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## NEWSLETTER NO. 01

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2007

Ref: News 01 Sept07



Dear Parents,

### Dates for your Diary

Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Violin auditions (lessons start next week)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Fencing sessions start for Yr 2 group
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Skipping workshop
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Karate demonstration
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Guitar lessons start
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	'Perform' drama workshop for whole school
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	'Jeans for Genes' mufti day
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest festival
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Key Stage 2 groups to visit Bible exhibition at Baptist Church
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	School photographers in for individual photos
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultation Evening 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultation Evening 5-8 p.m.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Quiz Night with Paul Burrell

### School Term Dates:

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Half term week begins
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	School closed for staff training
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2008	Spring term begins
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term week begins
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for Easter
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer term begins
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term week begins
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up for the summer holidays

We would like to welcome the children and their parents who have joined us this term, both in the 4+ and throughout the school. We hope you will soon make some good friends and enjoy your time at Watling. We would also like to welcome three new members of staff who have joined us this term: Mrs C. Clayton, Mrs J. Berry and Mrs B. Bright. Mrs Clayton rejoins us after gaining experience in another school for two years. She will be taking Willow Class. Mrs Bright and Mrs Berry have joined us for the current academic year. We are very fortunate to have them for increased flexibility, teaching support and opportunities. Both are Graduate Registered Teachers who have had teaching experience in other schools and we have been entrusted as a training school to complete the very last part of their training. They will be fully supported and supervised by our teaching staff throughout their time with us and mentored by Mrs Dyke who does not have a class responsibility this year. We are sure you will make our new members of staff really welcome.

## **NEW ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2008**

Please return any outstanding Bedfordshire County admission forms for 2008 to the school office. It is essential they are returned by 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007, as these forms then have to be sent to County Hall for processing.

## **COMPUTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!**

We are planning to make our ICT suite available to parents again this coming year. You will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of programs and surf the internet. The dates are Thursdays between 3.30 and 5 p.m.: 11<sup>th</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN**

This year we are in the very fortunate position of being able to teach regular weekly Gifted and Talented groups. There will be a numeracy and literacy session for each of the Years 1 to 4. There will be flexibility in which pupils are invited to attend, depending on the exact nature of the work that week. We anticipate between six and eight pupils per year will attend each session. Generally the work the children undertake will link in with and enhance the main classroom lesson. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Clarke.

## **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Message from Mrs Youngs: "The staff are planning to raise money for this worthwhile charity on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like to make a donation, please send it in to me on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> or on the day. Many thanks."

## **THE 'OMEGO PHONE'**

We have heard about this innovative new product, designed specifically for primary school children. Its many design features provide fun, safe connectivity for the family. You may have seen it featured on the television recently. If you are interested in finding out more, please ask at the office.

**At the beginning of each academic year we like to mention one or two of our normal rules and procedures:**

### **Arrival at school –**

Please ensure that your child arrives at school between 8.45 a.m. and 8.55 a.m. when a member of staff will be on duty. The normal procedure during these times is for the child to make their way onto the playground where they are supervised by school staff. It is quite in order for you to leave the premises to avoid unnecessary congestion by the playground doors and steps.

### **Late arrival at school –**

If your child arrives at school after 9 a.m. and the rear playground doors are closed, please report to the Office, so that we can ensure your child has his/her registration mark. We also need to note in our 'Late Book' the reason for late arrival. The Education Welfare Officer checks the 'Late book' on a regular basis, and will contact you if they have a concern about the number of 'lates' your child has.

### **Collection of Children at the end of the day -**

**Year 1 – Year 4 children**, please collect your child from the rear school playground at 3.30 p.m. and make sure your child has informed their class teacher that they are leaving school premises. If you know you may be slightly late (appointments etc.) please telephone the office, so that we can inform the class teacher. If your child is NOT collected by 3.40 they will automatically be booked into our Forest Club and a charge will be made by them. If your child is being collected by someone who is not on your 'contact list' please inform the office, and the teacher will be notified that you have authorised your child's collection by someone else.

**4+ Unit – children should be collected from the 4+ playground area at the front of the school by 3.20 pm.**

### **Absences –**

If your child is absent from school due to illness, or emergency Doctor's appointment, please telephone the school as soon as you can, so that we can mark the register correctly. If your child is away for more than a day, please send in a letter confirming their absence on the first day of your child's return to school.

Could we please enlist your total support in reaching our attendance target of 95.3% set for us by our Education Welfare Officer for the forthcoming year. Our performance in this area is continually monitored by OFSTED in any future school inspection. It is imperative that we all work together to achieve this target by ensuring that all children attend school regularly to enable them to access their full educational entitlement. We have been complemented on our 'good practice' and aim to build on this success. We look forward to a close working relationship in tackling this attendance target, and to your ongoing support.

### **Sickness and Diarrhoea –**

We have been advised by the Health Protection Unit that children should be kept away from school for at least 48 hours AFTER the symptoms have stopped.

### **Health & Safety –**

For health and safety reasons we would ask that all long hair be tied back off the face in a pony tail, bunches, or plaits. This can help prevent the spread of Headlice in school.

**Shoes** – please ensure that your child attends school with appropriate footwear (not trainers).

**Jewellery – Jewellery is not appropriate at school for various reasons, however if your child wishes to wear a watch, make sure it is a cheap one!**

**Earrings** – We appreciate that a number of children have pierced ears, and would recommend that you ensure they have a special pair of small studs for school use only (not expensive ones!). If earrings come out during the school day, staff are not allowed to put them back, so please make sure your child is able to put their own earrings in. Thank you.

### **Headlice –**

Should you ever notice that your child has Headlice, please notify the school, so that we can alert others to be extra vigilant in the eradication of this PEST! Please do not feel embarrassed, as it is a problem in all Lower Schools.

**We do NOT name and shame.**

### **Lost property –**

Names please on all items of clothing – this makes it easier to return items of lost property to its rightful owner. Any unnamed lost property will be recycled.

### **School Car Park –**

Due to the limited space the car park is for School Staff Only. The only exception would be for disabled parking which has a designated area at the front of the school.

### **Sending money into school –**

Please ensure that you send money into school in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and class.

Dinner Money should be in a separate envelope as this is collected by the Catering Company who provide the school meals. Cheques to be made payable to "Eden Services"

### **Dinner Money procedures-**

Dinner money should be sent in at the beginning of each week, to ensure that your child is reserved a meal. Should you get into arrears, the Catering Company will be unable to provide a meal for your child until the debt is cleared. Please bear with us during the changeover to our new caterers.

### **PE Kit –**

It is normal procedure for your child's PE kit to be brought into school each Monday morning, and to remain in school until Friday afternoon. If your child's PE kit is not in school, they will still take part in the lesson in their

underwear. There are occasions when we have extra activities during the school week, when PE kit may be required e.g. in school Football coaching by Luton & Dunstable Community Football Association.

**School Uniform –**

Just a reminder that the winter uniform for girls includes the option for them to wear school-style grey trousers. Other styles/colours are not considered to be 'school uniform'.

**Contact Details-**

Mrs Salter asks all parents please to make sure that our contact telephone numbers are always up to date. It is very distressing to a child when we are unable to get hold of anyone e.g. if the child is ill.

I am sorry this first Newsletter of the Academic Year is so long, but we hope this will avoid any confusion for any of our new pupils and parents, and keep our existing pupils and parents up to date if there have been any minor changes in procedures. Newsletters are posted on our school website, should you ever need to refer back.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Black  
Headteacher

**If you require this newsletter in alternative formats or larger print, please contact the office.**