

MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER
21st October 2011

Dear Parents,

I feel very lucky to be the Headteacher of a school in which there is such strong parental support. Working in an improving school is full of exciting challenges. However, the hardworking staff, wonderful children and positive parents work in partnership to make our school better every day. Thank you to everyone for your contribution this half term. Together we are Making Marchwood Magic!

Thank you for the Quiet Area clear up

Thank you to those parents and children who gave up their time last Saturday to tidy our 'quiet area'. It has made such a difference! The 'quiet area' was originally designed in 1994 in memory of an ex-pupil, Sophie Langford, and it is a special place in our grounds where children can sit quietly during playtimes. Three years have passed since the last tidy up so it was in great need of some TLC. Thank you to Mr Chappell for organizing this event.

Thank for the army display board

Thank you to Mrs Bowen and Mrs Gosling who kindly transformed our army board. Mrs Bowen and Mrs Gosling are parents of children who left year 6 in July so it is especially kind of them to give up their time to help us. It looks fantastic and celebrates our links with 17th Port and Maritime Regiment. We have a special space on the board to remember a special soldier, so if any parents are away on deployment, please let us know. We will ask for a photo for the board so we remember them everyday while they are away.

Thank you for our football strip

Thank you Mr Marshall, dad of Freddie in 3C, for offering to sponsor our new football strip. We have a strong football team this year who have already made a great start to the season. Having a smart football strip

will spur them on to even greater achievements. Photo of the new strip to follow when it arrives!

Thank you to parents for ACE time

We held our first ACE time of this year on Tuesday afternoon when US enjoyed the opportunity to come into school and see their children's learning. It was great to see so many parents engaged in discussing their child's work – thank you.

Cross Country Champions! *By Dave Bessant*

On Wednesday we took 21 of our children to compete in the New Forest Cross Country Relay Championships at Gang Warily. The competition was incredibly well supported with over 300 children from across the New Forest running in teams of three and competing to be crowned New Forest Champions. Our three girls' teams ran brilliantly, showing how much they had improved as a group during this half term. They finished 5th in the A race and 3rd in the B and C race. A great start and I can't wait to see them running again in February. Our four boys' teams had made excellent progress during the last 6 weeks and our B, C and D teams ran superbly, finishing second in each of their races. This was a great achievement. It was a particular pleasure to see Charlie Tekei running so well against children four years older than him. Our A team were given a great start by Jack Spark who gave Matthew James an 8 metre lead heading into the second leg. Matthew showed great desire recovering from a fall to hand the batten to Adam Davis who was still in second place. Adam then demonstrated what an excellent athlete he has become running down the third leg runner from Orchard and ensuring we became the New Forest Boys' Champions. All of our children were a credit to our school and showed great support for each other during a special afternoon.

There is no cross country on Friday after school on the 4th or 11th of

November.

Cycling to school

You may be aware that I am very keen for children to be able to cycle to school. Our fantastic PTA have already raised the funding for cycle storage. However, following a meeting yesterday it seems it may be some time before we are allowed to give permission for children to ride to school. This is because the nearest paths surrounding our school are not deemed to be wide enough to allow cycling. This is very frustrating but we have to follow the guidance we are given. In order for changes to be made as quickly as possible, it would be helpful to have an indication from parents if their child would ride to school if it were permitted. If you wish to help us with this project, please complete the attached slip and return to school. I will use the information to the best of my ability to enable our children to cycle to school as soon as possible. We have been informed it could take as long as eighteen months to push changes through. Please help!

As Headteacher I would be happy for Y6 to ride to school on their own if they have undertaken cycle training. I would ask parents of Y3, 4 and 5 to ride to school with their children. I would also ask parents of all cyclists to sign an agreement promising considerate riding and the wearing of cycle helmets.

BINGO evenings

Mr Hussey, Site Manager extraordinaire, is trialling a bingo session each Thursday night starting at 7.30 pm with doors open from 6.45 pm. If you are interested please come along! Tea and coffee will be on sale and you can bring your own alcoholic beverages (over 18s only!)

Donation Day

We are holding the first of two donation days on Tuesday 8th November. Children may come to school in non-school uniform in exchange for a donation that will be used for a prize in one of the Christmas Fair raffles. LS are being asked to bring a donation of a bottle and US are being asked to bring a chocolate donation.

Feeling arty??

I am delighted to have received plenty of entries for the competition already. All children need to do is a design to promote the Fair which will be used as the poster to promote it around the village and on the actual programmes. The design needs to be on an A4 sheet. Any colours may be used. The details of the fair would be helpful (Saturday 26th November 11 – 3pm). Design to be in by Thursday 3rd November with name and class on the reverse. Get drawing!

Enjoy the half term holiday and the INSET day on 31st October!

Laurie Anderson

Our willing 'Band of Gardeners' on Saturday 15th October



**NB School closed on 31st October
Firework evening on Friday 4th November**