



Newsletter

April 2009

They say that when you are busy enjoying yourselves time flies, which probably explains why the spring term seemed to disappear so fast. We are now looking forward to a 'sunny' summer term.

New starters

We welcome Joseph and Alexander from Oakley and Alex from Whitchurch who all joined us this term. They are settling in really well after just a week with us. Rohan who had to return to Australia in December will be rejoining us for about three weeks in May, we look forward to catching up with him.

We are still in touch with Julia who returned to South Africa in March. She is settling in at her new pre school where they use both Afrikaans and English. She is now speaking more Afrikaans again and her English accent is turning into a South African one already. Our children have been looking at photographs she has sent showing the amazing scenery and weather she is now enjoying.

Project

All of you should have had our weekly planner for this terms project on mini-beasts. There is also a copy on the board at the Children's House. It is already turning out to be quite exciting as 5 tiny caterpillars were posted to us in the middle of last week. We will be watching them develop into 'Painted Lady' butterflies over the coming weeks. The caterpillars have already tripled in size despite the constant attention of curious children. Other live creatures we will have in the Children's House over the coming weeks will be tadpoles, ants and stick insects.

As well as mini-beast hunting we will also be looking at their life cycles and making an enormous collage that will have more beasts added throughout the term.

The children love showing items related to the project during our 'circle' time at the end of the morning session. Please feel free to bring in anything -alive or dead that your child would like to show connected to the project.

School Photographer

Steve Wood our school photographer will be coming in on Friday 22nd May at 9.00. Everyone is welcome including siblings. We are also hoping to have a group school photo taken so the more of you who can come the better.

Sports day

Our sport afternoons with 'Planet Sport' started in January this year and have been a huge success with both adults and children. We have therefore decided that this year 'Planet Sport' will help run the day. It will still be different activities at different stations, but will also enable the children to show off some of the sporting skills they have been developing.

All children are invited to join in and it will start at around 1.15 pm. Further details will follow.

French

As you may be aware our French teacher Yannick has returned to France. As no notice was given, it left us without a teacher at the end of last term and the first 2 weeks of this term. I had tried without success to find one sooner, but Nathalie from 'Vici language academy' has now found another trained native French teacher who I hope will be joining us on the 8th May. She will be able to continue where Yannick left off and will know the subject areas he had already covered.

Donations

Thank you all so much for your 'rubbish' you have been collecting for 'junk modelling'. We now have an enormous box full that is taking up most of the newly refurbished stock room. We now no longer need any more 'junk' however we do need polystyrene pizza bases, greeting cards and milk bottle tops please.

We are also always looking for parents, or adults from the community with a particular skill, talent or job they are happy to show the children. This could be almost anything from music, cookery and painting to dentistry. So don't be shy.

Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' vouchers

Keep these coming in. We are collecting for a set of road safety equipment for role play. The gym mats, hoops and balls etc. we collected for last year have already been well used. Thank you for all your vouchers to date.

Dates for your diary

30 th April	Bluebell walk-(weather dependent)
4 th May	Bank Holiday
22 nd May	School photographer
25 th to 29 th	May Half term
4 th June	School closed due to elections
9 th June	Parent's evening for leavers
2 nd July	Treehouse Theatre-(story to be confirmed)-all welcome
9 th July	Sports day from 1.15pm
10 th July	End of term party

Contact with the School

If you would like to discuss your child, have any queries or would like some information we can talk briefly at the beginning of the day, we are however always free to talk for longer at the end of the session.

I am always happy to be contacted through e-mail, but please resist telephoning at the weekend unless of course it is urgent.

Best wishes, Marianne.