in gaining some extra funds and we will shortly be building a new toddler “play” space as part of our dining room.



### After-School Care

We currently have some places available in our after-school care provision. This is ideal for working parents or just for parents who would like their child to stay at school for 1 or 2 afternoons to be able to mix with other children and have time to complete homework with supervision.



Care is provided from 3.20pm – 5.30pm every day of the term for just £3 per day or £1.50 per hour. We can care for children from Reception to Year 6. Discounts of up to 20% are available for pre-payment of a half-term in advance.

## SCHOOL PROCEDURES



### 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. The best way to keep clothes safe is to put names on all 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**.

Cheques should be made payable to **Harrison Catering Services Limited**

The cost of school dinners for the second half of the spring terms will be £57.00 (23<sup>rd</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 – 30 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 receive written notification giving four weeks notice.**

All school dinner money paid at school is collected by Harrison Catering. The school office staff **do not** have anything to do with collecting dinner money.

The easiest way to pay dinner money is using the internet payment service at [www.ealingmeals.com](http://www.ealingmeals.com) or by phoning 020 8280 0318.

You may be entitled to claim free school meals. If you receive income support, job seekers allowance, child tax credit or if you are assisted by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) it is very likely that you can claim free school meals. If you think you may be entitled to claim free school meals please take a form from the school office. This could save you up to £360 each year.

## 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.***

## 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><b>Spring Term 2009</b></p> <p><b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009</b></p> <p><i>Half term – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009</i></p> <p><b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009</b></p> <p><b>INSET Day : Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b></p>	<p><b>Summer Term 2009</b></p> <p><b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009</b></p> <p><b>Bank Holiday – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009</b></p> <p><i>Half term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009</i></p> <p><b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009</b></p> <p><b>INSET Day: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009</b></p>	 An illustration featuring a black and white globe with latitude and longitude lines, positioned above a white suitcase with a black handle and a pinkish-red detail. The background consists of light blue and green geometric shapes.
 A photograph of a white commercial airplane with a blue tail, flying against a blue sky with scattered white clouds.	<p><b>Autumn Term 2009</b></p> <p><b>School Resumes for pupils on:</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b> <i>(to be confirmed)</i></p> <p><i>Half term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009</i></p> <p><b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009</b></p>	 A cartoon illustration of a yellow emoji character with a wide smile, wearing blue sunglasses and holding a blue suitcase. The suitcase has various travel-related icons, including the American flag, the Spanish flag, a star, and the word 'PARIS' in red. A red circle with a white diagonal line is also on the suitcase.