

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are now well into the autumn term and already the days are getting noticeably shorter as the cold months of winter approach.

It has been pleasing over the last few days to see so many parents coming along for the parent and teacher meetings to discuss children's learning targets and how they are getting on in their classes.

We began the school year with the publication of our excellent OFSTED report which highlighted the many wonderful and exciting things taking place within the school. It was great to end my second year at the school with such a positive report. It is a real credit to all of the children and the hard work of staff that we have made so many improvements in such a short space of time.

We are looking into the future with many more exciting developments in our curriculum and further improvements to the facilities that we offer the children in school.

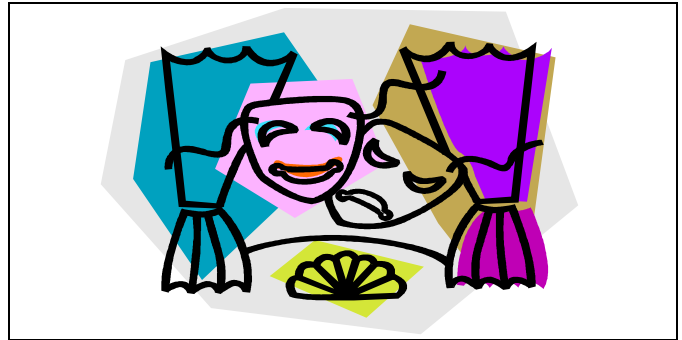
Best Wishes
Mr Dave Woods
Head Teacher

CURRICULUM NEWS

During our weekly staff meetings this term the teacher have been looking at a number of areas such as literacy and maths teaching and also ways that we support children who are new to learning English.

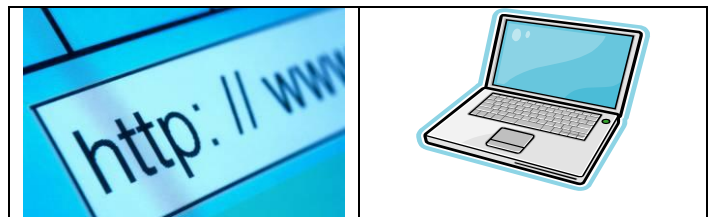
We had an excellent INSET Day on the 17th October which focused on drama and role-play skills and how we can use these skills in class to develop children's speaking and writing abilities.

Don't forget that Friday 28th November is an INSET Day. School is closed to children on this day.



I.C.T.

We have continued to improve the access that children have to computers and ICT as we know that whether we like them or not, computers are a vital part of our life today and all of us need to know how to use them.



Our school has a wireless network running on the 1st floor of the building meaning that children from Year 2 to Year 6 can all work in their classrooms using lap-top computers.

Literacy

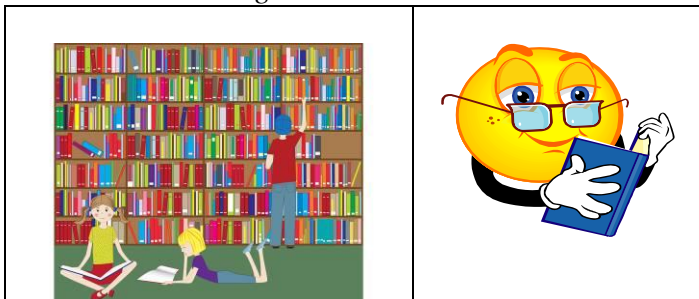
Reading at home and at school is a vital part of children developing good skills in literacy. In the last two years we have invested close to £15 000 in new reading books in classrooms and for reading at home. This large investment is because we know how vital reading is.

Did you know?

If you cannot read properly you are unable to learn properly in any other subject including maths. Over the year I have worked in almost 20 different jobs to support myself whilst studying at university and whether I was working on the deck of a ship or soldering contacts onto fork-lift trucks I had to read something in every single one of those jobs.

PUPIL NEWS

If your child cannot read effectively she or he will struggle for their entire life. As parents and carers wanting the very best for your children I am pleading with you to make sure that you spend time every week (4-5 times) listening to your child read and then discussing the book and the characters.



A big thank you to Mrs Poonai and the many staff and children who volunteered to help her with our recent book fair.

Foundation Stage (Nursery/ Reception)

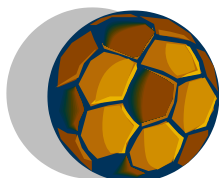
It has been an exciting time in the Foundation Stage with the children settling into the nursery and reception classes.



Application forms for Reception places in 2009 have been given to parents in the Nursery. These forms must be returned to school by Friday 5th December 2008. If you have any questions about these forms please ask a member of the school staff.

P.E. Sports News

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



We are grateful to Mr Bedi and Miss Salvidge for their efforts with the school football team and after-school coaching. We are also very grateful to the parents who volunteer to come along and help with matches. Your support is essential to enable us to provide these opportunities for children to participate in sports.

Educational Visits

On Monday 20th October the children in Year 3 and Year 4 were able to travel to the cinema in Kensington to see a screening of the Dr Seus movie “*Horton Hears A Who*” as part of National Schools Film Education Week.

Assemblies

A few weeks the children in Year 6 led the assembly for the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr.



The children in Year 2 presented the assembly for the festival of Diwali which will take place next week.



Anti-Bullying Week – November 2008

From the 17th to the 21st November the school will be celebrated anti-bullying week along with many other schools across England. On Friday the 21st November we will be asking all the children to come dressed to school wearing something “BLUE” to make a statement that we do not accept bullying.

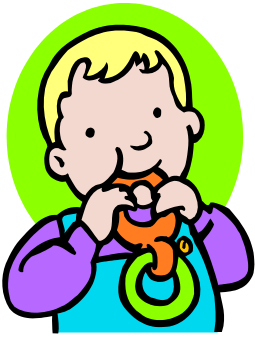


During this week we also be launching our updated Anti-Bullying Statement and a copy will be sent home to each family.

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 parents room each week from 9:00am.



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.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES



Lost Property

School Uniform

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

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 near the playground doors 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.

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 second half of autumn term will be £62.90

(3rd Nov – 19th Dec 34 days @ £1.85 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.

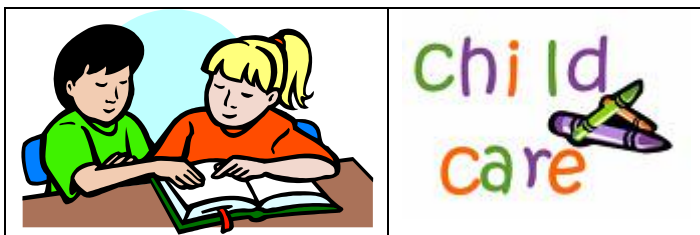
A recent spot check in the morning recorded 24 children late. More spot checks will take place next half-term and children who persistently arrive late for school will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer.

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.

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

School is open for 39 weeks of the year leaving another 13 weeks when holidays can be taken. Parents who do take their children out of school during term time will not have the leave authorised.


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



Any requests for leave must be discussed with the headteacher after filling in the leave request form.

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

TERM DATES 2008/ 2009

<p>Autumn Term 2008</p> <p><i>Half term – Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2008</i></p> <p>School resumes on</p> <p>Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December 2008</p> <p>INSET Days : Monday 1st September 2008 Friday 17th October 2008 Friday 28th November 2008</p>	<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>
	<p>Autumn Term 2009</p> <p>School Resumes for pupils on:</p> <p>Thursday 3rd September <i>(to be confirmed)</i></p>	