



September Newsletter

Number 40

Dear Parents & Carers,

Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself. We have enjoyed the first few weeks of the term with the wonderful sunny weather which (he says through slightly clenched teeth) would have been quite useful during the holidays. Never mind, that'll teach us to live in a temperate climate - now to business.

WELCOME

I'd like to welcome all the children and families who have joined our school this term. We have a delightful group of new reception children who have settled in really well. We also welcome brothers Archie, Fintan and Saul to the Phoenix and Dragon Classes and Poppy to the Dragon Class.



We would also like to welcome our new sports instructor Mr Dan Honess, known to the children as "Coach". He will be teaching each class for an hour a week as part of the cover for teachers' PPA time on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. He will also be leading one of the after school sport clubs, currently football.

"SIX WEEKS IN" MEETING

There will be a "Six Weeks In" breakfast meeting for all parents of children in the reception (Unicorn) class on **Tuesday 12th October** at **8.45am** in the "Studio". A simple breakfast (with a continental flavour) will be provided and we will be seeking feedback about the welcome arrangements for the school and providing additional information about the opportunities and services which are available to you. It will be an informal event so please do join us.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

I am awaiting confirmation from the church due to an unfortunate double booking on the day we had planned but, unless you hear otherwise, our Harvest Festival service will take place on **Thursday 30th September** at **9.00am** in St Margaret's Church. We are grateful to Rev'd Peter Hartley who has agreed to lead our service now that Alan Carr has moved to his new parish.



The theme of our service will be "Daily Bread" and will include a retelling of the story of "The Little Red Hen" by the Unicorns and Dragons, a bread making demonstration a la Blue Peter and the journey of a loaf. This combined with a selection of harvest songs old and new, prayers and a time to think will make up our time together.

Children are invited to bring gifts of fresh (fruit and veg), tinned or dried goods (e.g. pasta) to present during the service as part of our traditional harvest procession. The gifts will be added to those presented by the members of St Margaret's congregation and will be distributed to those in particular need.

HARVEST COFFEE MORNING

As is our custom, following the Harvest Service we would like to invite all parents, friends and other visitors to join us in the school (Jubilate) hall for coffee (or tea) and cake. The coffee morning is to raise money (by donation) to support the charity "Love North Korean Children" in the bakery project.

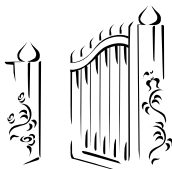


The life of people in North Korea is tightly controlled and due to economic failure, far worse than we have experienced, and the break down of the national food provision systems, much of the

population is desperately short of food. The LNKC project helps to build local bakeries within North Korea, equip them and train staff to produce, on a daily basis (with flour imported for the purpose), between four and ten thousand loaves per bakery each day which are distributed to children in schools free of charge. For many the daily loaf is their only meal.

END OF SCHOOL DAY

Some of you will have read the notice on the school gates requesting that parents do not come onto the site until 3.15pm when the gate will be opened. We spent some time trying to get the wording correct but in the end decided just to put something up and clarify later if required.



There are two main reasons for this request, firstly for health and safety reasons so that we can monitor who is on the school site more effectively. Secondly the younger children may be playing outside as part of their normal provision and seeing Mum, Dad etc. can be very distracting as they will naturally want to greet them and this tends to make the organisation of the end of the day more difficult for Mrs Swaffer. There may not be many children in Unicorn Class but they take a surprising amount of shepherding!

BAG 2 THE FUTURE

Mrs Allen has arranged for us to participate in the Bag 2 The Future fund raising scheme. We are provided with empty bags to circulate via book bags. We then ask that you return the bags, if you are able, on **Wednesday 13th**



October or **Thursday 14th October** (ready for collection on the 15th) filled with old clothes, bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts or handbags for redistribution or recycling.

For every kilo of items we return the school receives an amount of money. (£400 per tonne) The more we return the more funds we raise for our children. The items collected are either sold on at very low cost or recycled to make new products.

We have booked two collections during the year (which means we actually receive more for each collection). Please help us if you are able - enjoy the "life laundry" experience and maybe create yourself a good excuse for a "new wardrobe"

shopping trip (perhaps we could all go to Bluewater!) and be eco-friendly and support the school at the same time - a guilt free opportunity.

PARENTS TO LUNCH

This term we are continuing with our "Parents to Lunch" scheme on Wednesday. Parents are welcome, by arrangement with Mrs Lyford at the school office, to book a school lunch and then join their child at the appropriate sitting. We ask for a donation of £3.90 towards the catering scheme. There is a limit to the number of spaces available each week so please book early to avoid disappointment.



BOOKS

Do you have any good quality books which your child has "grown out" of. We would be very pleased to receive any to boost our stock. Please hand any you have to the office.



HOME LEARNING GRIDS

This term we are continuing with the Home Learning Grids but, in response to some very constructive feedback and thoughtful suggestions we have adapted them somewhat. We have removed the unintentional elements of "competition" which the credits system produced and also reduced the pressure to allow more time to complete tasks, to acknowledge the time also needed for regular reading and other basic skills activities which form part of the day to day expectations and to ensure that children have a chance to play and relax!



There will only be one grid each term which will cover both half term learning themes. The instructions and expectations are clearly laid out on the front of your child's grid which they should be bringing home in the next few days. The tasks are organised into three subject areas and grouped into short, medium and long activities.

May I remind you that home learning is intended to provide the children with opportunities to explore their learning beyond the classroom and share that experience with other members of their family. It is not intended to be a "stressful" experience and, at primary school, is not compulsory - don't let it become a battle ground. Whilst we will encourage

children to take part we will not punish anyone who does not complete the tasks laid out on the grid. Work in class will not and should not be dependent on the completion of home learning activities in accordance with government guidelines.

Unicorn Class do not have a Home Learning Grid as they focus mainly on developing basic skills such as word and sound recognition, number facts and reading. They may also be asked, occasionally to undertake topic related activities.

LOLLIPOP VACANCY

We continue to be grateful to Mrs Dodsworth (Pauline) who has faithfully served as our crossing supervisor each morning for over 25 years. However we have a vacancy for a "Lollipop Operative" for the afternoon slot to ensure those children who walk home may do so safely. If you would be interested in filling this role please contact the school office.



CLUBS

This term we are delighted to be able to offer a range of clubs and activities before, during and after school. Lists for signing up are displayed in the hall corridor. The clubs and activities are as follows:



Monday	8.00 - 8.45 3.15 - 4.15	Tri-Golf Drama
Tuesday	1.40 - 2.45 3.15 - 4.15	Guitar Football
Wednesday	8.00 - 8.45 3.15 - 4.15	Karate Line Dancing
Thursday	3.15 - 4.15	Dance (Street)
Friday	2.15 - 3.15	Gardening

There are age restrictions for some of these clubs. Please check with the office or club leader if you are unsure. Gardening Club works on a rota basis with children participating on an occasional basis, allowing more to take part over time.

There are other clubs planned for later in the term including an ICT/Home Learning Support club which will take place during a lunch break each

week and a early morning (8.00 - 8.45) Dance Mat club. More details will follow.

READING SCHEME

At our teachers' meeting on Monday we spent a considerable amount of time sorting and labelling our reading scheme books into the IOE standard reading colour bands as used by the majority of schools and publishers. This means that some of the books have been re-categorised and may not follow in the same order as previously. We have also recently purchased some excellent new texts from Rigby Star which have been incorporated into the progression.



We do not follow one particular scheme (although the main core of our programme comes from the Oxford Reading Tree materials). Please do not be surprised if books come to you in a different order or if they are not always the same type. This ensures variety as well as ensuring appropriate challenge and progression.

Please also bear with us as we finish the sorting and labelling process, we are almost there but still have some work to do.

GOLDEN TIME

Golden Time, the time we give for special activities for children who keep our golden rules, has now been moved to Friday mornings. This means we are able to offer a wider range of activities in smaller groups as there are more members of staff available.



We have five Golden Rules as follows:

1. We are kind. We do not hurt people with words or actions.
2. We are honest. We do not cover up the truth.
3. We work hard and always try to do our best. We do not waste time.
4. We are courteous and helpful. We are not rude.
5. We care for the school environment and keep it tidy. We do not waste or damage things.

CAKE & CANDYFLOSS

On **Friday 15th October** the Gardening Club will be holding their next fund raising **cake sale** after school. This has always proved surprisingly popular. Please speak to James Masters for more details especially if you are able to supply some homemade cakes for the stall.



Sophie Pepler is organising a fund raiser **candyfloss stand** on behalf of the preschool on **Friday 5th November** at **3.15pm** in the school playground. This will be for half an hour after school. I am very much looking forward to this as candyfloss is one of my childhood (into adulthood) favourites.

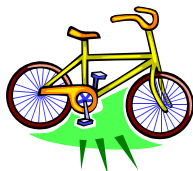
RHS GARDENING PROJECT

The school has been selected to be part of the RHS Gardening for Schools project, part of which is to get families and parents involved in growing. The Gardening Club, led by James Masters, will be driving this forward so watch out for more details and be prepared to get your hands dirty!



FOUND

We have a bicycle, complete with helmet, that has been left on the school site since, at least, the Summer holidays, possibly earlier. It was found by the boiler house door so may have been left by one of our Year 6 leavers last term. It is labelled "Universal Nitrogen". If you know who owns it perhaps you would let them know so they can collect it.



DANCE MAT CLUB

A company called Fitness Solutions have agreed to run a club for us based on Dance Mats. You may have seen these or even have one at home - the steps appear on a large screen and participants have follow these on their mat. It is great fun (so I'm told!) and a good way of keeping fit.



The Club would run on a Tuesday morning from 8.00am to 8.45am at a cost of £4.00 per session. It is open to children from Year 1 to Year 6.

The company will be giving the children a demonstration in assembly soon. If your child would be interested in taking part please contact the school office as soon as possible to sign them up. Your child would need to sign up, in advance, for a five week half-term block.

COUGHS & SNEEZES

We are approaching the cold and flu season again. The school keeps tissues for first aid purposes such as nose bleeds but do not have an endless supply for snuffling noses. We would be grateful then if parents would be willing to send in a box of ordinary (nothing flashy) tissues to be used in class. Many Thanks.



DIARY DATES

An up to date diary list is included as part of this letter. Please put the dates in your diary so you don't miss anything important. I would particularly like to highlight the **INSET Day** on **Friday 22nd October** (the day before the half term holiday), when the school will be closed.



I think that is everything for now although I will no doubt think of something as soon as these are emailed or printed! "Murphy's Law" I believe it's called (if you are being polite!)

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Earle".

Adam J. Earle - Headteacher



Dates for 2010-11

AUTUMN 2010

September

- 29 8.45 Nurse Drop in - Study Room
(No appointments needed)
- 30 9.00am Harvest - St. Margaret's Church
LNKC Coffee Morning in school after

October

- 8 9.00 School Association AGM - Studio
- 12 8.45 "Six Weeks In" Meeting - Studio
(Reception Parents)
- 15 3.15 Garden Club Cake Sale
- 22 INSET Day - School Closed
- 25-29 Half Term Vacation

November

- 2 3.30 - 7.00pm Parent Consultations
(Last appointment 6.50pm)
- 4 3.30 - 5.00pm Parent Consultations
(Last appointment 4.50pm)
- 5 3.15 Preschool Candyfloss Stand
- 11 10.50 Remembrance Assembly
All are welcome to join us.
- 12 2.15 School Prayer Meeting
- 29 10.15 Advent Assembly
All are welcome to join us.

December

- 10 9.30 Unicorn & Dragon - Nativity
All Parents Welcome
- 15 School Christmas Lunch (TBC)
- 17 2.00 School Carol Service - Church
- 3.15 End of Autumn Term

SPRING TERM

January 2011

- 4 INSET Day - School Closed
- 5 Spring Term Begins

February

- 18 INSET Day - School Closed
- 21-25 Half Term Vacation

April

- 9 End of Spring Term
- 11-21 Easter Vacation
- 22 Good Friday - School Closed
- 25 Easter Monday - School Closed

SUMMER TERM

April

- 26 Summer Term Begins

May

- 27 INSET Day - School Closed
- 30-3 Half Term Vacation

June

- 6 INSET Day - School Closed

July

- 22 End of Summer Term