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NEWSLETTER NO. 08

Date: February 2008

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Dear Parents,

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26th February
Wednesday 27th February
Thursday 6th March
Monday 10th March
Tuesday 11th March
Tuesday 18th March
Wednesday 23rd April
Thursday 24th April
Thursday 22nd May
Friday 23rd May
Wednesday 25th June
Wednesday 25th June
Wednesday 2nd July
Wednesday 9th July
Thursday 10th July

Assembly with Janet Meredith plus Egg Care Competition
SATs Preparation Evening 3.45pm – Rowan Classroom
Art Evening in School Hall – more details to follow nearer the time
Parent Consultation Evening 4 – 6pm
Parent Consultation Evening 6 – 8pm
Return visit by Janet Meredith to judge Egg Care Competition
Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1 – Drama Workshop in school
School Class/Group Photographs in school
4+ Unit visit to Whipsnade Zoo
Bedfordshire Music Percussion Group performance to school
Image Theatre performance of Jungle Book to whole school
2-3pm 4+ New Intake afternoon for September 2008 intake
Probable Middle School Transfer Day for year 4 pupils
7pm Key Stage 2 concert
2pm and 7pm Key Stage 2 concert

School Term Dates:

Monday 11 th February	Half term week begins
Thursday 20 th March	Break up for Easter
Tuesday 8 th April	Summer term begins
Thursday 1 st May	School Closure Day (Polling Day)
Monday 5 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 26 th May	Half term week begins
Friday 18 th July	Break up for the summer holidays

Parent Consultation Evenings

Please make sure you have signed up for Parent consultation evenings for 10th and 11th March. If you are unable to come into the school, please ring the school office between 10.00am – 12.00pm and 2.00pm – 3.00pm to book a convenient time. Thank you.

Home times

Some parents are confused when end of school is for their child: Key Stage 1 finish at 3.25pm (Years 1 & 2), Key State 2 finish at 3.30pm (years 3 & 4). The 4+ unit finish time is 3.20pm.



Transformation Day

To mark an excellent report of Bedfordshire County Council in a recent Corporate Performance assessment in which they were awarded three stars, all County Council employees, including school-based employees, have been granted an additional days leave in 2008 known as 'transformation day'.

Your child's educational entitlement will not be affected in any way, as teachers will still be available on 190 days to teach our pupils.

Extended Schools Survey

We have been asked to complete an Extended Schools Survey especially with our parents new to Watling. In targeting this group and not every parent we do save on paper and photocopying costs as only a small percentage of replies are usually received. However, if any other parents would like to complete this survey they can ask at the office for a copy of the questionnaire.

Term Time Holiday

We have been asked to remind all parents when they are deciding to take their child on holiday during school term time. Please make sure that your request for holiday is made long before the holiday is due. However, please do not expect the school to grant your request unless there are special circumstances.

When deciding whether to allow 'authorised' time off, the school will consider:

- If there are special circumstances for the request
- The time of year when you want the holiday
- How long the holiday will be and how much it will disrupt your child's education
- Previous similar requests, and your child's attendance record.

Holiday requests for the following reasons are not considered to be 'special circumstances'

- Availability of cheap holidays, or availability of the desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced in school holiday periods and
- Overlapping with beginning or end of term.

I hope this clarifies the school's position when granting time off during term time.

Year 4 Literacy Booster Classes

Mrs. Clarke will be taking small groups of year 4 pupils for extra literacy work. Specific needs like poor punctuation and sentence structure will be addressed. These will take place during the mornings for the remainder of this term and for the first part of next term. We hope to plug those 'unsure gaps' in the children's writing.

Ian Black
Headteacher

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