

MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER
18th February 2011

Dear Parents,

Independence

In school this week we have been thinking about what independence means and how we can develop this skill by not relying on others to make decisions for us. We have discussed different examples of making the right decision independently. It was surprising to note how many children were honest about the untidy state of their bedrooms. It will be interesting to know how many children have met the challenge of tidying their bedrooms over half term without being asked!

New Deputy Head

I am delighted to inform you that last week the governing body appointed a new deputy head to start after Easter. His name is Mr David Bessant and we are very lucky to have an outstanding teacher and leader to join our Marchwood Family. He is very excited about joining us and I know you will welcome him as he gets to know our children and families. The children were marvellous on the interview days. They were very polite, caring and welcoming.

ACE time

ACE time this week was lovely. Each ACE time is bringing more parents, grandparents and other family members into school. The children really love sharing their learning with you. I am looking forward to warmer weather so you can sit in the amphitheatre and enjoy the sunshine and discuss your child's learning. During this ACE time, our friendly kitchen team were sharing tasters of the school dinners they cook. The chicken curry was a definite hit. Several parents asked for the recipe – if you'd like a copy, please pick one up from the school office.

Parents Welcome into Assemblies

On Thursday 3rd March Upper School parents are welcome into our celebration assembly at 3pm.

On Friday 4th March Lower School parents are welcome into our celebration assembly at 1.30pm.

Governors

How well do you know the school governors? Hardly at all, I suspect. Over the next few terms the governors hope to correct this. To start with, I am Peter Hoare, Chair of Marchwood Junior School Governors. I have lived in the village for 23 years and have been a school governor for 9 of them. My 2 children were educated at Marchwood and are now studying at Brockenhurst College

Who is the Governing Body? We are 15 volunteers, with representatives from parents, local community, Local Education Authority and school staff.

What is our role?

- We aim to ensure that pupils receive high quality education and that the conduct of the school reflects this.
- We work with the Headteacher on the strategic planning and management of the school.
- We monitor the performance of the school, through visits to the school and meeting with the teachers.
- We approve and monitor the budget to ensure it is focused on areas of improvement.
- We appoint senior staff, which has kept us busy lately.

Hopefully this gives a very brief insight into our role and we aim over the next few terms to give you more insight through articles in the school newsletters. I can always be contacted via the school reception. *PH*

MJS Representatives

Thomas Price and George Ramswell were selected to participate in a Challenge Morning recently along with a cluster of other schools. They did incredibly well and enjoyed learning a new game of strategy. They represented our school superbly – well done boys! (Thank you to Mrs Rhodes, a parent governor, who kept a close eye on them as well as the Marchwood Infant children.)

New Forest Cross-country Championships - Thursday 17th February

After last year's deluge, the sun shone bright on Marchwood's trip to Gang Warily for the above event. The enthusiasm, team spirit and attitude were fantastic and we had some great results too. An 8th place for Sarah Goulding (Year5) and Elliot Perkis (Year6). A stunning individual display from Robbie Bradley who beat over 100 rivals to take first place for the second year running. Meanwhile the year 6 boys' team (our first four finishers) got a bronze medal and were only 6 points off 1st place and only 1 point away from 2nd!

A great afternoon! Many thanks must go to Mrs Goulding for her inspirational and professional training sessions. Thanks also to Mrs Knight who drove the minibus and to Mr Goulding, Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Perkis who took some children in their cars.

Head Teacher's Tea Party

Children who are awarded a highly prized headteacher's certificate receive an invite to the headteacher's tea party. At the half term party we enjoy appropriate party food and play a quick party game before the children whizz back to class. Below is a photo of most of the children who received a headteacher's certificate this half term. Some children were busy running the cross country so will be attending next half term's party. We had a serious picture taken (by Jack Bisset) and a silly shot too. They were convinced I would only use the sensible photo in the newsletter so...

If your child is...

not coming to school because they are unwell, please ring the school before 10.30am to inform us. A message left on our machine is fine. As so many of our children walk to school alone, we have to be sure that the reason they are absent is because they are home unwell. Therefore, in the interests of safety, please help us out by ringing to let us know rather than waiting for a phone call from us – thank you.

INSET Days

The remaining inset days up until the summer holidays are:

Tuesday 26th April

Wednesday 27th July

(Reminder: we end term at 1.30pm on Tuesday 26th July)

INSET days from September 2011 are:

Monday 5th September

Monday 31st October

Tuesday 3rd January

Monday 16th April

Monday 23rd July

We have agreed these in partnership with the infant school to help make life simpler for parents with children in both schools.

I wish you a wonderful half term and fingers crossed for some warmer weather.

Laurie Anderson

