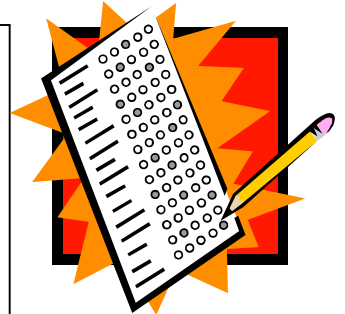




2005 Newsletter

Grades 5/6

With the Summer term now in full swing, the children have settled back into their routines exceptionally well since the Easter holiday. I have to say that they are working very hard and all continue to make very pleasing progress. I think that this term will be a memorable one for all the children, in more ways than one. Some of the children have been working on essays for a Caribbean writing competition, concentrating on the issue of the environment. I have been really impressed with their submissions, so well done!



Homework

I have been very impressed with the standard of homework that the children have been submitting each week but I am concerned that some children are leaving it until the last minute to complete it. Please can you ensure that your child completes a little each evening, in order to foster good habits for their secondary education. In addition, can you check that they have covered each piece of their work before handing it in and that any spelling learning is submitted with contextual sentences so that they show an understanding of the words they are given.

Punctuality and Attendance

I realise that sometimes it is difficult to arrive at school on-time and to be at school to pick your child up at exactly three o' clock. The vast majority of the children in Grades 5-6 have an excellent attendance and punctuality record but this is not consistent throughout the class. Being five minutes late at the beginning of each day does mount up over the course of the week, term and year and affects the time at which we can start lessons. At the end of the day, it is not unusual for me to be waiting between fifteen and thirty minutes for children to be collected, so I do ask for your cooperation with this matter.



Ashelle will be celebrating her tenth birthday on 16th May. Happy birthday to you!

As you will be aware from my letter, preparations for the trip to England are well under way. Please can I have all questionnaires and consent forms handed in as soon as possible so that I can make the final preparations and plan excursions with exact numbers.



In Literacy we will be completing our work on poetry and shall then look at author style and also persuasion through leaflets, letters and commentaries. Our class novel this term is called *The White Horse Gang* by Nina Bawden, who the children may like to look up on the internet at home. She is quite famous for her wartime novel, *Carrie's War* and the children thoroughly enjoyed watching the televised version of this prior to Christmas in conjunction with our WWII topic. In my opinion, she is one of the best British children's writers of the twentieth century and her work has been enjoyed across the generations.

Ratio and proportion are our current areas of study in Mathematics but we will very soon be moving on to handling data in charts. If you can point out any aspects of ratio at home (for example in cooking) of charts or graphs in magazines or newspapers, then I would be very grateful. It is always helpful for children when areas of numeracy are based in everyday life as it gives them extra meaning.

Swimming will be each week on Tuesdays. Please can you ensure that your child has their swimming kit and towel with them each Tuesday. Thursdays are field games and ball skills this term. I would like to encourage plenty of those batting and fielding skills at home too!

Examination Week

Our annual examination week is fast approaching when the children will be sitting their QCA Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). We use these tests to monitor progress year on year and to diagnose areas of strength and weakness in the children's learning. This year, they will be held in the first week of June and the children in Grades 5-6 will sit tests in:

English (two writing tests, a reading test and spelling test)

Mathematics (two mathematics papers, one which is a calculator paper and a mental test)

Science (I will be using a past paper from the Grade 6 tests to assess current performance and predict future achievements.) Check out the BBC Revisewise site for practise of the skills prior to the tests.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revisewise/>

Websites

Useful websites this term:

Literacy - authors and books

www.channel4.com/learning/microsites/B/bookbox

www.yearofreading.org.uk/reading/writers/fine/nina.html

Mathematics: Explore the fun world of maths:

<http://web.channel4.com/learning/microsites/M/mathsmansion/>

Tasty Maths:

www.cadburylearningzone.co.uk/maths/index_content.htm

Tran Towers aaaaah:

<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/ufa10/trantowers.html>

Science: Life on the Mir Space Station

www.channel4.com/learning/microsites/R/riding_high/

www.channel4.com/apps26/learning/microsites/E/essentials/science/index.shtml

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/education/index.asp

In the news:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/>

The Pope: <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2005/pope/>

Geography:

<http://www.visitbritain.com>

<http://www.the-british-isles.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/riversandcoasts/mainmenu.shtml>