



Friday 15 September 2011

Autumn Term; Issue 2

# Sharmans Cross Junior School

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## Dates for your diary:

### September

19-21 - Y5 Environmental visits

21 - Induction Evening [Y4-Y6]

23 - Y6 Black Country Museum Visit

27 - Open Day [1-3]

29 - Parents' Forum [Communication] - 7-9

30 - School Bank

### October

5 - Open Day [9.30-11 / 4-6]

7 - Coffee Morning School Bank

13 - Open Day [4-6]

18 - Assessment

Workshop [7-9]

21 - School Bank

24 - 28 Half Term Break

### November

4 - Coffee Morning

14 - Anti-Bullying Week

17 - Parents' Evening [4-8]

### December

2 - Coffee Morning

9 - Christmas Fair [Provisional]

15 - Christmas Parties

16 - Term Ends

### January

4 January - School Improvement Planning

6 - Coffee Morning

26 - Parents' Forum [7-9]

### INSET DAYS

23 April - to be confirmed

3 May - to be confirmed

## Thought for the week

*Is it better to ask for forgiveness or permission?*

What an exciting week it's been in school, and out of school. We have once again been lucky to work with the children and staff from Kampala's Destiny Africa choir. This year the partnership has grown once again, with two concerts and a greater contribution from our own choir. Destiny Africa is for me a true celebration of the human spirit, hope over adversity and membership of a global community. I am pleased that we have the opportunity at Sharmans Cross to not only support the amazing work that the Kampala Children's Centre does, but to also be a part of it and hopefully to also learn from it. Our many thanks go to Miss Carter for being the main contact point and organizer of this superb event.

Continuing on from the theme of global community, the troubles of the summer, whilst possibly for many of us now a distant memory, got me thinking once more about what a community is. Watching the troubling scenes unfold on the television, I was reminded of some reading I had done some time ago. This clearly defined a difference between community and society, saying that society asked *What can you do for me?* and community asking *What can I do for you?* I strongly hope and believe that as a community ourselves we spend more thinking about others than ourselves and that events like Destiny Africa further that value.

I will be doing an assembly next week on the summer disturbances at the request of the Local Authority and the Police Force. Head Teachers and schools have been asked to do some work with our young people that explores the consequences of the anti-social behaviour and criminality upon the community, helping to reduce the risk of such actions taking place in the future. The assembly will use carefully selected images from the media coverage that children will have seen on the news and in papers to ask the questions about the appropriateness of the behaviour, its impact upon our emotions and what it is about our school that would ensure that these activities wouldn't and couldn't happen here. I will post this assembly on the school website following my assembly next week.

It will be nice to welcome back Year 4 children and colleagues from their adventures at Blackwell Court. They have spent the week team building and developing their small community. Initial reports are very positive and we will be able to provide more insight into their time next week.

In the meantime, have a very good weekend!

Mark



### Induction Evenings / Homework

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September Y4, Y5 and Y6 parents are invited to an induction meeting with their child's new class teacher. These meetings will provide you with the opportunity to more formally meet your child's teacher as well as to find out about the work and routines of the class over the coming months. These meetings will be at 7pm and last for roughly an hour.

These will include the setting and completion of [homework](#). Please note that whilst some homework may be coming home over the next few weeks via the Home / School diaries, this does not formally start until the 26<sup>th</sup> September. This allows teachers and children time to discuss the routines and for us to share these routines with you at the Induction Evening.

### Outdoor Education

Next week sees the start of our new outdoor curriculum, lead by Miss Carter. The sessions taking place in the afternoons will develop the children's ability to analyse and counter risk, exploring the physical and social world around them, ideas and concepts, learning how to deal with situations that trouble or worry them and contributing to their physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual development. One Head Teacher of a school that took a similar view found that,

*The children value the freedom...and find that the range of their choice is wider so that they are more ready to accept the workload demanded during the time of their formal education.*

Parents will have received a letter about the details as children will work alongside Miss Carter on a monthly basis. Given the nature of the work we are more than happy for children to come to school on these days in old clothing that will withstand the rigours of the tasks rather than school uniform.

This will also extend the great work begun by the Gardening Club. They have been to Packwood House again this week to work alongside the Head Gardener. We are really grateful to Mrs Fear, Mrs Stewart and Packwood House for offering our children this fantastic experience, as well as the numerous parents and staff who also help out.

### Car Parking

In the spirit of community, we would ask that parents remain to be sensitive to the needs of our neighbours as you drop off and collect your children from school. The dentist next door has reported to me this week that a car was parked on their car park by one of our parents, who seemed unconcerned by the trouble caused.

Whilst being in possession of the registration number I will not publish it, but have suggested that our neighbours may wish to pass on the details of any inconsiderate parkers to the police.

### Spanish Words of the Week

We are asking everyone this year to incorporate more Spanish into their day to day lives. Next week we would ask everyone to greet each other in Spanish.

*Buenos dias - Good Morning ; Buenas tardes - Good afternoon ; Adios - Goodbye  
Hasta mañana - See you tomorrow ; Buen fin de semana - Have a good weekend*

