

MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER
13th January 2012

Dear Parents

We enjoyed a magical time in school this week. Mrs Richardson leads our whole school singing each week on Tuesday afternoons and our focus this week was Spring songs. Our children sing so beautifully that singing is a real strength of our school. Singing this week was an especially lovely time together as our Marchwood Family!

Rwanda links

We were very pleased to welcome two visitors into our Upper School assembly yesterday afternoon; David Dale and Rev John Wesley Kabango. Many of you will know that the school fundraised for several years to provide better facilities at the school in Shyogwe, Rwanda, and our two visitors were our main links with that community. A cheque for £1,768 was handed over to John Wesley from our school – all the money having been raised during 2010 through sponsored events. The money will be used to buy materials and to train young people in a furniture workshop, with the aim of providing furniture for the school in Shyogwe. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to these fundraising efforts.

Attendance and absence

Holiday requests can be made for up to five days' absence for one family holiday. I will, of course, consider additional compassionate reasons for requested absence e.g. family members returning from deployment.

I spoke to the children on Monday about punctuality, following a morning in which many children arrived after the bell had been rung to indicate the start of lessons. We open the gate at 8.35am and children should come into school between then and 8.50am when the gates are locked. After this time, the children are late and are missing key learning and important messages from their teachers. I understand as a mum that everybody is

late on occasion but please could you do your best to ensure our children arrive on time. If you or your child struggles with getting to school on time, please do come and talk with us and we can offer practical strategies to help.

Musical Marchwood

Y4 have changed the instruments they are learning for this half term. 4G are learning to play the violin and 4S are learning to play Samba drums.

We are also providing specialist music tuition in Y3 and Y5. Y5 are learning keyboards and Y3 are learning to play the Ukelele! Miss Everett has joined our team and is providing class music lessons to Y3 and 5.

Y6 Mary Rose trip *by Sarah Goulding & Amy Ramswell*

On Tuesday 10th January, Y6 visited Portsmouth Historic Dockyard as an introduction to their topic – Tudors! The trip was based on the Mary Rose and we all enjoyed unravelling the truth of why it tragically sank. The museum was first, where we examined all kinds of findings that had been recovered after the sinking of the Mary Rose, at the time of the French war. The artefacts ranged from gold coins to nit combs, but everything, no matter how small, had been carefully salvaged in order to keep it preserved. Reloading the cannon was just one of the great experiences we participated in. With the dimly lit cabin and wooden panelling, imagining being a sailor and finding out how tough it would be on the ship, was incredibly life-like. We had a spectacular day, finding out about Henry VIII's favourite ship and realized how different life is now compared to back then.

Highland Dancing

We are delighted to offer a Highland dancing club until half term! I will tell children more about this in assembly on Monday. It is for boys and girls, no

previous experience necessary! I have been reassured if they can count to 4, 8 and 16 then they will be amazing at it. Kate Bowen, an ex-parent, has kindly offered to run this club at 12.30 on Thursday lunchtimes. Children can get a letter from me on Monday.

Recorder Club

This lunchtime club will be re-starting next Wednesday, 18th Jan, with Mrs Parsons. Please would all children who attended the club last term remember to bring in their recorders on that day.

Glades' development

Over recent months we have been creating a 3m path around the outside of the glades. This has been done to create easy access to the glades and to increase security as we are erecting a substantial fence along the edge of the glades. Hopefully, it will stop the dumping of dirty cat litter and grass cuttings from some of our neighbours into our grounds where the children are playing. I would like to add that most of our neighbours are lovely! I was delighted to be informed that Marchwood Aggregates have agreed to donate a substantial amount of gravel to enable us to build a gravel path around the outside of the glades. Another local

company, Lafarge, has generously agreed to transport the gravel free of charge to our school. We are delighted with the generosity of both companies, as without their kind offers, we would not have been able to afford this important project.

Roofing works

Part of our roof is being replaced at the entrance to the Y3 corridor. This will be ongoing for the next couple of weeks. It means fun and games moving Y3 around. It also means that sometimes it is easier to let Y3 out near the main entrance rather than the normal gate. There will always be a member of staff to ensure children find their parents. Please be patient with us. As works continue we will manage the children's movement in the safest and most efficient way possible.

Yr 6 Indoor Athletics – Monday 16th Jan

If your child has not already ordered their school dinner for Monday, please would you phone and let us know before 10 am. Thank you!

Laurie Anderson

Rev John Wesley accepts cheque from one of our pupils



Diary Dates:

Monday 16th January
Monday 23rd & Tues 24th Jan
Thursday 26th January
Tuesday 31st January
Tuesday 7th February
Thursday 9th February
Friday 10th February
Monday 13th – Fri 17th Feb

Year 6 Indoor Athletics at A'more Recreation Centre
Year 6 Parents' Evenings
Year 5 trip to Southampton
Year 3 trip to Living Rainforest-Newbury
Lower School ACE – 2 pm
Upper School ACE – 9.00 – 9.30 pm
Parents' Forum – 9 am
Half term holiday