

8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Parents

I am really thrilled to start our newsletter with some good news. Red class (year 5) visited London the week before last and represented our school in true style! Mrs Shannon and the accompanying staff received numerous positive comments about the behaviour of our children and I received e-mails from people travelling on the train. Below are 2 examples:

*“Dear Mrs Williamson*

*This is just a quick e.mail to congratulate you on the behaviour of your children. I boarded the 4.16 pm train at Woking and disembarked at Salisbury. Throughout this time, the children were impeccably behaved, under the watchful eye of a teacher, who may have been called Mrs Shannon. I came away with admiration for the school, and I think more importantly, with the impression that the behaviour of the children was exactly what I would expect from my daughter.”*

*“Just a short note to say that I am on a train with Mrs Shannon and her pupils. She is doing a marvellous job and the kids are vibrant and a credit to the school.”*

Thank you red class – we are all very proud of you.

Another piece of good news is that our hockey team won the Gillingham Schools Area hockey tournament last week. A huge well done to Mr Marshall and his team of players. We were also very grateful for all the parental support at the event – thank you.

Mrs Loxton has ordered the 0 – 9 dice as requested from the parent maths afternoon. If you would like to buy one of these unusual (and fun!) dice to support maths games, they are on sale in the office for 50p each.

We had another excellent book week – thank you to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Porter for all their hard work and organisational skills and to ‘The Friends’ for providing hot chocolate for our ‘Bedtime Story’. We were also delighted to welcome so many parents/friends/governors who came to read to the children. £731.45 was taken in book sales which meant that we have been able to order £378.87 ‘worth’ of books. Again, thank you for your support.

Mrs Wathen has asked me to let you know she has several vacancies for any child that might like to learn the piano. Please could you contact Mrs Rawlings in the office if you are interested.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Rebecca Smith to our staff as Parent Support Advisor. She starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March and will be writing to you to explain what her role is - you will no doubt meet her in the playground.

The teachers are busily writing reports for our children and these will come home on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Parent interviews will follow on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 2.30 – 7 pm. I would be grateful if you could contact the office to make an appointment. Thank you!

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March Mrs Porter and I will be holding our termly ‘Question & Answer’ session for parents. This was well received last term and we agreed at this meeting to vary the times so that everyone has the opportunity to attend. The evening will start at 7.30 pm in the small hall. Please could you fill in the slip at the foot of the letter if you would like to attend.

We have had several visits from parents of new children for blue class (Foundation Stage) for September 2010, over concerns about numbers. At the moment we still have a couple of places available. If you have not applied for a place for your child in September my advice would be to do this as a matter of urgency.

Dates for the next fortnight:

Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 pm -	‘Chair & Head Teacher Question & Answer’ session,
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March -	Friend’s cake stall,
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March -	non-uniform day (in exchange for an Easter Bingo prize),
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March -	Easter bingo – details to follow.

With thanks.

Yours sincerely

Catriona Williamson

*PS Please can I remind parents of our older children to return their slips and money for the first aid course as soon as possible – thank you.*

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**MERE SCHOOL**

**Chair and Head Teacher Question & Answer Meeting**

I/we are planning to attend to above session on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.

Name of child ..... Class .....

Signed ..... Date .....