

**MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
**Upper School Newsletter Spring 2008**

Dear Parents

We hope the Christmas and New Year break went as well as you would have hoped. The children have come back full of talk of presents, holidays and resolutions for the year ahead. As I speak the term is well and truly underway, Maths and Literacy groups were started on the first day back, whilst this week the Upper school are all doing their NFER tests in Maths and Literacy. These as you may or may not know are our own "In house" tests that we use to support our ongoing class assessments and to give us further information on where our groups and individuals may be struggling.

**Events for the term:**

Spring, in the past, always felt like the "quiet" term with no settling in or Christmas Performances or end of year activities to think about but we seem to be getting around to filling this term too with all sorts of things. In the weeks and months to come we have:

Yr6 Parents Evening

Southampton Music Concert

Little Canada residential week for yr 5

World Book Day

Roman visitors

Mid year reports

"We didn't do it like that"- A parents' information evening on our approach to Maths.

Mini Marathon

Yr 5 parents evening

The list is by no means exhaustive and don't worry if you have not got dates for all of these as more details will undoubtedly follow.

**Subjects – This term's themes:**

Science – Materials

R.E. - Passover (Key Concept, Freedom) What Does Easter Mean? (Key Concept, Sacrifice)

History-Romans

ICT –E mail Control and Talking books

Art – Human Form and relationships (in a variety of media)

Design Technology – Electric models completed and evaluated

Music – Romans and Keyboards

P.E. – Outdoor Aerobics

Gym: Balance

Dance: Invaders and Settlers (Moods)

P.S.H.E. & C – Risks and Pressures/ Being involved in my community

If you have anything that would help in relation to any of these topics, please let us know.

### **Getting back into “work mode”**

Thank you in advance for your continued encouragement of your child in all aspects of their work in and out of school.

Keep looking in and using the homework diary as a means of communication. The children continue to set up a new page each Monday, please remember to check and sign this if possible as it ensures us that you know what is supposed to be happening. Some homework diaries have gone missing. A replacement copy is only 40p, so if your child has lost theirs please send this in as a matter of urgency as homework, notes and reminders written on bits of paper, invariably get lost.

Reading records (with your shares), spellings, tables and weekly Maths and Literacy pieces are all part of the ongoing homework schedule. Please refer to your child’s Maths and Literacy group letters, as and when they come home, for further details.

### **Keep checking the School bag**

One of the difficult aspects of the end of last term was trying to collect all of the slips about swimming ability, whilst Mrs. Denison has been trying very hard to collect in all of the trophies back from last term. There can be all sorts of reasons why things are delayed but often when we ask about what has not been returned a brief look in a book bag or a school bag reveals notes or information which has still to be seen. Meanwhile some book bags and school bags are looking unnecessarily full so if you have not had a spring clean already then encourage your child to have a sort out and keep asking and checking so that slips, notes, homework etc. all gets in on time.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Chappell (Upper School Manager)