

## MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

### Upper School Autumn Newsletter 2007

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 "start right" aimed to get us all doing exactly that and certainly began the year in a fun and innovative way. We have been so impressed with how smart 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.

Mr. Bassett's September Newsletter has lots of information and I hope other letters and booklets you would have received, such as letters from group teachers, will have or will be equally informative. I would also like to take the opportunity each term 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?**
- 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. The children can get access to water in school but queuing for a water fountain is time consuming, rushed and potentially less hygienic.

Larger balls when allowed should be in a separate bag (carrier bag). Any other toys bought 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 sweat shirts 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 – Electricity

R.E. – Hannukah (key concept identity)/ The gifts of the Maji

Geography – Europe/Rainforests

ICT – Publisher, Spreadsheets, Drawing Landscapes and Compose World

Art – Landscapes (in a variety of media)/ Rainforest sculptures

Design Technology – Electric models (2<sup>nd</sup> half term)

Music – Rivers

P.E. – Games:Hockey

Gym: Symmetry and asymmetry

Dance: Rivers

P.S.H.E. & C – Who decides? (Challenging stereotypes)/ We're all different

If you have anything that would help in relation to any of these topics, please let us know!

### **Appeal for items:**

We have been impressed and very grateful for the influx of shoeboxes to help in Science this term. Meanwhile we have some exciting new things happening in our art lessons. To help us with what we are planning though we desperately need two things which you may be able to help us with:

- **Plastic supermarket bags** to be “recycled” in a very special way. We need an average of 12 per child so please have a good look at what is overflowing in the kitchen cupboard.
- **Wool** for landscapes in the week before half term.

Thanks in advance for any help you can give with these.

### **Year 6:**

Just a reminder that the CAFs for Secondary School transfer need to be returned to our school office by mid-day on 19th October but the sooner we can get them back the better.

### **Clubs:**

There are many clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer to Upper School pupils at present, both during lunchtimes and after school, and there will be 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 is on offer, including choir, 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. Any sporting club your child joins will also help them towards a healthy passport target. This is part of a dynamic approach to promoting a healthy lifestyle that is being launched by Mrs. Lane.

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**