

Friday 7 October 2011

Autumn Term; Issue 5

Sharmans Cross Junior School

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Dates for your diary:

October

- 13 - Open Day [4-6]
- 18 - Assessment Workshop [7-9]
- 20 - Bright Sparks Disco
- 21 - School Bank
- 24 - 28 Half Term Break

November

- 2 - PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 4 - Coffee Morning
- 14 - Anti-Bullying Week
- 14 - Y5 Performance [7-8.30pm]
- 15 - Y5 Performance [7-8.30pm]
- 17 - Parents' Evening [4-8]
- 25 - Non-uniform Day

December

- 2 - Coffee Morning
- 8 - Y3 Performance [Shirley Methodist Church, 7-8.30pm]
- 9 - Christmas Fair
- 15 - Christmas Parties
- 16 - Term Ends

January

- 4 January - School Improvement Planning [INSET - school closed to children]
- 6 - Coffee Morning
- 26 - Parents' Forum [7-9]

INSET DAYS

- 23 April - TBC
- 3 May - TBC

Thought for the week

*If you were charged
with being happy would
there be enough
evidence to convict
you?*

Thank you to those parents who have made me aware that last week's newsletter has caused some confusion about our feelings regarding SATs and in particular the progress made by our children this year.

On reflection, and in discussion with our Parent Governors, it is clearly the form of words I used that has incorrectly suggested that we are happy with the results. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Mandy Hart, Parent Governor has kindly clarified the situation below,

"Last year Sharmans' target was to improve 80% children's SATs levels by 2 levels from when they join the school (at the end of Key Stage 1 ie end of yr2) to when they leave the school (at the end of Key Stage 2 ie end of Yr6). Unfortunately we only achieved 71% in Maths and 73% in English. When you [Mark Pratt] arrived at the school, last year's Yr6 were in Yr4, and due to OFSTED saying that SX needed to work on how fast children progress, the teaching team assessed every child's levels at that point in time and found that only approx 30% (english) and 10% (maths) were on target for 2 levels progress. As a school, you have in the past 3 years, improved the standards of teaching and learning significantly, which is how you pulled that percentage up to 71% and 73% by the end of yr6, a 3 and 7 fold improvement respectively. You have also put into place sophisticated tracking systems which allows you to track pupils progress individually and in more detail than ever before, so that the slowing of progress of any child can be spotted earlier and action taken to put it right. You believe SX can improve on this year on year and will not stop striving to improve teaching and learning in every way, and are aiming to improve that percentage each year."

I am passionate about raising the standards and achievement for all of our children. In the last three years our team has made significant progress in the quality of learning and teaching in our school. Last year we introduced a tracking system that enables each teacher to identify the specific progress of every child and implement specific actions tailored to the childrens' needs. This change means that all our current year groups are well on track to achieve significant levels of progress, far greater than in previous years. The recent SATs results were most definitely disappointing for all of us, however the overall progress of the Year Group over the last two years was outstanding in terms of their initial starting point.

We continue to strive for results that truly reflect the enormous progress made by us all. This has been a huge period of change, learning and development for the school.

I am confident that our next set of results will reflect this progress.

Have a good weekend!

Mark



Y5 YORK RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Year 5 parents are all invited to come along to our York Parents Evening which is to be held on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.00pm in the School Hall. This is an initial meeting where an outline of the trip will be given and any questions you have will be answered.



Secondary School Application Reminder

There are now only a couple of weeks to go before the closing date for secondary transfer applications. Parents are required to complete the application online if at all possible. We have been asked to send out this reminder by the School Admissions Team and Solihull Council as there are still a large number of parents who have not yet applied. If an application is received late it will seriously reduce the chances of getting a place at your preferred school. It would greatly assist the School Admissions Team if you could give this matter your urgent attention.



Peripatetic Music Lessons

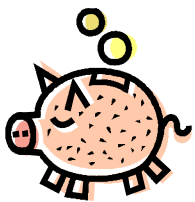
Any parents who have not already sent in their payment of £50 for this terms music lessons please sent money into school in an envelope marked for the attention of Mrs Fear as soon as possible.



Paws for Cancer Event

On 29 October a new event in aid of Cancer Research UK will be happening in Solihull.

Paws for a Cause is a sponsored dog walk and if it is successful it is hoped that it will become an annual event. There will be prizes on the day for 'best dressed dog' and 'best dressed owner' - all you have to do is 'wear it pink' in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month.



School Bank

Having re-opened the school bank this term, we are now looking for children from Y6 to act as clerks and help Mrs Lowe from HSBC to administer the duties. Anyone interested in participating in this should see Mr Pratt for an application form. Interviews will be held shortly.



Travel Back in Time - An educational poetry competition from Young Writers for 2011 - 2012 combining literacy and poetry.

The rules - Write a poem; 30 lines long; Any style; hand written or typed; Only one poem per person; All your own work; **Hand in to Miss Jefferies by 24 October BEFORE lunchtime!**

The Prizes - Over £1,000 in book tokens to be won; A Certificate of Merit for every successful pupil and every entrant will receive a bookmark.

An opportunity to win over £1,000 for school!