

## Dates for your diary:

### **February**

3 - School Bank  
13 - Half Term

### **March**

1 - World Book Day  
2 - 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

Last week I had an excellent conversation with the group of parents who attended our termly Forum meeting. We were able to unpick one or two matters, strengthening our assessment of where we are as a school and what we need to focus upon to move even further forward in our quest to become outstanding.

Firstly, the conversation centred around after school clubs. It was good to hear that the provision we offer has improved over the past three years. However, the feeling was that we could do more. Parents came up with a wide array of clubs that they would like to see running that children would be interested in. They also wanted a broader opportunity for a range of children across the year groups, with less limits placed upon numbers.

We then talked about the barriers to this type of provision. Unsurprisingly the matter came down to having people to run the clubs. Given a finite number of staff, the conversation turned to external paid providers and parental volunteers. Both sound a reasonable way forward, although each ask for decisions to be made by parents. External providers will clearly bring costs. We thought at the Forum that up to £5 per session was a reasonable price. With regard to parental volunteers, potentially running a club, we needed to know how parents would feel about this. Clearly as a school we would in both of the above scenarios carry out the appropriate safety and quality checks prior to starting. However, for both matters I would ask that parents use the online discussion forum to share thoughts and opinions on the matter before we proceed.

We also talked about transition points at Y3 and Y6 and some ways that we could aid the process further and the communication of children's progress. Both of which I'm sure will appear in the upcoming Improvement Plan for 2012-13.

My many thanks to those parents attending the forum and using the blog. Following the meeting my opinions are changing about the processes we use. Having a small group of parents to consider key issues with certainly creates a good discussion base, especially if this is informed by the broader community through the blog. Therefore I am carefully considering moving more to a parents council approach, being informed by the discussion forum, next term. Again this is a good point for the discussion forum to consider also.

Have a good weekend!

Mark



### Maths Week

It's been a really buzzy week in school as a result of the wonderful Maths Week organised by Mr Hyde. Children have been hooked by a variety of activity and certainly inspired to move around the school looking for different mathematical terms and symbols.

Parents have also actively been involved through the rules of number, or routes through, workshop that Mr Hyde ran and the interactive maths open day. Our many thanks for their support.

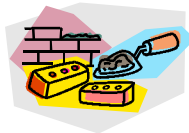
The presentation for this workshop is now on the Home Page of the Website.



### 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. Evening Sessions - *If you are interested please call at the office for an information sheet and booking form*

**Latest news for children and families** If you are a parent and would like to know what's going on in Solihull for families, then check out the latest newsletter from Solihull Council Family Information Service as it's full of interesting news and events. To receive the newsletter regularly sign up to the Parents' Network at [www.solihull.gov.uk/parentsnetwork](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/parentsnetwork)



### ADDED ATTRACTION AT SWALLOWS FEBRUARY'S HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB!

On Thursday 16 February from 1.30 - 3.00 pm they will be joined by 'Create - Build - Learn' who will provide an entertaining session of Lego Building Competitions and Games. Check out the website at [www.create-build-learn.co.uk](http://www.create-build-learn.co.uk)

To book a place contact Swallows on 0121 746 5600.

### Spanish Words of the Week - Well done and keep playing!

Well done to those children who have demonstrated they are able to count backwards clearly and without hesitation. Remember you can practice using the link below.

Yr3, 1-20; Yr4 10-30; Yr5 20-50; Yr6 30-60

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>

### Solihull Arden Sports Club

Last term, during the Wednesday after school squash session at Solihull Arden Sports Club, we ran a handicapped squash competition. There were 3 leagues and the winners of each were...

**'C' League Winner** = Taran Chauhan

Joint Runners - up = Nathan Evans and George Brown

**'B' League Winner** = Arif Mohamed

Runner up = Annie Watton

**'A' League Winner** = Lewis Anderson

Runner up = Adam Mohamed

A huge congratulations to all who took part!

There are a variety of sessions every day of the week. Please contact John on 7448832 for more information.

