

MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Upper School Autumn Newsletter 2009

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 "Feelings" International Primary Curriculum Unit has aimed to explore all the different emotions we have, how we display them and how to deal with the negative ones and is helping to begin the year in an innovative way. A combination of drama, art and music learning targets is certainly making us busy and enthusiastic but with all this early clay and paint work, please ensure art shirts are brought in sooner rather than later. We have been so impressed with how smart (where clay or paint spills are avoided) 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 whole school 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 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. Early assemblies and class discussions have 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.

In addition to this list 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 sweatshirts 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 continue to be covered to varying degrees and frequency within our now well established International Primary Curriculum.

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

The titles of the IPC units this term are:

Feelings

The Physical World

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

Feelings Topic - a little more detail :

In Music, we'll be:

finding out how feelings and emotions are a major resource to musicians
looking at how music can inspire feelings and tell a story
composing a piece of music to tell a story

In Art, we'll be:

Finding out how feelings and emotions are a major resource to artists such as Picasso and Munch and how they can use their own feelings as a stimulus for their work.

Tell your child about your feelings – about things that might make you happy or sad or angry or confused. It is important that children are able to explain and share their feelings in an open and honest way and we hope that you will encourage this. Sharing Music you like to play for different moods or a visit to Southampton Art Gallery could help even more to bring the topic to life.

Appeal for items:

The entry point for the next topic will be exploring forces in a variety of fun and interesting ways. This will include getting a couple of bikes and skateboards in for each class; with confident children being used to demonstrate their expertise to help us explore the forces in action. If your child would be interested in bringing in their bike or skateboard let their teacher know via a note in the homework diary.

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 CS2 forms for Secondary School transfer going home this week will need to be returned to our school office by **23rd 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) make it a busy few weeks.

Little Canada residential trip for Year 5 pupils:

There are still some places available on this trip that takes place from 1st to 5th February 2010. If you would like more information, please call into the school office.

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 even 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 enthusiastically organised by Mrs. Lane and is now in its third year.

In addition, the School Orchestra is starting up again this year; some children have expressed an interest already but there is room for quite a few 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