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10th November 2009

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to those of you who offered suggestions for our 2010/2011 School Development Plan. I read the replies with interest. We are working on some of your suggestions immediately and will give serious consideration to all of your thoughts.

A number of your points focussed around improving communications, so I have collated them for inclusion in the plan. I am also drawing together the children's views. The School Council representatives are supporting this process by seeking the views of classmates and bringing their ideas to the next meeting. Staff and Governors are making their individual contributions and I have arranged for Nigel Battey, the Senior Advisor for Cambridge, to come and share the Cambridge perspective. I am confident that this consultative process will produce an appropriate and challenging plan.

Charity Fund Raising

Another task which the School Council have been working on is to decide upon which charities we as a school should support this year. We receive too many requests and need to prioritise. The School Council felt that we should support Oxfam as our international charity this year and Milton Hospice as our local charity. In addition they proposed that we support Jeans for Genes and Children in Need as 'one off' fund raisers. The teachers agreed with the choices so we were able to begin this years fund raising efforts quickly. With your support we have already raised £321.60 for Jeans for Genes day. The total from the sale of harvest food and the cake stall was an impressive £543. Thank you to everyone who was involved with this event. Tins of food left over from the Harvest sale were gratefully received by 'Winter Comfort', a local day centre for the homeless. I have also received a 'Thank you' today for the £861.22, we managed to raise for Red Nose Day. I would like to pass on these thanks to everyone.

Children in Need

To raise money for Children in Need, children are invited to bring their favourite teddy or fluffy friend to school for an educational day on Friday 20th November. Children are asked to pay 5p for every centimetre of their fluffy friends' height (or length in the case of snakes, centipedes and caterpillars!). So the bigger the better!

Puffin Book Sales

Thank you so much to all those parents who kindly purchased books recently from the Puffin Book brochure. The total sales were £442.20, which has given us a whopping £246.10 to spend on books for the school. The next brochure will be going home near the end of November – in time for Christmas purchases!!!

Parent Helpers

Thank you to the parents who are offering their time to help in classes. Class teachers will be contacting you soon (if they haven't done so already) to arrange the details.

A Milton Road Baby

You will be pleased to hear that Mrs Sutton gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Callum James, two weeks ago. Both mother and baby are settling well into family life.

PTA

I have arranged with the Parent Teacher Association for school to share the notice board at the school gate. Useful information and contact names will be displayed there in addition to the usual places.



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The climbing pyramid, purchased by the PTA, has now been installed in the Key Stage playground. The children are really enjoying this new piece of equipment.

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Reminder- All correspondence relating to the PTA should be posted in the black box on the wall outside the entrance to the reception.

Staffing

We recently appointed two new teaching assistants on a full time basis. Miss Natalia Webb has been appointed to work in Reception. Miss Lisa Bell, has been appointed to work in year 2.

School Catering

Aspen's have fully involved themselves in the school curriculum this week by supporting year 3 in having an 'Egyptian' menu last Wednesday and a 'bonfire' theme on Thursday. They made a real effort to decorate the hall and the children loved the experience.



Aspen's are going to hold a scientific assembly to show the children how they are required to balance the menus and what happens if a meal is changed. This will be of great interest to key stage 2 children as they will experience a real scenario which is important to them.

The governors with Peter Sulstan, an independent consultant who is looking after the school interests, have been monitoring Aspens and will be reporting back to the full governors shortly. They intend to write to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Burton
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary Autumn Term 2009

November

- Thurs 12 Boys Football B Team at home v Mayfield
- Fri 13 Year 5 and Year 6 Choir – CPSSN Concert 7pm Emmanuel URC, Trumpington St
(tickets on sale from the School Office)
Cake Sale after school (proceeds for Diabetes research) – KS1 Playground
- Sat 14 7 a side Football Tournament at Perse Prep. Playing Fields
- Sun 15 Choir performance – Cambridge Christmas light switch on
(Main Stage Market Square 1.05 – 1.20)
- Thurs 19 Girls Football v Mayfield
- Fri 20 Children in Need Fund Raising Day
Scholastic Book Fair
- Mon 23 Year 5 Learning Bus
Scholastic Book Fair
- Tues 24 Year 5 Learning Bus
Scholastic Book Fair
- Wed 25 Year 6 Learning Bus

Sat 28

2pm – 4 pm PTA Christmas Fair

December

Wed 2 am Y1R Kings Chapel
Thurs 3 am Y1M Kings Chapel
Fri 4 am Y1S Kings Chapel
am Y5 Ice Skating
2pm Parents Open Afternoon
Thurs 10 1.30 KS2 Choir to parents
Mon 14 6.45pm Choir – Carol Service at All Saints Church Milton
Tues 15 9.30am – Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group A)
10.15am - Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group B)
1.30pm KS2 Seasonal Concert to Parents
Wed 16 9.30am KS2 Seasonal Concert to Parents
1.30pm – Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group B)
2.15pm - Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Play (Group A)
Thurs 17 KS1/Foundation Stage Parties
Fri 18 Carols round the tree assembly
Term Ends

January 2010

Mon 4 School Closed – Training Day
Tues 5 School Re-opens – Spring Term
Thurs 7 am Year 3 Swimming at Abbey Pool each Thurs during Spring Term
Mon 11 Y3 hockey multi-skills at CCC

February

Thurs 4 Y5 to British Museum
15.19 HALF TERM

March

Thurs 18 Year 6 to Duxford

April

Thurs 1 Term Ends
Mon 19 School Closed - Training Day
Tues 20 Spring Term Starts
Thurs 22 am Year 5 Swimming at Abbey Pool each Thurs during Summer Term
Mon 26 Class & Team Photographs

May

Mon 3 School Closed – May Day
Mon 10 – 14 Key Stage 2 SATs Week
31 – 4th June Half Term

June

7 – 11 Y6 to Borreaton Park in the Midlands
Wed 16 Y6 Transition Festival at Chesterton Community College
Wed 23 Y5 Kentwell
Fri 25 Training Day

July

Mon 5

Y6 Induction Day at Chesterton

Y6 Parents Evening at Chesterton

Fri 23

Term Ends