

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 15th January, 2016

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Staffing news

As you know, Mrs Musson is expecting a baby at Easter. Being heavily pregnant in a primary school is never easy and working with our youngest children is particularly difficult physically. As a result, she will start her maternity leave at the end of January when Ms Butler will teach Acorn Class full time. We wish Mrs Musson a healthy and trouble-free end to her pregnancy. We will update you when news of baby Musson arrives.

Chinese New Year – To celebrate Chinese New Year, the year of the Monkey, Mrs Horgan and Mrs Nichols have organised 'The Chopstick Challenge'. This challenge will involve ten children from each class using a pair of chopsticks to move items from one container to another. The children will compete in year groups, one child from Beech class will go against one from Birch class and so on throughout the school. They will get to show off their talent and compete for a fancy pair of chopsticks. KS1 will be using marshmallows and KS2 will use pasta shapes, just to make it a little harder. The lucky ten from each class have been chosen, so chop-chop, get practising! *By Louise Clements – School Journalist*

Spring term consultations – It was good to see so many of you at yesterday's parent/teacher consultations to receive information about how your child's learning is progressing. If you have not booked for either of the consultation dates, you can see your child's class teacher to see if he/she still has any availability on 25th January. I would also like to thank those of you who took the time during yesterday evening to fill in the ParentView and Fundraisers' surveys. Remember, you can fill these surveys in at home too.

Homework – In response to parental requests, we are now sending the weekly planning sheets from staff via Parentmail to inform you of what we intend teaching the following week and what the homework is. This means that you will receive an email informing you of the information and homework will no longer be posted on the homework page of the website. You should also bear in mind that the information about intended teaching can change during the week as, in line with good practice, our staff change their plans to meet the children's needs as the week and their interests progress.

Holly Hobbies - This term Holly Hobbies will be running on 2nd and 9th February and 1st and 8th March in the small hall from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. We will be making costumes and props for the Year 4 play. If you have any spare time and would like to help at any of these sessions, please come along. Tea and biscuits provided! Many thanks.

Fun with French sponsored learning challenge - The Fundraisers are nearing their final target of £25,000 for the Music Practice Room and need your help to make it over the hurdle! They will be launching their latest fundraising event this Monday: a Fun with French Sponsored Learning Challenge. Children will be encouraged to learn some simple French vocabulary or phrases (depending on their age) by the beginning of February in exchange for sponsored donations from your family and friends. Best of all, if you are a UK taxpayer, then an extra 25p Gift Aid can be claimed on top of every £1 donated!

Fundraisers survey (change to win free Inflatables tickets!) - The Fundraisers need your help in planning their events for 2016-17 and have put together a short online questionnaire for you to give your feedback. All respondents will be entered into a prize draw for 2 x FREE children's tickets for Inflatables Day in June!

School Health Drop-in Sessions – The Brentwood School Nursing Team can offer help and advice with continence issues (day/night wetting), hearing tests, growth/dietary concerns, sleep/behaviour issues, general health and development. Please go along to Larchwood Children's Centre, Larchwood Gardens, Pilgrims Hatch on 11th and 25th January, 8th and 22nd February and 7th and 21st March between 3:00 and 4:30 pm. No appointment necessary.

Reception Class health screening – Please return your health questionnaires before the School Nursing Team come to do their screening on 20th and 21st January.

Headlice – We have had cases of headlice reported in school so we would be grateful if you could check your child's hair this weekend and treat, if necessary, to prevent this spreading.

Attendance – 97% target - Congratulations to Beech, Birch, Elm, Holly, Hornbeam, Larch, Laurel, Maple, Mulberry and Sycamore for having over 97% attendance since the start of the academic year (September).

Census Day – This will take place next Thursday (21st) and our funding is helped by children taking a dinner on that day. We will be swapping Friday's dinner on that day and we would ask you to support us by ordering your child a dinner on that day.

Menu - Week 1 of the new winter menu.

Letters home

11th – Acorn & Apple Class Forest School

Forthcoming dates

25th Jan – parent/teacher consultations

w/b 25th Jan – sponsored French event and chopstick challenge

15th to 19th Feb – half term

5th Mar – Fundraisers Jazz Night

15th Mar – Year 4 performance of Pied Piper – evening

16th Mar – Year 4 performance of Pied Piper - afternoon

17th Mar – Fundraisers disco

24th Mar – last day of Spring term

11th Apr – children return to school

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Mila Savva, Ethan Mistry, Alix Fisher, Isabella Bauers, Tia Chaplin, Lily Mae Sunnucks, Harry Faulkner, Alfie Phillips and Ella Stammers.

Silver Certificates went to Tilly Crook, Sam Anderson, Emma Blake and Zachary Humphreys.

Gold Certificates went to Millie Waters and Stephanie Brown.

Pen Licence went to Isabelle Brooke.

Headteacher's Award went to Kartik Akolia.