



Dates for your diary:

January

23 - Maths Week
24 - Maths Workshop [7-9]
25 - PTA Meeting
27 - Maths Open Day

February

3 - School Bank
13 - Half Term

March

2-03 School Bank
12-16 - National Science and Engineering Week [Our World in Motion]
13-16 - Y5 in York
16 - School Bank
23 - School Bank
29 - Parents' Evening

April

2 / 3 - Y4 Performance
5 - Coffee Morning
5 - Term Ends
23 - INSET Day [Subject TBC]
24 - Children return to school
27 - School Bank
30 - New Curricular Targets shared

May

3 - INSET Day [Subject TBC]/ Polling
4 - Coffee Morning
11- School Bank
24 - Parents' Forum [7-8pm]
25 - School Bank

June

1 - Coffee Morning [Y6]
4-8 - Half Term
11-15 - Y6 at Red Ridge
28 - New Intake Evening [7-8pm]
30 - Summer Fair [12.30-3.30pm]

July

12 - Open Evening
19 - School Olympics [Sports Day!]
25 - School Year Ends

As you will no doubt have heard from your children, we had two guests from the Local Authority visit us last week to support us in moderating our evaluations about the school. They came to look at the teaching and provision that we make for our children. In doing this, they went into lessons, looked at books, spoke to children and had discussions with staff.

During their two days with us, they were able to help us confirm the good quality teaching that takes place across the school. In particular they were impressed by the focus upon learning, the quality of the assessment and target setting processes, the varied, interactive teaching that went on, the quality of marking in books and feedback given to children and the high expectations of teachers.

They were also very impressed with the children, all of whom spoke very highly of the school. The children spoke very clearly about their learning and the ethos of the school community. Both advisers commented many times about their delight at speaking to the children.

Whilst this was not a formal inspection, it was good to reinforce the continuing improvements that we are making as a school and to have them recognized by people from outside the school.

You can have your say on where we are as a school by visiting the Ofsted website, <http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. There you will find a set of questions asking you for your views and thoughts on the school and your experiences. Below are just a few comments from some of our parents:

"I really value the open door policy that allows you to speak to the teacher at any time about my daughter's progress"

"We Like the school communications that have improved over the past 2-3 years and the greater interaction of parents"

"Happy, approachable school. I have had no reason to discuss any concerns but would feel confident to do so if I have"

Many of you have asked for another line of contact to teachers beyond the drop-ins, telephone discussions or home-school diaries. To this end, we have now posted our email addresses on the Class Pages of the website.

Have a good weekend!

Mark

PTA MEETING

There will be a PTA meeting in the staff room on Wednesday 25 January at 7.30pm - new members welcome.

Parent Council / Parent Forum Workshops for PARENTS

Parent Councils or Forums offer a way of enabling parents to have a voice within the schools. They give parents the opportunity to contribute to policy making on issues which affect them and also to play their part in improving children's learning. This two hour workshop is aimed at parents who are already involved or interested in being involved in their school's Parent Council. The session will look at what is required in setting up an effective council or forum and help you to evaluate an existing group and develop it further. The workshop will cover: Getting started; The right structure for your school; Reaching out to all parents; Representation; Legal requirements; Ideas for improving effectiveness; Parent Involvement; Communicating with other parents; Evaluating progress; Case Studies.

Evening Sessions - Monday 6 February, The Renewal Family Centre (Back of Renewal Church off Lode Lane) - 7.30 - 9.00 pm

Afternoon Session - Tuesday 7 February, The Renewal Church, Walnut Close, Chelmsley Wood - 1.00 - 2.30 pm

If you are interested please call at the office for an information sheet and booking form

Spanish Words of the Week - Maths Game

In preparation for Maths week, use the link below to practice counting forwards and backwards (yr3, 1-20; yr4 10-30; yr5 20-50; yr6 30-60).

Next week, we will be playing the following game around school.

1. Greet people with Buenos dias or Buenas tardes.
2. Wait for the person to greet you back.
3. Say 5 consecutive numbers in Spanish.
4. The other person must reply saying the same numbers backwards!

<http://www.donquijote.org/spanishlanguage/numbers/numbers1.asp>

School Meals

The cost of school meals this term is:

Half Term	04/01/2012 - 10/02/2012	=	£51.30
Half Term	20/02/2012 - 05/04/2012	=	£64.60
(For Yr 5 children going to York the cost will be			£55.10)

Full Term	04/01/2012 - 05/04/2012	=	£115.90
(For Yr 5 children going to York the cost will be			£106.40)

South Solihull Indoor Athletics Championships

On Wednesday 18 January, 25 Year 6 children participated in the South Solihull Indoor Athletic Championships. They competed against 5 other schools in a range of different activities. Each child gave 110% effort and represented the school fantastically. We are delighted to announce that they came first by a considerable margin and are now going through to the next round on 7 February. Well done and good luck!