



Orchards Community Middle School Newsletter 1- September 2011



Welcome Back - or in some cases – welcome to the school. We have enjoyed a terrific first week and to ease the disappointment of children leaving at the end of last year we have had a wonderful new intake – over 150 new children started on Monday and they have already shown us that we are in for a real treat this year. It is one of the biggest privileges of all to address the first assembly and to look out at 650 faces knowing that the future of Orchards is going to be very exciting. We all enjoyed the summer holidays but it is great to be back.

With this letter you will also have a clubs list. We have put together an exciting programme for the children with a full range of activities. We hope to start most of them in the second week of term but look closely at the letter and it will say there. Details for joining the clubs are on the letter but to summarise – three things to do.

1. Children to get a letter from the teacher running the club – they can ask their class teacher or myself if they don't know who they are.
2. Parents / Carers to sign the permission slip and return to school
3. Enjoy the club

Our exciting new School Improvement Plan has taken in a range of ideas and opinions from the whole school community and we have used the returns from the parent questionnaire extensively to shape our provision. We were delighted with the responses which showed a high rate of satisfaction with the provision. Thank you for taking the time to fill these in, they do have an important use for us. Amongst the almost 100% satisfaction we had some helpful suggestions –

1. More advance information about activities – we always put advance dates in on newsletters and are investigating use of e-mail.
2. Basketball club – this will start next week
3. Open days to meet the new teachers and classrooms – there will be a range of activities this year to allow parents to see their children's work in addition to the formal parent consultation days
4. Longer to eat lunch – children will have longer to eat lunch if they so wish as long as it doesn't encroach onto lesson times.

Last year we received an increasing number of queries in relation to Facebook and associated social media which can threaten to creep into school life. We have a clear stance on the fact that Facebook is only to be used by children from 13 onwards therefore no child in our school should have an account. Parents are obviously entitled to make their own judgements but they need to be aware of the potential risks as well as benefits. In response to this we have set up an e-mail helpline www.besafe@orchards which should help parents and children to make the correct choice.

I am looking forward to meeting new friends to the school and continuing with some of the fantastic relationships we have already built up.

Best wishes *Dr Jones*

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- Welcome back
- Club news
- Dates

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13th September – Parents' Meeting for Year 5 Residential to Windmill Hill – 5:00 p.m.

27th September –Year 5 Day Visit to Goodwood Farm

28th September –Year 7 Parent Consultation and Sports Activities

29th September –Year 6 Parent Consultation and Sports Activities

30th September –Coffee Morning for Macmillan Charity

3rd October – Year 6 Health & Fitness Week

10th October –Year 4 Parent Consultation and Sports Activities

11th October –Year 5 Parent Consultation and Sports Activities

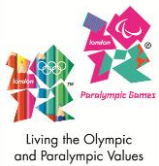
14th October – Year 4 Discovery Day – Health & Fitness

18th October – PURE DANCE II - 7:00 p.m.

19th October – Year 6 G & T visit to Osborne House

21st October – School Closed for In-Service Training

24th to 28th October – HALF TERM



Charter Standard for Schools