

Newsletter 28th May 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter is the 'summer half term special' as lots of things are happening in school at the moment that we're keen to share with you. We had a very positive meeting last Monday about the plans for our expansion and the positive benefits for ALL the children, not just the new ones who will be joining us in September 2013, were clear to see. All the planning and consultation is on track and soon we should begin to see some 'enabling works' for our project. The school playground will be extended into the redundant school garden and a canopy will be provided for parents and children who walk to school in the morning—which will be great on very hot or wet days. Two temporary classrooms will also be delivered so that two classes can be taught in a safe environment well away from the building works. These will be in place for between a year and eighteen months and will be sited at the side of the school field. The next half term will be filled with a lot of activity so we will see you all **back on Monday 7th June at 8:45am**

'Green' initiatives at the junior school

Over half term we will be having a number of 'PV' solar panels fitted to the roof above the Year 3 classes. These panels produce electricity from sunlight and will be used for lighting certain areas of the school, making us less reliant on electricity produced from fossil fuels. You probably won't even notice these new panels but week after week, month after month, they will be reducing our electricity bills! This is the start of a number of measures designed to make our school 'greener'. Miss Smythe's new classroom has motion detectors fitted that turn off the lights when the room is empty and as part of our building works the school's boilers will be replaced with condensing boilers which use less gas to do the same job—a 'greener' alternative to our present 1970's boilers. We also hope to have a new school garden where children can learn to grow vegetables and Miss Tye and Miss Hall are going to lead this for us, although we may have missed the growing season for this year. One of the points on the 'Whitehorse Way' tells us that at our schools 'We care'. These initiatives show that we care for the environment and the governors will be looking for us to make more and more changes of this type in the years to come so that the 'carbon footprint' of the school is reduced still further.

Managed learning environment (MLE)

Miss George and I have done a lot of work recently on our MLE project where children will get access to a special internet site that allows them to continue their learning at home. Internet access is becoming more and more crucial to the work we do in schools and grants are available to those who do not have access to the internet at home; please speak to Miss George for details. The children in Year 3 will be the first to have access to our new site and we hope to have this sorted out in the week following half term. I think you will all be impressed with the extra dimension that this brings to your child's learning.

Text messaging service

One or two parents have told us that they are not getting text messages but on investigation this was because they had not provided us with their new numbers. This service is only as good as the information you give us. Please keep your contact details up to date.

Dates for your diaries 31st May—4th June Half term week

7th—11th June—Thematic curriculum week—A chance for the children to focus on their

thematic work

18th June—Inset day. School closed.

30th June—Cake sale for Cancer research

1st July—International day