

MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Upper School Autumn Newsletter 2008

Dear Parents

Our new school year is now in full swing and we are so pleased with how the children have settled back to work and routines after the summer break. Hopefully your child has made an enjoyable and enthusiastic start to the new term. Our "How We Learn" International Primary Curriculum Unit has aimed to get us all doing exactly that and is helping begin the year in an innovative way. We have been so impressed with how smart many of the pupils have been looking in their uniforms; they are a real credit to the school. Thank you for your support. Let's hope they can keep it up. Smart Appearance continues to be a high priority of Mr. Bassett's certificate as those who look good tend to perform in a way that matches their appearance.

Apart from this the September Newsletter will have lots of information and I hope other letters and booklets you will receive, such as letters from group teachers, will be equally informative. I would also like to take the opportunity each term to share with you some information specifically related to Upper School.

What Should I bring to school?

Despite being our more mature pupils, many of our year five and sixes still need that little nudge to check they have got everything. Here is a checklist to put on the fridge, notice board, front door or wherever it might be seen:

Have I got my

- School Uniform + coat on those wet and windy days**
- Book bag?**
- Homework diary?**
- Reading Record? (To be given out in the near future)**
- PE Kit (including trainers)?**
- Water Bottle?**
- Breaktime Fruit or Vegetable? (or money for snack shack)**

The latter two items though not compulsory are valuable aids in helping to maintain your child's levels of concentration. Our "How we learn" topic has highlighted this fact so hopefully more of the children will start to act on it. The children can get access to water in school but queuing for a water fountain is time consuming, rushed and potentially less hygienic.

Larger balls when allowed should be in a separate bag (carrier bag). Any other toys brought in must be small enough to fit comfortably in a tray or school bag which itself should be of a reasonable size.

As the weather gets colder they are more than welcome to wear tracksuits or jogging bottoms and sweat shirts to keep them warm, as we will be facing the elements for our games lessons more and more so as we continue into the term.

Apologies for preaching to the converted but we thought at this stage you'd appreciate a checklist.

Subjects – This term's themes:

Science, Geography, History, ICT, Art, Design Technology, Music and Dance. All of these subjects will now be covered to varying degrees and frequency within our new International Primary Curriculum. As was mentioned in our class letters this is a new approach to the curriculum that we are adopting to integrate our subjects more closely and help develop our pupils as Global Citizens.

We are also fortunate to have Mrs. Green in on a regular basis each Monday to help with French.

The title of units this term are:
How We Learn.
The Holiday Show.
Making Things happen.

More detailed information will be provided prior to commencement of the next two units.

Appeal for items:

We already have plenty of Holiday brochures to help with part of our Holiday Show Topic but if you have any more at home after the Summer holidays have now gone I'm sure we could do with a few more.

This may have been mentioned in previous school letters but if anybody has any spare PE kit from year 5 or 6 pupils who may have outgrown the shorts or shirts they had before, please send it in. In times of need other smaller children would certainly find it useful. Unfortunately school supplies of spare kit have dwindled through several borrowed items not being returned.

Thanks in advance for any help you can give with these.

Year 6:

Just a reminder that the CAFs for Secondary School transfer going home this week will need to be returned to our school office by **24th October** but the sooner we can get them back the better.

Year 6 parents are again reminded that the Year 6 information evening is on the 24th September at 6:30pm. This combined with the Normandy Information on the 16th September and Meet the Teacher meetings at the beginning of October (for all year groups) makes it a busy few weeks.

Clubs:

There will be many clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer to Upper School pupils both during lunchtimes and after school, and there will be more starting up as the term continues. Details of these are announced in assemblies and information is put up on the notice boards. We encourage the children to make the most of these opportunities; we really are very fortunate that such a range will be on offer including, recorders, guitars, chess, football, netball, tag rugby, hockey, and cross-country running! Your child will obviously have to choose carefully. Nobody can do everything but everyone can do something so if your child is not the sort to join clubs please discuss the wide range of choices above and see if you can encourage them to get involved. Some have already begun, some will be starting soon. Many sporting clubs your child joins will also help them towards a healthy passport target. This is part of a dynamic approach to promoting a healthy lifestyle which is being launched again by Mrs. Lane.

In addition the School Orchestra is starting up again this year, some children have expressed an interest already but there is room for more. Mrs. Shepherd has more information and letters for those who are interested. It will be taking place on Mondays after school.

If you have any queries about the school year then please contact me or your child's classteacher. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you all at our forthcoming initial parents' evening to discuss how the children have settled in.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Christopher Chappell
Upper School Manager