



# Sharmans Cross Junior School

*Striving for Excellence*

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## Dates for your diary:

### 2014

#### March

- 26 - Possible Industrial Action
- 27 - Parents' Evening
- 28 - School Bank
- 31 - Y5 Bikeability Training (31<sup>st</sup> March - 4<sup>th</sup> April)
- 31 - Y4 Production

#### April

- 1 - Y4 Production
- 4 - School Bank
- 2 -Yugadi
- 4 - **Coffee Morning**
- 9 - Easter
- 11 - School Bank
- 14 - **Easter break**
- 28 - **INSET - Curriculum / Vision**
- 30 - **Passover**

#### May

- 2 - School Bank
- 2 - **Coffee Morning**
- 2 - **Curriculum Overviews out**
- 2 - **Targets negotiated / shared / displayed**
- 7 - Cinco de Mayo
- 8 - Parents' Forum
- 9 - School Bank
- 12 - **SATS Week**
- 15 - Ascension
- 15 - **Disco**
- 16 - School Bank
- 19 -**Enrichment Week**
- 23 - School Bank
- 26 - **Half Term**

#### June

- 6 - Coffee Morning
- 25 - Ramadan
- 26 - **New Intake Evening**

#### July

- 4 - **Summer Fair**
- 9 - **Open Evening**
- 16 - **Y6 Performance [Solihull School]**
- 17 - **Leavers' Tea**
- 17 - **Leavers' Disco**
- 18 - **Leavers' Assembly**
- 21 - **INSET**
- 22 - **Summer**

#### September

- 1 - **INSET**
- 2 - **Possible INSET [TBC]**

Over the coming months, we will be having a growing focus upon general knowledge around the school. This will be more than just that body of knowledge built up in and around the classrooms. It will specifically focus upon current affairs, local, national and international.

My assemblies in particular will pick up on news events relevant to the children's understanding and tolerance. During these assemblies we will consider the issues, feelings, emotions and relevance to their classroom learning. For example, this week I was due to think about the budget, Ukraine, Richard III and the birth of a baby gorilla.

But why on earth do this?

Well, here are but a few reasons.

Firstly, these topics give the children something to talk about. It is less about being able to quote knowledge, facts and figures and more about developing an opinion on the world and being able to express it. Current affairs provide us with a shared cultural reference point that we can all express an idea about as we will all have had some experience of it on a Monday morning.

Secondly, current affairs can make more relevant what we are learning in school. So for example, the budget allows us to consider maths in a very contextual and real way. We can talk to children about addition and subtraction, percentages, large numbers and see problem solving and decision making in meaningful situations. Equally we can think about Russians getting their name from the Viking settlers' ability to row extremely quickly, *Russ*, as well as how we could settle disagreements in a reasonable fashion.

Finally, discussing current affairs allows us to cultivate a curiosity and inquisitiveness about the world around us. Talking about it gives it an importance and children have a model for going out and finding out what is going on around them and what relevance that has upon their lives, helping them in turn to develop empathy, charity and appreciation.

Given these important factors in a child's development and their success at school and life, I would very much encourage you to talk about the news with your child. A great starting point is CBBC's [Newsround](#), which at the point of writing boasts as it's headlines such stories as an enormous cave, great for descriptive writing, IT advancements, for conversations about e-safety, and giant chicken dinosaurs, great for...well, just great!!!

Have a great weekend!

Mark

### Thank you from Mrs Belcher

As this newsletter is almost my last,  
I'll take this chance to reflect on the past.  
For twenty-one years I've answered the call  
"Good Morning, Sharmans Cross Junior School.

Bumped heads and grazed knees  
"Can you call my Mum please?"  
I've got a headache, I'm feeling sick  
I've forgotten to bring my PE kit.

Sports Days, School plays, singing in the hall  
Familiar sounds, I've loved them all.  
Children and parents have come and gone  
But memories of families linger on.

But now my time to retire has come  
And relax, take it easy and sit in the sun.  
So thank you children, parents and all.  
It's been great to be part of Sharmans Cross School.

Best wishes Sharon Belcher

I'll be retiring on 28 March and although I hope to see some of you, it will be impossible to say a personal goodbye to everyone.

I've really enjoyed my time here and will be sad to leave, but I'm looking forward to having more time to spend time with my family, especially my granddaughter!



### Year 5 trip to York 2014!!

Year 5 had a fantastic time in York, learning Roman and Viking facts. There was lots of fun and laughter and we all had a great time! We are going to share some of our amazing stories from our fun trip.

#### York Minster

As soon as we saw the York minster we all got the wow-factor we all wanted to go inside, luckily for us it was next on our to-do-list. When we were inside we started to take a lot of photos. Soon after, we went deeper into the minster (into the undercroft) there were lots of interactive activities. After that there was a huge queue outside the giftshop!

#### Danelaw!

Dressing up as Vikings was super cool, since we got to go into a Viking village and do real Viking jobs like: making bread, collecting fire wood, making oil lamps out of pottery, being guards and telling stories .It was fascinating holding a real Arabic coin, real leather shoes and much more real Viking belongings!

By Jane Clark & Lucy Beech

### Destiny Africa Children's Choir

We would be very grateful for any spare red P.E. kit - tops, shorts and socks. We would like to pass it on the Ugandan children to take back with them for their football team. Please hand in to the school office.

Many Thanks  
Mrs Snowden

For more information visit their website [www.destinyafrica.org](http://www.destinyafrica.org)