

# CLINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Spring Newsletter No. 12

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

www.clintonprimary.co.uk



Dear Parents

### ASSEMBLIES

Tomorrow we have our Easter assembly at 9.00. Very sadly, we will also be saying goodbye to Miss Saunders as she leaves us to move away from the area. Assembly dates for the next half term are:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – KS1 Celebration

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Y1 assembly

### OTHER DATES FOR THE NEXT HALF TERM

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – children return to school

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Y3 swimming

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Y5 swimming

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holiday

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May – Y6 SATs tests

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Half term

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – children return to school

### DINNERS AND SWIMMING

If you have already sent in your reply and payment, thank you – if not, please send in tomorrow morning.

### PLANNING A LANGUAGES STRATEGY

Thank you very much for your e-mails and contributions to this debate. Those who contributed to the meeting also provided a great deal of food for thought. Key conclusions were that most parents thought that children's understanding of different cultures was very important and it is within that setting that language learning fits best. We talked about how it was unrealistic to expect children to be fluent at a language without dedicating a great more curriculum time to it but agreed that it was important aspire to a pretty good level of language for children by the time they leave year 6. The teaching of Mandarin in years R to year 2 provides children with a gateway to a brand new rich culture which fascinates them and gets them excited about learning language. In KS2 I would like to see teaching of language sessions developed to include 1) Cultural aspects, 2) generic language learning skills and 3) progress towards a specific language. Some lessons might include all three aspects but over a half term, each aspect would have a specified proportion of time dedicated to it. Teachers would have the freedom to decide which languages to use in order to develop generic language learning skills and which cultures to celebrate for those proportions (linked to other areas of the curriculum and their own passions) but the language that will be consistently built upon, with greater emphasis each year from year 3 to year 6, would be French. These are initial thoughts.

### OPEN AFTERNOONS IN YR AND Y1

We are inviting parents of children in these classes to come into school from 2.00pm tomorrow to experience life in the classroom! Please join us if you can.

### CHIME EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

Tomorrow morning before assembly is the last chance to buy tickets for the champagne raffle – the winning tickets will be drawn at the assembly. Please support us and help keep Clinton musical!

### SWIMMING GALA

Very well done also to all those who took part in the swimming gala. Clinton competed extremely well and won several races. All the swimmers should feel proud of their achievement.

### FOOTBALL AND NETBALL

Well done to our school football team who played Park Hill last week. They lost, but it was an extremely good match and our players were a credit to the school. They had another good match against Coten End School in Warwick yesterday, drawing 2.2. Well done also to all the children who took part in the Y5 netball tournament. Everyone played well and had lot of fun!

### KITCHEN NEWS

As many of you will have seen, we now have a fabulous new kitchen, but as you may have heard, our school dinners haven't changed. We will soon be able to cook all dinners fresh on site but we're waiting for our catering providers, County Caterers, to recruit a chef. We're optimistic that we could be eating truly fabulous lunches by the end of the summer term.

### CHESS ROCKS

Children were given letters earlier this week about our Friday chess club. Places are limited, so please send in your slip and payment promptly (priority will be given to those children who have already attended).

### LOST PROPERTY

We will need to dispose of unclaimed items early next term, so please check that none of your child's belongings are in our lost property box. Thank you.

### MOONWALK FUNDRAISING EVENING

Some of our parents are taking part in this year's Moonwalk (walking the London Marathon route overnight) to raise money for breast cancer charities. To supplement their fundraising, they are organising a Ladies' Night at the She Bar and Brasserie on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Tickets are £25 and include a meal, wine, raffle and entertainment – see Jennifer Jones or Heidi Ames for more information.

### STEEL PAN ACADEMY – ADULT GROUP

As well as running weekly lessons for pupils, the Academy also offers a group for adult learners here on Tuesdays at 1.40 pm. Please contact Diana Hancox on 07765 811042 or email [diana@steelpanacademy.com](mailto:diana@steelpanacademy.com).

### PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

On the reverse are the results of the parent questionnaires, which governors and staff will be scrutinising in details soon. I feel that they are incredibly positive in the most part but would urge those who have issues over the safety at school and the way staff speak to parents to make an appointment to seem me as I take these issues very seriously.

Yours sincerely,

**MR SAM PATER**  
ACTING HEADTEACHER