

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 13th February, 2015

Volume 20; Issue 6

Sponsored 'Maths-a-thon'

Today, your child will bring home their sponsorship form for their 'Maths-a-thon'. Whilst we are raising money for more exciting maths equipment in school, the main purpose of this activity is for children to learn aspects of mental arithmetic off by heart. On the sponsor form, it will be specified which maths challenge the teacher feels is appropriate for your child to learn. The challenge will take place Friday, 27th February and the sponsor money should be collected during the following week so that it is handed in by Friday, 6th March. Good luck.

Gorilla loose on school grounds!

As most of you are surely aware we had a most unusual visitor interrupt assembly on Monday morning. A keen-eyed infant was the first to spot a gorilla at large in the outdoor area behind the hall. Fortunately, Mr Hocking's Forest School training paid off and he managed to calm the beast with the aid of a banana. It transpired that the poor creature had got lost on his way back to Colchester Zoo and, after being given directions, cycled off merrily.

Back in class the children were asked to write a recount of the incident, which had captured the imagination of so many of them. It was all part of a cunning plan to help us assess writing across the school in the light of the demands made on children by the new National Curriculum and to standardise end of year expectations for each Year Group. Thanks to Mr Pethybridge for his excellent acting skills and helping inspire the children to write.

Mobile phones

Only children in Year 6 or with special permission from me should be bringing their phones in to school. However, we have had reports of children bringing mobile phones to school, arriving before 8:45 am and accessing the Internet on their phones unsupervised by an adult outside the school gates. After half term, any child arriving too early at school for the purpose of sharing Internet content/chat rooms with their friends at the school gate will have their phones taken to the school office and they will need to be collected by the parent. This may sound as though it is beyond our remit, but we have concerns for young children who are witnessing inappropriate content and sharing the information with others whilst at school. Obviously, the best solution would be for children to be brought to school by an adult or to have a phone that is purely for making phone calls, without Internet access.

MDA positions

We are looking to appoint two MDAs after half term. One role will be for three days a week (Monday to Wednesday) on a permanent contract whilst the other will be each school day on a contract linked to supporting a child with special needs. Please apply to the school office if you would like more information or an application pack. The closing date will be Friday, 27th February, with interviews the following week.

Half term homework

In addition to the 'Maths-a-thon', we are asking children to undertake an Amazon linked task. The theme for the homework is online and the children can be as imaginative as they wish with what their piece of work might look like. We will not be setting Easter holiday homework this year as we hope the weather will be better by then and you will have more time for family activities.

Breakfast Club

Please make regular payments to secure your place at Breakfast Club.

Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who supported the quiz last Friday. It raised £350 towards the music room project.

Be careful

A parent was recently bitten by a dog on their way home from school. Please take care.

Menu

Week 1 menu - please see the website for our menus. Cheese and crackers will be on Tuesday with pancakes on Wednesday.

Forthcoming dates

w/b 16th Feb – Half Term

2nd Mar – Y5 Egypt Day

5th Mar – World Book Day

14th Mar – Y6 Masterclasses at BCHS

16th Mar – Dance competition at BCHS

17th Mar – Cross country at Weald Park

16th Mar – Dance competition at BCHS

19th Mar – Y6 Easter Cracked at Methodist Church

w/b 23rd Mar – Y4 play (dates to be confirmed)

24th Mar – Y1 visit to Barleylands

25th Mar – Y5 Showcase to parents

26th Mar – Queens Theatre visit to school (Little Red Riding Hood)

26th Mar – Fundraisers school disco

27th Mar – School breaks up for Spring break

13th Apr – School closed for teacher training

14th Apr – Children return to school

7th May – School closed for Polling Day (INSET for staff)

Letters home

10th Feb – Universal Free School Meals (selected Y1 & Y2)

12th Feb – Y5 visit to British Museum and Freshwater Theatre

Attendance – 97% target

Congratulations to Birch, Elder, Elm, larch and Maple for having over 97% attendance since the start of the academic year (September).

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Bobbi McGovern, Georgie Franklin, Emma Blake, Dev Vemula, Oliver Oldfield, Lola Russell, Gracie Field, Jeremiah Ajanlekok and Amye Swinney.

Silver Certificates went to Megan Waddington, Reggie Green, Daniel Jerome, Bradley Holden, Izaak Thomas, Jake Simmons, Oscar Logan, Preya Patel and Jude Forrest Hopkins.

Gold Certificates went to Harsh Mishra, Rebecca Smith and Ruby Stevens.

Pen Licences went to Mark Botwright, Thomas Carter, Cain Smith, Ryan Staines, Zach Humphreys and Bobby Burfield.