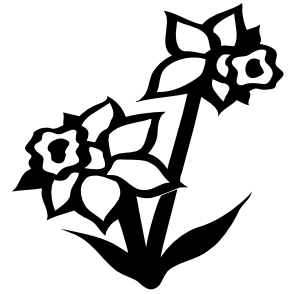


CLINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Newsletter No. 7

26th February 2009

www.clintonprimary.co.uk



Dear Parents

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS

This week year 3 spent their Tuesday learning the French culture and language. They really enjoyed the day – especially the croissants and ‘pain au chocolat’. On Wednesday next week, year 3 have been invited by ‘The University of the Third Age’ to open their China day and this event is happening at Abbey Hill U.R.C. They will be singing 2 songs in Mandarin. Continuing with the ‘China’ theme, the principal and vice principal of ‘Beijing Modern Languages School’ our link school in Beijing are coming to visit us on the 16th March, which we are very excited about. The following day we are going to be visited by John Crookes, who works directly under Sir Jim Rose (who is heading up the government’s review of the primary curriculum). We have been recommended to Jim Rose to represent the MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) cluster of primary schools in Kenilworth and they are interested in our views on the curriculum as part of this extremely important review. If you want to share your views on what and how children are learning at Clinton, then I will be glad to listen and feed your views to some very important people!

ASSEMBLIES

On Friday 6th March we have a KS1 Celebration assembly and on 13th March the theme will be “What’s new at Clinton?” Join us if you can, to find out more!

PARENTS’ QUESTIONNAIRES

These were sent out yesterday as part of our ongoing self-evaluation. Thank you to everyone who sent theirs in today; please make sure we have your response by Friday 6th March. This is our annual exercise for seeking your views on a formal basis, although of course we are glad to have your opinions at any stage in the year!

MUSIC BILLS

Bills for instrumental tuition for the Spring Term are being sent home today. Please let us have your payments by Friday 13th March – prompt payment would be appreciated as the end of the financial year is approaching. Thank you.

REPORT FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Please see overleaf for up-to-date news on the work of our school governors.

SKIPPING WORKSHOPS

On Monday 2nd March, skipping workshops will be taking place here from 10.30 to 3.00 pm. These will give the children an opportunity to observe and practise skipping skills, focussing on skipping foundations and skill development. If your child is in KS2, please ensure they bring their outdoor PE kits and suitable footwear on Monday. Thank you.

HANDBELLS

The handbell players will meet after school tomorrow.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

This runs from 23rd February to 8th March. Children can collect stamps from participating shops in Kenilworth and enter their card into a prize draw – we have run out of cards in school but children can collect them from any of the shops taking part.

WORLD BOOK DAY

This takes place on Thursday 5th March. Every child will be given a £1 book token today, which is valid from 2nd to 29th March. Children are welcome to come to school on 5th March dressed as a favourite character from a book, and we will be celebrating the day in various ways.

SOCKS NEEDED!

We would be very grateful for donations of nearly-new socks to use as spares for our KS1 children. We have almost exhausted our supplies!

SCHOOL HEALTH DROP-IN SESSIONS

These take place on Tuesday afternoons from 10th March onwards, at St John’s Children’s Centre (856397) and Kenilworth Children’s Centre and Nursery School (853394) on alternate weeks. Sessions run from 1.30 to 3.00 pm.

PTA NEWS

THE CAKE SALE AND SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE was a great success – thank you to everyone who contributed or came along and supported this event. We raised £74.40 from the cake bake and £45.79 from the uniform sale, making a total of £120.19.

YELLOW MOON Please send in your orders **tomorrow** if you want to avoid paying postage and packing, and please note the **cheques should be made payable to “Clinton School PTA”, NOT to Yellow Moon.** Thank you!

VARIETY NIGHT takes place on Friday 13 March from 6.00 - 9.00 pm. Please remember that the rehearsal for this year’s Variety Night is this Sunday, 1st March from 2-4pm in the school hall. Don’t worry if you have not yet filled in an entry form, just turn up and complete one on the day. We know ‘Clinton has Talent’ and are hoping for yet another amazing evening of entertainment. Tickets will be on sale from Sunday onwards.

Yours sincerely,

MR SAM PATER
ACTING HEADTEACHER

CLINTON GOVERNORS – FEBRUARY 2009

I can hardly believe we're half way through the school year already. Governors hold around 5 formal meetings each term, 1 of which is a "full" meeting involving all Governors. We've just held the second such meeting so we must be ½ way through the year! The Governors' business tends to be cyclical so this term we'll set the annual budget, agree the contents of the questionnaire which has just been sent out, start planning next year's School Action Plan (SIDP) as well as continuing to monitor pupil progress, child protection, vulnerable groups, health and safety and lots of other aspects of school life!

An extra effort has been made this year to involve Governors in some of the day to day activities of the school. Governors' remit is to "Support and Challenge" the school to ensure it does the best for every child. The additional visits have been beneficial for all of us and have enabled us to ask more meaningful questions of Sam and the other Staff (Challenge) and also to offer more relevant advice (Support). As a result of a visit by the Modern Foreign Language (MFL) link governor we had a good debate about how Clinton is using the MFL Specialism pilot and how we ensure that improvements are embedded in school life when the MFL pilot ends. We had discussed how many languages should be taught and whether it's more beneficial to specialise in a single language or allow the children to experience a variety of languages while in a primary school setting. We asked Sam to digest the input and make a recommendation back to Governors – no small task! There will be a meeting with parents shortly to gauge opinions on this issue. If you have any views on this or any other aspect of school life I'm sure he'd appreciate your input.

We also have 3 new Governors this year, including 2 former Head Teachers. Within the Governing Body there is lots of experience of education and childcare. There is a full list of Governors below including their "link" areas. Specific day to day queries about school management should be addressed to the class teacher or Acting Head Teacher. If you have any more general comments about the curriculum, the MFL specialism or the way the school is being run you can contact any Governor through the school office.

Richard Ward,
Chair of Governors

<u>Governor</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Sub Committee</u>			<u>Year Link</u>	<u>Curriculum & other Links</u>
		<u>Q&S</u>	<u>RM</u>	<u>Pay</u>		
Sam Pater	Staff	Y	Y			
Pat Freeman	Staff		Y			Health & Safety
Jane Inshaw	Staff	Y				Special Educational Needs (SEN)
Hazel Jackson	Staff	Y				
Joanna Illingworth	LA	Y		Y	Y1	Global citizenship inc MFL
Sarah Purdy	Parent	Chair		Y	YR	Healthy Schools incl curriculum & extra-curriculum PE, PHSE
Karen Rossiter	Community	Y		Y	Y1	Gifted & Talented
Richard Ward	Community	Y		Chair	Y5	Writing (Literacy)
Robb Ames	Parent		Chair		Y4	Personalised Learning
Martin Davies	LA		Y		YR	Extended Schools
Tania Walter	Parent		Y		Y3	ICT
Graham Pemberton	LA		Y		Y6	Child Protection
Melanie Griffiths	Parent		Y		Y2	Religious Education (RE) / Science
Alex Begbie	Community	Y			Y3	Effective Assessment / Numeracy
David Butler	Parent		Y			Eco Schools Governor

(**Q&S** – Quality and Standards **RM** – Resource Management)