

Welcome back after the half-term vacation. I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable time.

National Healthy Schools Award

We are very pleased and proud to announce that the school has achieved the national Healthy Schools Award for its Personal, Social and Health Education provision. This is a very prestigious award for the school.

I wish to thank all the staff for their support of the PSHE curriculum and the children for their positive involvement. A special 'thank you' to Mrs Garland for taking a leading role in the school achieving the award.

Annual Reports

Parents/carers of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will receive their child's annual mid-year report just before the end of this term. Year 6 parents/carers will receive a report in July. We hope that the reports provide you with a clear insight into how your child is progressing in school.



Red Nose Day

Friday 16th March is Red Nose Day and as always we have plenty of Red Noses to sell to you! They really are BIG noses this year, but they will still cost you only £1 (unless you want to make a bigger donation!) **Noses will be on sale at the school office from Monday.**

We would also like to make Friday 16th a non-school-uniform day and we will ask the children to make a donation of 50p for the pleasure of dressing up – hopefully wearing something red. We welcome red hair (just for the day – so make it a very temporary dye).

Weymouth Music Festival

This Saturday, the school's choir, orchestra, recorder bands and instrumentalists will be participating in the Weymouth Music Festival being held from 9.00am at Weymouth College. We wish them well.

'ArtsMark Gold Award'

The school prides itself on its provision for the arts – music, drama, art and design and dance. In 2003, the school received the prestigious national 'ArtsMark Gold' Award. We are at present in the final stages of applying for the same award for 2007 and will be visited by a validator later this month. We will keep you informed of the outcome.

Year 3 'Science Week'

During the week before half-term, Year 3 pupils enjoyed four days of science investigation and experimentation. The sessions ranged from making bread and goo (not at the same time) to keep fit circuit training and making Alka Seltzer rockets! A great learning time was had by all. Many thanks to the Year 3 staff for organising the events and All Saints School and Budmouth College for their expert advice and loan of resources.

Year 3 will also be participating in a 'Greek Day' on Monday 19th March.



Do you want advice on parenting?

Being a parent is one of the hardest tasks we experience and sometimes a bit of advice and help can be most useful. On the back of this newsletter is an invitation to attend a coffee morning and chat being held at the school on Monday 19th March for those of you who would like to hear about an opportunity to find sound advice on parenting strategies.

Leeson House 2007

In early February, Year 4 pupils and staff made residential visits to Leeson House Outdoor Education Centre at Langton Matravers, Swanage. A great time was had by all despite the cold and wet weather. The children did the school proud and were two of the best groups who we had ever taken to Leeson House. Two groups of children even achieved the impossible 10+ out of 10 for their tidy bedrooms!

I would like to express my thanks to the staff and volunteer helpers who supported the visits and my special thanks to Mr Maslin for once again organising great experiences for all who attended.

House Competitions

Congratulations to Unicorn House for winning the inter-house football competition by beating Gryphon House 2-1 in an exciting and very sporting final.

At this present time, the older children are also participating in an inter-house netball tournament and we are planning a football competition for the younger children.

As far as the House Points competition is concerned, up until last month each house has won the monthly cup once. However, in February Unicorn succeeded in winning the cup for the second time. Congratulations to Unicorn!

The children are being given the opportunity to design a flag for their respective Houses. The competition starts from Monday and the children will be given a week to come up with a design. The winning designs will be made into flags by a professional flag-making company.



'Learning Walks'

We are at present piloting a 'Learning walks' project within our school. A 'learning walk' is a method of investigating aspects of the school through visits to classrooms and discussions with staff and pupils.

What is really different about this approach is that it is children who are participating in the walks. At this time children are looking at how the school provides for different learning styles. We will also be working in partnership with two other Dorset primary schools who will be visiting us (and we them) to carry out learning walks.

Year 5 Maths Café

Year 5 are planning to run a 'maths café' during the last week of term. This will involve children in the making and selling of drinks and food items in a café set up in the school hall. More information will follow.

Term Dates

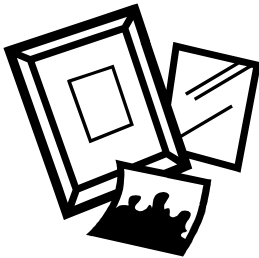
Term dates for September 2007 to July 2008 accompany this newsletter. If you do not receive this information, please collect details from the school office.

London Residential Visit 2007

Over 80 Y6 pupils with staff and volunteers will be heading for London for five days from Monday 26th March. They will be visiting many of the most interesting sites and the theatre. We wish them an exciting and enjoyable time in the capital city.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be visiting us again on Tuesday 20th March. He will be taking class and team photographs. We will obviously be giving you the opportunity to view and purchase photographs shortly after the visit.



Uniform Orders Years 3-5

A uniform order will accompany this newsletter so that you may place your order for the coming year. Uniform will be displayed in the entrance hall for one week commencing Monday 12th March. Orders must be placed by 30th March and will be fulfilled in June.

We are in the process of changing our supplier and are pleased to inform you that the cost of uniform i.e. sweatshirts and polo shirts has been reduced by at least £1 per garment, with the larger sweatshirt sizes being reduced by £2.50. The quality has not been compromised.

Our new range includes PE shirts in house colours with the house name on the back of the shirt; shorts are also available if required. The fleece has been replaced with a good quality sporty looking reversible jacket/fleece at a very reasonable price.

'Computers for Schools' Tesco Vouchers

Tesco are now offering computer vouchers for shoppers. We would be very pleased to accept donations – a collection box can be found in the foyer by the school office.

School Main Entrances

I would like to remind you that the main doors by the school office should only be used by parents/carers visiting the office at the start or end of the day. Please do not use them as a 'short cut' to the High Street or the playground as this causes congestion and disrupts the work of the office staff.

A Reminder

School closes for the Easter vacation at **2.05pm** on Friday 30th March and re-opens at 8.45am on Monday 16th April.