

# Much Marcle News

8<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Dear Parents

Welcome to our new families and welcome back to everyone. I hope you had an enjoyable summer with your children.

It was lovely to see everyone so happy to be in school on the first day of term. This also includes the staff! As you know we are pleased to welcome Mr Mark Szortowski in his new role as deputy head teacher and teacher of class 3.

I thought it would be useful for new and 'seasoned' families to run through our expectations and our routine and planned events for the term.

## Arriving at School

*Early Birds 8.15am - 8.45am*

Before school care is supervised by Mrs Tattum usually in the library/computer room, five mornings a week. This is a facility we provide to support busy families. *£1.75 per child*

*Arriving at School 8.45am - 8.55am*

The gate on the nursery side of the school is opened by a member of staff at 8.45am. This staff member is on duty to receive the children until 8.55am.

Generally parents do not need to come into the playground with their children.

However, when your child is new to school or if they are upset you may feel they need you to bring them through the gate into the playground.

At 8.55am the school bell is rung and children line up to enter school. The side gate is then locked at which point parents should bring their child/ren to the front of school.

I understand the stresses of family life particularly on a school morning but I am sure you are all aware of the benefits of a calm start to your child's day. Arriving at school before 8.55am gives children the time to speak to their friends and get into 'school mode'! Rushing in the front door just after 9.00am is stressful for everyone concerned.

## Labelling

Every year I write to remind parents to label all of their child's clothes. We have nearly 100 red sweatshirts in school every day. We do our best to match the sweatshirt to the child at the end of play times, PE, etc, but it is very difficult when all we have to go on is the size and the smell (fabric conditioner usually)! PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!

## Healthy Schools

We are a 'healthy school' which means we ensure children take sufficient exercise, drink regularly and eat only fruit as a mid morning snack. Please support us in this. Children who do not eat fruit at home often will eat fruit at school

Please ensure that your child/ren has a labelled water bottle in school every day. They can fill it up at the water dispenser at the back of the school. Every child needs to drink water during the day.

### **Lunchboxes**

It is a fine line, one which I do not believe school should cross, between educating about healthy food and 'telling people' what they can or cannot eat. With children's lunchboxes I believe parents should support school and the children by avoiding putting sweets or chocolate bars in lunchboxes.

I am sure all parents make every effort to ensure their child's lunchbox contains a balance of what the parent wants their child to eat and what their child will eat. By lunchtime children are hungry and as we know, hungry children will eat well when everyone around them is eating too.

### **Curriculum Newsletter**

Each class teacher will be writing to you to provide you with an overview of the work your child will be doing this term.

### **Maths Information Evening**

We are planning an Information Evening for all parents. This will be an opportunity to see a 'maths lesson' and to ask teachers how you can best support your child. The provisional date is Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00pm-9.00pm.

### **Interim Reports**

This year we plan to provide a short interim report for every child. This will go out in the second half of term.

### **Harvest Festival**

Our Harvest Festival usually coincides with the 'Big Apple'. The date of our service will be Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm in St Bartholomew's Church. Children bring harvest goods, usually tins, packets and some fresh produce. They carry their gifts to church and present them during the service. Our gifts have been sent to the Women's Refuge in Hereford for the last three years. If you know of any local cause that may benefit please let us know.

At the Harvest Service every class performs a song or poem. The service is well attended by all families who then come back to school to see children's work and chat to their teacher.

### **Forest School**

Much Marcle is a Forest School. For us this means we plan and deliver educational activities outdoors, in a woodland setting. We are grateful to Mr Adam Munthe of Hellens for his support for our work. This year we will be working in Halls Wood. We would also like to thank Mr & Mrs Jones for their continued support.

Forest School will be on a Tuesday from September 13<sup>th</sup> for 10 weeks. This term, years 1 and 2 will go in the morning and years 3 and 4 in the afternoon. Your child will need suitable clothes and their uniform every Tuesday up to and including November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is not an optional activity; our activities have an educational purpose and every child is expected to participate. If your child is not well enough to be outside please keep them at home.

### Young Voices

This year we have been able to join in the Young Voices event in Birmingham on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Children and Choirs from all over the country come together to enjoy music and to celebrate the joy of singing.

We have been given a schedule for this event which means a long day for the children and staff. We have decided that the children from class 4 will be able to manage the day and enjoy the event.

Parents are invited but are expected to make their own way as the children rehearse in the afternoon and perform in the evening.

We will consider selling spare places on the coach to support parents who wish to attend.

### Carol Service

This year we have decided to combine our Christmas production with our Carol Service. We propose to have a KS1 Nativity in the church on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm. Year 6 children will lead the service with readings and the choir will perform. Every child enjoys this event (and the mince pies afterwards). Many parents tell me that for them Christmas begins with the Carol Service.

### Christmas Theatre Visit

We have provisionally booked tickets to see Jungle Book at the Old Repertory Theatre in Birmingham on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas Lunch

On Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>, the last day of term, every child and member of staff sit down together to eat Christmas lunch.

### Parents and Teachers Association

Many of the events we have planned are made possible because of the excellent support we receive from the PTA. Every parent is a member of the PTA and everyone is welcome to attend meetings. The next meeting is at **7.30 September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Walwyn.** The staff and I look forward to seeing you there.

### Important Dates

September

13<sup>th</sup> Class 2 and 3 Forest School

14<sup>th</sup> Individual School Photos

14<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Swim

16<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Nun Visit

20<sup>th</sup> Class 2 and 3 Forest School

20<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting 7.30pm

21<sup>st</sup> Class 4 Swim

27<sup>th</sup> Class 2 and 3 Forest School

28<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Swim

October

4<sup>th</sup> Class 2 and 3 Forest School

5<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Swim

5<sup>th</sup> Maths Evening

7<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival

12<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Swim

18<sup>th</sup> Class 2 and 3 Forest School

19<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Swim

20<sup>th</sup> Football/Netball v Colwall (H)

Half Term

24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October