

Old Heath Community Primary School

Newsletter September 2010

Where children learn, achieve and enjoy success

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Headteachers Comments

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. The last few weeks of the summer term flew by and it was fantastic that so many of you joined your children for a wide variety of events to watch and enjoy. My personal highlight was our Music Concert. Over the past few years the musical progress we have made has been very impressive and the afternoon performances to families really showed off our musical talents across the school. Well done to Mrs Pink for organising this wonderful event.

In the last week of the term we had another reason to celebrate. Three years have passed since our last **Ofsted inspection** and we were looking forward to an imminent visit! However, due to the high standards of attainment across the school being maintained the interim review, completed by Ofsted, felt that it is not necessary to inspect us for at least another academic year. The acknowledgement by Ofsted of our continued success is a true testament to the fantastic pupils and parents that the school has an opportunity to work in partnership with.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new families and pupils to our school community. Over the coming years I look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure your children reach their full potential.

J Hallum.

Summer Building Projects

As I am sure you have noticed our old pre-school building has disappeared and been replaced by a new purpose built facility. The £65,000 investment will make a huge difference to our community's pre-school educational opportunities.

For the past 5 years I have been desperate to update our boys and girls toilets from the dark, dingy and often smelly environment to something more appealing. Following extensive research and lengthy discussions with the school council we will shortly have state of the art toilet facilities that can be enjoyed by all pupils. The project has involved extensive structural changes to the area and therefore the new toilets will not be completed until Monday 13th September. In the mean time alternative toileting arrangements have been made.

Academic Year Dates 2010-11

Just before the end of the summer term I sent out, through parent mail, the entire list of important dates for 2010-11 academic year. If you have not received the dates please see the school office for a paper copy.

Meet The Teacher Evening

Please ensure that you attend our 'meet the teacher' evening on Tuesday 7th September. This is a really important opportunity to find out all about the coming year and have a chance to ask any questions you may have. Education is continually evolving and these meetings and the information shared change considerably year on

year. Therefore, please don't think that if you have been to one in the past it will be a waste of your time. Make the time to help your children!

The times for the meetings are as follows and each teacher will be located in their own classroom:

Early Years-3.20-3.40pm

Year 1- 3.40-4.00pm

Year 2- 4.00-4.20pm

Year 3- 4.20-4.40pm

Year 4- 4.40-5.00pm

Year 5- 5.00-5.20pm

Year 6- 5.20-5.40pm

There will be a supervised crèche in the school hall to enable all families to attend.

Clubs

Clubs will start from Monday 4th October. A complete list of all clubs will be sent home nearer the time for you to choose from. Clubs will finish for Christmas on Thursday 2nd December.

Please note

Due to the staff very generously running clubs for free and in their own time some clubs on occasions have to be cancelled at short notice due to illness. I appreciate this can cause families disruption and we do try wherever possible to either cover them with an alternative adult or inform you as early as we possibly can.

Contact Details

If you have recently changed address, phone number or emails please ensure the school office have the most up to date information.

Cycling Tour Event: Friday 17th September

On the morning of Friday 17th September Mr Smith will be taking 10 Year 6 pupils who successfully completed the bikeability programme last term to Castle Park. They will take part in a variety of cycling activities before the main cycle race happens in the town centre. Pupils will then return to school for the end of the day.

Summer Reading Challenge Party

On Friday 15th October from 2-3pm in the school hall I will be holding a special party for all pupils who successfully completed the summer reading challenge called **SPACE HOP**. The party will be free and a way for me to say well done to the children who chose to continue reading throughout the summer. If your child is attending the party they will be able to bring in party clothes to wear in the afternoon. At the party there will be games, competitions, food, disco and a bouncy castle for the children to enjoy.

Harvest Festivals

Our pupils this year will be attending two harvest festival celebrations. On Thursday 23rd September we will be joining Father Richard at St Barnabas Church at 9am. All the family are welcome to join us. On Monday 27th September we will be attending Wimpole Road Church to celebrate Harvest Festival again. We will be collecting items for various charities on Thursday 23rd September. More information about this will follow shortly.

SATs Tests and unauthorised holiday update

The alliance government have just announced that for the current academic year (2010-11) the SATs Tests will remain in May 2011. However, the tests may change from May 2012 to June 2012 during the following academic year (2011-12)

THEREFORE:

-DURING 2010-11 ACADEMIC YEARS PLEASE DO NOT BOOK A HOLIDAY IN MAY 2011

-DURING 2011-12 PLEASE ENSURE YOU DO NOT BOOK A HOLIDAY IN EITHER MAY OR JUNE 2012.

NO HOLIDAY DURING THE ABOVE MONTHS WILL BE AUTHORISED.

Termly Overviews

Shortly your teachers will be sending home a one page summary of what your children will be learning this term. If you have any talents linked to the topics studied that could enhance the curriculum please see your child's class teacher. All help will be greatly appreciated.

School Uniform

Please can I remind parents/carers of our uniform code, black/grey trousers, white polo shirt, school sweat shirt or fleece and **school black shoes**.

For P.E. it is red shorts, white t-shirt and plimsolls/trainers.

The uniform shop is open on Friday 3pm-3.30pm and Monday 8.45am-9.15am in the school hall.

Report Levels of Attainment

In spite of the information provided in July's newsletter about the levels your children have achieved in their reports there does still seem to be many parents with questions about what the numbers and letters mean. If you are unsure about the levels please speak to your current or former class teacher and they will be able to provide you with more information.

I will provide more detailed information about the levels achieved by your children in next academic years report.

Talent Competition

Wednesday 6th October @ 6pm on the school hall.

Following the cancellation of the Old Heath Task Group Fun Day the talent competition due to take place in July did not happen. I know many children were looking forward to showcasing their talents and therefore I have rearranged for it to take place on October 6th at 6pm in the school hall.

The school council will be organising the event and there will be auditions taking place shortly during lunchtimes to select the 8 lucky finalists who will perform on the evening of 6th October. Your children will have to look at the school council notice board for more information.

The event is free and open to any pupil that attends our school. There are some great prizes on offer for the winners so please encourage your talented children to give it a try!!!

Reminder of Non-Pupil Days 2010-11

Monday 1st November 2010

Tuesday 4th January 2011

Monday 28th February 2011

Tuesday 26th April 2011

Monday 6th June 2011

Change of date for the next Parent Forum

The date for the next meeting was going to be on Wednesday 17th November however this clashes with our theme week. The new date is **Wednesday 10th November at 11am in the Learning Lounge**; all parents/carers are invited. An agenda for the meeting will be published in the next newsletter.

Fencing

I have decided to continue to fund free fencing for children who are in either Year 4, 5 or 6.

The current year 4 pupils who wish to still fence will have their lesson from 9am-10am every Tuesday in the school hall. Any year 5 or 6 pupil who wishes to fence will be able to take part for free from 8-9am every Tuesday (parents will need to commit to ensure they are on time and attend regularly). This is a fantastic opportunity to learn a new sport.

To book your place, please speak to the school office. There are only 1 or 2 places left.

Sports, Sports and more Sports!!!!

The Blackwater Sports Partnership have organised many sporting competitions and festivals over the past two academic years. Unfortunately too often we have only been informed of many of them at very short notice. This has caused vast amounts of extra work for staff and upset some parents/carers about short notice given for an event or trip.

We have been discussing this issue with the partnership and they have now published all the events for the academic year 2010-11. This will be sent home to you via parent mail in the next few days and hopefully will avoid any last minute events or matches in the future.

Booking of School Dinners

You should all be aware by now that the booking of school dinners has been changed to a **Wednesday after school in the hall** with Mrs Kelly. This decision was made due to the amount of after school clubs held on a Thursday which we understand caused problems for parents/carers. Dinners will not be booked at the office from now on to help maintain the efficiency of the office first thing in the mornings. Payment for dinners must be made at the time of booking, cheques are made payable to Old Heath Community Primary School and the correct money would be appreciated as change cannot be given at the time of booking.

Advice and guidance to parents who are looking to return to work

Dear parents,

My name is Andy and I work for Colchester Borough Council and Jobcentreplus. I am starting a programme in Colchester where I go into schools to offer advice and guidance to parents who are looking to return to work. I would welcome the opportunity to speak to anyone who wishes to discuss that elusive job. You may not have worked for a few years due to childcare responsibilities or you may have recently lost your job due to the recession. Whatever the reason, I would like to speak to you about getting back into work.

Come and see me to discuss your working future and how you can prepare for employment. We can work together so that you are in a better position to find a job whether you want to discuss CVs or interviews techniques.

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone if you would like to ask any questions before you come along to see me. I am not that scary.....honest! I will be available at Old Heath Primary School on **Wednesday 29th September between 09:00 and 10:30.**

I look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards,

Andy

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Meet the Teacher Evening: Tuesday 7th September:

Early Years-3.20-3.40pm

Year 1- 3.40-4.00pm

Year 2- 4.00-4.20pm

Year 3- 4.20-4.40pm

Year 4- 4.40-5.00pm

Year 5- 5.00-5.20pm

Year 6- 5.20-5.40pm

Harvest Festivals: Wimpole Road Church: Monday 27th September & St Barnabas:

Thursday 23rd September @ 9am (ALL THE FAMILY WELCOME)

Clubs Start: Monday 4th October:

Talent Competition: Wednesday 6th October @ 6pm in the school hall

(auditions will take place during the school day in the fortnight before the final)

Prospective Early Years Parents for 2011-12 can visit Early Years: Monday 11th-

Friday 15th October between 1.30-2.30pm

Summer Reading Challenge Party: Friday 15th October between 1.30-3.00pm

Half Term: 25th – 29th October

Non-Pupil: Monday 1st November

PARENT FORUM MEETING (ALL WELCOME, DATE CHANGED DUE TO THEME WEEK): Wednesday 10th November @ 11am

Theme Week: Children's Rights and responsibilities around the world (coincide with anti-bullying week): 15th-19th November

Children in Need: Friday 19th November

Theme Week Assembly: Friday 19th November @ 2.30pm

Parent Consultations: VERY IMPORTANT, PLEASE DO NOT MISS:

Wednesday 24th or Thursday 25th November

With the exception of fencing there will be no clubs during consultation week

Thursday 2nd December: last day of clubs for the term

Friday 3rd December @ 3pm: Christmas Fete

Key Stage 1 Christmas Production: Monday 6th December @ 6pm and Tuesday 7th December @ 2pm

Key Stage 2 Christmas Production: Monday 6th December @ 2pm and Tuesday 7th December @ 6pm

Tuesday 14th December: Key Stage 1 Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 15th December: Key Stage 2 Christmas Dinner

Thursday 16th December: Pantomime @ Mercury Theatre

Friday 17th December: Last Day of Term

Wednesday 5th January: 1st day of Spring Term

Essex LA School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

September 2010							October 2010							November 2010							December 2010						
T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4		
7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11		
14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18		
21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25		
28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31	1		
January 2011							February 2011							March 2011							April 2011						
T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
4	5	6	7	8	9		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2		
11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9		
18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16		
25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23		
						28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		
May 2011							June 2011							July 2011							August/ September 2011						
T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6		
3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13		
10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20		
17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27		
24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31	1	2	3		
31																				5	6	7	8	9			

Academic Year 2010-2011

= Schooldays / Weekends
 = School holidays
 = Bank holidays

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Wednesday 1 September 2010 – Friday 17 December 2010 <i>Half Term 25-29 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term:	Tuesday 4 January 2011– Friday 8 April 2011 <i>Half Term 21-25 February</i>	64 days
Summer Term:	Tuesday 26 April 2011– Friday 22 July 2011 <i>Half Term 30 May – 3 June, and May Bank Holiday, 2 May</i>	58 days
		195 days
<i>Autumn Term 2011 will commence no earlier than Thursday 1 September for staff. A formal decision on the actual date will be taken during 2010.</i>		

Please note: The above dates may vary slightly for individual schools, especially Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools and Academies. You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.