

## Dear Parents and Carers,

The school has had some very sad news this weekend as we have been informed that our former Deputy Headteacher, Teresa McBain, passed away on Saturday. Miss McBain retired 5 years ago having been deputy at the school for 28 years and although lots of our current children won't know Miss McBain, older brothers and sisters may well have been taught by her as well as some of our mums and dads. She was, quite simply, the heart of this school for many years and was acting Headteacher twice. Although these days everyone thinks of the Whitehorse schools as successful this wasn't always the case and Miss McBain was the outstanding teacher who kept the junior school going through those darker times. I have no hesitation in saying that we would not be as highly regarded as we are as a school without the foundation work of Miss McBain. She was Deputy in my first 2 years as head here and I found her a supportive, knowledgeable colleague. She was first and foremost an excellent teacher with a particular soft spot for the more difficult children. She was always prepared to give her own time to make sure that the children had a fully rounded school experience and ran lots of extra curricular clubs and trips. She was a great champion of school sport and ran our football teams for many years—to see Miss McBain in full 'coaching mode' on the touchline was a sight to behold! Her dedication to this school was complete as shown by her years of service and the fact that when I arrived, even though Miss McBain was approaching retirement, she was still the first member of staff here in the morning and the last to leave. She had a tremendous impact on the quality of education for children in this school for many, many years. We owe Miss McBain a great debt of gratitude and we will miss her as a great friend and colleague.

## Holiday club



We are running our 'DASH' club again at half term in partnership with our extended schools cluster of schools. Activities will take place this time at Bensham Manor Secondary School which is 10 minutes walk from here on Ecclesbourne Road. Mrs Christopher will be running the events and Mr Smith and his coaches will be involved as well. The sessions will run from 10am-3pm and the costs are the same as usual—£8 per day for the first child in a family, £5 for the next child and £3 for any other sibling. It doesn't take a mathematician to work out that this represents excellent value for money! If you would like a place on this holiday scheme please book with Mrs Christopher by getting in contact with her on the school number **020 8684 3929** (press option 3), her mobile **07521 692798**, or by email [suzannec@schmail.net](mailto:suzannec@schmail.net).

## Fire appeal

Thank you to parents who donated financially and by giving clothing for the families who were burned out of their accommodation in South Norwood. We managed to pass all donations on to the children's school at Heaver's Farm and the families were very appreciative. This appeal is now closed.

## Sponsored children

Parents and carers of children in Year 3 may not know that we sponsor the education of 2 children in India through fundraising activities throughout the year. Tomorrow 3C will be having a **craft sale** in the gym after school to raise money for this worthy cause. They have made peppermint creams themselves and will be selling baskets of these for 50p. Please support them if you can.

## **Dates for your diary**

**25th October—1st November—Half term holiday**

Children return to school **8:45 Tuesday 2nd November**

Best wishes