



# Sharmans Cross Junior School

*Striving for Excellence*

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[www.sharmans-cross.com](http://www.sharmans-cross.com)

## Dates for your diary:

### 2014

#### October

27 - 31 Half Term

#### November

3 - 3EP Lego Workshop

5 - Y6 Family Workshop (9.30am)

5 - School Council Meeting

6 - Y6 Family Workshop (9.30am)

6 - Y3 Cycling Proficiency

7 - School Bank open

7 - Coffee Morning (9.00am - Mrs Whitcombe)

7 - Y6 Family Workshop (9.30am)

7 - Y3 Cycling Proficiency

10 - Y3 Assessing Without Levels

Information Eve (6.00 - 7.00pm)

10 - Y4 Assessing without Levels

Information Eve (7.00-8.00pm)

12 - School Council Meeting

13 - Y6 at Skills Show

13 - Y5 Assessing Without Levels

Information Eve (6.00 - 7.00pm)

14 - School Bank open

14 - CiN Superhero Day

17 - 21 - Anti Bullying Week

17 - Y5 Performance TBC

18 - Y5 Performance TBC

19 - School Council Meeting

20 - ASD Coffee Morning(9.00am)

20 - Parent Partnership (6.30pm)

20 - 4KW Parents Evening (4.00-6.00pm)

21 - School Bank open

21 - Y6 Black Country Museum

24 - 4KW Cycling Proficiency

25 - 4VW Cycling Proficiency

25-28 Travelling Book Fair

26 - 4LS Cycling Proficiency

26 - School Council Meeting

27 - Parents Evening

#### December

1st - 3LS Lego Community Project

3rd - School Council Meeting

5th - Coffee Morning

5th - PTA Christmas Fair TBC

8th - Dance Assembly

10th - School Council Meeting

12th - School Bank open

12th - Christmas Lunch

17th - School Council meeting

17th - Year 3 Christmas Play at Shirley Baptist Church (7.00pm)

18th - Christmas Parties

19th - School Bank open

19th - TERM ENDS!!

We have been celebrating 'One World Week' in school this week. Through a variety of lessons children have been thinking about how living differently can protect the planet's resources for future generations and looking at how we could live differently in order to secure a fairer, more satisfying life for everyone. I know the children have very much enjoyed the theme this week from the snippets of conversations I've overheard when walking around school. When I asked them to give me thoughts about the week this is what some Year 5 children had to say:

*This week we have been looking at One World Week, we have created pledges, peace signs and learned about Fairtrade. First we created and looked at some peace symbols and found out where they originated from. Next we made pledges which are similar to a promise. We wrote our pledges up on bookmarks and decorated them. Last of all we looked at Fairtrade. Fairtrade is an organisation which gives the people who made it an equal amount of money. Buy Fairtrade for a fairer world. Catherine Alms*

*This week couldn't have been better! We learned many things including Fairtrade, pledges and peace. We learned that pledges are something that you follow to make yourself a better person. Our class pledge is to believe in ourselves and to never let yourself down. Swayam Sarangi*

Well it's definitely been a busy half term for us at Sharmans. Hope you all have a good rest and a fabulous half term break. Hope to see everyone back safe and well on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November!

Jane Ferguson

## **SAFEGUARDING ALERT**

We have been made aware of an incident at a Solihull School where a man was spotted taking photographs with a long - lensed camera towards the school playground. He was described as being 'scruffy', in his mid-fifties, and wearing a green jumper. The incident was reported to the LA and the police were also contacted. We will monitor this as a school but if you do see anyone of this description acting in a suspicious manner please contact Solihull police and let the school office know immediately.

## **Coffee Morning 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Our coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> November will be an opportunity to meet our Child and Family Support Worker, Jo Whitcombe. Here, Jo will be available to discuss her role in school and sign post you to the variety of agencies who are out there to support local families. Everyone welcome!

## Cross Country

Firstly a big thank you to all of those children who came for trials and made it a very tricky decision to choose just one team of boys and one team of girls.

A huge congratulations to those children who represented our school at the Borough Cross Country last Wednesday!

The children did us proud and with 200 runners in each category, did very well!

Our top 3 boys:

Tom Watkins 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sam Jamieson 13<sup>th</sup>

Jack Stringer 15<sup>th</sup>



Our top 3 girls:

Molly Leitch 8<sup>th</sup>

Jane Clark 11<sup>th</sup>

Becky Robinson 27<sup>th</sup>



Thank you also to all of the parents who helped with lifts. As always, we could not do it without you!

Mr Butler and Mrs Snowden.

## Parent Partnership Forum

Thank you so much to those parents who came to our Parent Partnership Forum last week.

The meeting was very valuable and the constructive conversations that were had will help us to further strengthen our Parent School partnership and move our school forward.

<b>Oct 2014 Discussion raised</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Family workshops.</b> New dates for the school year.	Parents were happy that the letter regarding dates for the whole year had already been sent. Allows for parents to get time off work. Specific letters will be sent for each year group regarding times etc.
<b>Website</b> There is going to be improvements to our website. <b>What is good and what needs to be improved?</b> Good: All letters are added on. The content is good – keep it simple. Pictures are good to celebrate achievements. Navigation is easy.  Ideas for improvements: Introduce parents to website navigation at information evening. Make sure that information is updated in time (before term starts). Could all homework be accessed on time? Could the website usage data be accessed to see which areas are most useful? Could star of the week be put on line? Could there be blogs that the children are in charge of? Sport? School Council - what is happening in year groups? Could class pages have a notice board style where important things can be added by teachers? Could there be a PTA sign up page?	Mrs Afzal is looking into improving the website further. She is in talks with our web designer to see if many of the discussion points can possible as some are not with this site.  Already we have: added sports pages, updated class pages, all year groups will attach comprehension booklets and weekly spellings. Homework will be uploaded by the end of the school day each Friday. Curriculum leaflets will be added to website.
<b>The PTA have been so important to our school for many years so why isn't there a bigger uptake this year?</b> It may be that many people are unable to attend all meetings. Could sign up sheets be left in reception where people can offer help for different events? Y6 children can help at events like the Christmas fair.	Details have been emailed to the PTA.  We will see how this goes at Christmas.
<b>End of the school day.</b> Parents are concerned that there is a problem with where classes stand as it is hard to see children.	A new system will be in place in the next few weeks with details going in the newsletter.
<b>School trips - parent helpers.</b> If parents have offered to help they are sometimes unsure if they are still needed.	Parents will now be notified a week in advance if they are needed to help. A letter will be sent to all parents who have offered help advising them if they are successful or not.
<b>Assessing without levels working party.</b> As the curriculum moves forward and levels will no longer be used. What will this look like for our school?	A meeting has been set up for Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. There was a lot of constructive discussion on how we move forward.

## Lunchtime Choices

In order to improve the lunchtime service provided to us, I met with Sandra Taylor from Solihull Catering Services this week. We have set up a new system to ensure both that children order a dinner if they are having one and that they get the choice that they want, even when on last sitting.

Starting from Monday 10th November there will be 3 lunch choices- one hot meat/ fish option, one hot vegetarian option and one sandwich/ roll option. If your child selects the meat/ fish option they will be given a red wristband and if they select the vegetarian option they will be given a green wristband- they do not need a band for the sandwich option. This will ensure that the kitchen staff can immediately see the choice that the child made in the morning. The bands will then be collected by the kitchen staff.

To support this process, please could you ensure your child knows whether they are having a packed lunch or dinners each day, and if they are having dinners, they have looked through the menu (published each week on our website). The teacher will also share the menu each morning with the children. Also, in the unlikely event that your child comes home with a wristband, please could you return it to school ASAP, to reduce costs to the catering service and school.

Thanks for your continued support with this- we hope that this new system will improve the service provided. As always, if you do have any comments- whether positive or areas for improvement- please email the office who can forward your comments to Solihull Catering Services.

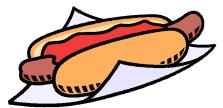
Many Thanks,  
Miss Boon

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## FIREWORK LUNCH

We would like to take the opportunity of inviting all pupils to our Special Fireworks Lunch on Wednesday 5th November 2014. The menu will be as follows:



*Hot Dogs - Pork or Quorn  
Jacket Potato  
Baked Beans or Sweetcorn (Salad Bar Available)*

*Chocolate Shortbread or Fruit or Yoghurt*

*Hot Chocolate*

The cost of the lunch will be the standard school dinner amount of £1.90 and this should be paid either via ParentPay or Paypoint Card/Bar Code.

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## Y6 Applications for Secondary School

School Admissions have asked us to remind all Y6 parents that the deadline for Secondary 15 Applications is fast approaching and that Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October is the deadline date.

Parents must apply online at [www.solihull.gov.uk/enrol](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/enrol).

Any applications which are received after the closing date will be late and considered after all on time applications. This will therefore reduce your chances of obtaining a place at your preference school so please ensure that your applications are received by School Admissions by the deadline date.

## **SC Kids Holiday Club**

SC Kids holiday club will not be opening on Monday (27<sup>th</sup>) or Friday (31<sup>st</sup>) of the half term week as there are insufficient numbers of children to operate the club.

Holiday Club will be open from 8.30am on Tuesday (28<sup>th</sup>) and Wednesday (29<sup>th</sup>) next week and from 7.30am on Thursday (30<sup>th</sup>).

If you require childcare on either of these days please contact the Family Information Service on 0800 389 8667 for information on other holiday clubs operating on these days.

## **SC Kids Club - Week Commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014**

Due to high demand we are fully booked on the following days after half term and therefore cannot accept any further bookings on the days below.

### **SC Kids Breakfast Club**

Tuesday - FULL

Wednesday - FULL

Thursday - FULL

Many thanks for your co-operation.

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## **Booktivity Group- Year 6**

Are you interested in all things about books, art and craft, quizzing and games? Then come along to the Solihull Central Library's free new activity group for ages 10+.

**Next date:** 29th October 2014

**Where:** Central Library Teen Lounge

**Time:** 4.30pm- 5.30pm

**Interested?** Just turn up or call 0121 704 6984

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## **SEN Coffee Morning - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

Jane Glassey our Specialist ASD Teacher from *Solihull Specialist Inclusion Services* will be hosting our next SEN coffee morning on Thursday 20th November 9am - 10am. This session is aimed at all parents across the school not just SEN. It would also be beneficial for any parents that have concerns in regards to their child potentially having ASD.

Please feel free to come and join us.

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## **Newsletters**

All Y3 parents have been receiving a paper copy of the school newsletter every Friday since their child joined us in September. In order to reduce paper wastage and cost to the school after the half term holiday this will cease and newsletters will be sent out electronically via ParentPay. However if any parent wishes to receive a paper copy of the newsletter please let a member of the office staff know and this can be arranged.

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## **Lost Property**

We now appear to have a lost property mountain in Reception!

Please feel free to come into Reception before or after school to check out the ever increasing pile, or the children are free to check in lost property during breaktimes or lunchtimes. Any clothing that is not reclaimed by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November will be recycled in the textile recycling bank.

Thanks for your help.



## **Value of the week for week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Value of the Week is Fun