

MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

LOWER SCHOOL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

September 2007

Dear Parents

Welcome back. The autumn term is now fully underway and the children have settled down well into their lessons and learning. All of the children benefited from a successful 'Start Right' week that gave teachers and children an opportunity to familiarise themselves with routines, key skills and expectations for work and play. We were impressed with the way in which all of the pupils responded and we hope they found it useful and enjoyable.

In this Lower School letter you will find information about some upcoming events, a few reminders and a couple of requests, so read on to find out a little bit more about this busy term.

Uniform

It has been wonderful to see Lower School looking so smart in their uniforms this term and we thank you in advance for your continuing support in ensuring that your children are wearing correct uniform. As usual we ask that you make sure that all clothing, particularly jumpers and PE kits, is clearly labelled so that if items are misplaced they can be easily returned. If they have been labelled in pen, please check regularly as the markings fade quickly.

PE kit

All children should be clear about when they have PE and they will need to make sure that they have a full kit on these days. As we head towards winter you may wish to provide your children with some extra insulation in the form of tracksuit bottoms and a jumper; if so please make sure that these are labelled.

Art aprons

In order to protect uniforms all children will need to have an art apron or overall for those slightly more messy lessons. An old shirt, (no children not your dad's favourite going-out one), with the arms cut short will suffice.

Letters

By now you should have received information letters from Literacy and Numeracy teachers and we hope that you find these useful. In order to improve pupil post we now ask all children to write their initials and class name on each letter they receive. We hope this system reduces the number of letters that go astray each day.

Homework

In Lower School all homework (Literacy and Numeracy) will be set on a Monday and then collected, marked or tested the following Monday. All homework should be written in homework dairies. Please check and sign the diaries regularly as teachers may occasionally set additional tasks or use these books as a means of communicating with you.

Pens and Pencils

At the beginning of each term every Year 4 child will be provided with a new Berol handwriting pen and a pencil. Year 3 children will be provided with a pencil and will be given a pen when their Literacy teacher feels it appropriate. The children are responsible for ensuring that they take these items to every lesson. Unfortunately if your child loses or deliberately damages their pen then they will be expected to pay 20p for a replacement. We are trying to encourage all of the children to become more responsible.

Many children like to bring in their own pens and pencils but during lessons we will only be allowing the children in Lower School to write in Berol handwriting pens or pencil.

Library

The children now have their new library numbers and have had a refresher course in how to issue and return their own book. All children will visit the library once a week but they also have the opportunity to use the library independently on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8.40-8.50am and lunchtimes. Not only are there hundreds of books to choose from but there are also comics and magazines, story tapes and listening posts and many fun reading activities for the children to complete provided by our librarian, Mrs. Seadon. So, please support us by encouraging your children to use our wonderful library.

Snacks and water bottles

We encourage our children to drink plenty of water during the school day as it aids concentration. We ask that children try to bring in their water bottles each day in order to reduce the amount of time they spend queuing at the water fountains. Please would you regularly check that the name is clearly visible, otherwise they all look identical! The children are also able to bring in fruit or vegetables as a snack for morning break.

Parent Helpers

During this term Year 4 are learning a musical instrument. The year 4 teachers would greatly appreciate help from parents in these lessons. If you are able to help on Wednesday afternoons 12.45 – 3.10 p.m. please see Mrs Ferrero or Mrs Batemen.

There will be numerous other events and activities later in the term so keep looking for those screwed up letters at the bottom of book bags!

I hope you have found the information in this newsletter helpful. If you have any questions or queries please either pop in and see me or one of the Lower School team or send us a note through reading records or homework diaries.

Yours sincerely

Juliet Gill
Lower School Manager