

3rd September 2009

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and we look forward to another action-packed school year. Welcome to Ms Karen Brown, who will be working in silver class, Mrs Emma Miles who will be in Yellow class and Miss Sophie Humphries who will be responsible for gold class. At the end of next week Mrs Sue Leighton will be leaving us in her role as MDSA after many years at our school in a variety of posts. A huge thank you to Sue – I know we are going to miss her. Mrs Claire Harvey will be our new MDSA.

A few reminders for the new term:

- 1 The drop off point operates from 8.50 am. Parents are not allowed to park on the school site when bringing children to school or picking them up. We do encourage parents to walk to school with their children but if this is not possible please consider the local residents when parking. Children arriving at school before 8.50 am need to be supervised by their parents.
- 2 All children who cycle to school must wear a helmet and push their bikes on the school site.
- 3 Dinner money (£1.50/day) for the week is to be paid on a Monday and any orders need to be given to Mrs Rawlings in the office on a Friday for the next week
- 4 Shoes must be worn in school – trainers can be worn only for PE.
- 5 PE kits must be in school EVERY day.
- 6 KS2 children will need to have tracksuits/wet weather kit in school on Fridays for our games afternoon – we do go out in all weathers!
- 7 Any children arriving at school after 9 am must be accompanied to the office so that they can be signed in.
- 8 Every child must have a book bag (please do not provide an alternative back pack).
- 9 The play equipment in our school grounds is for the exclusive use of our children during school time only.

Thank you!

Attached to this letter is a list of dates for this term. I would be grateful if you could keep them in a safe place to refer to them as the term progresses. We have also enclosed a 'Fair Processing Notice' for your information.

Clubs start on Monday 21st September and finish on Thursday 3rd December 2009. We have tried to increase the number of clubs available to our children and we offer a wide range (more than any other school I know!), however, teachers run these clubs voluntarily in their own time and for this I am very grateful. Below is the list of clubs for this term:

MONDAYS - Netball, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 5 and 6,
Chess, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 2 - 6
Recorders, **3.15 – 3.45 pm**, years 2 – 6, beginners only,
KS1 tennis, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 1 & 2,
Science, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 5 & 6,
Food technology, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 3 – 6,
Maths, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 3 & 4,
Street Dance, 3.15 – 4.15 pm, years 4, 5 & 6 – **private club**

TUESDAYS - Art/Pottery, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 2 – 6,
Years 3 & 4 Tennis, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 3 & 4,
Badminton, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 3 – 6,
Sewing, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 3 - 6,
Table tennis, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 3 – 6,

WEDNESDAYS - Years 5 & 6 Tennis, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 5 & 6,

THURSDAYS - Football, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 1 – 6,
Drama, 3.15 – 4 pm, years 1 & 2,
Fun, 3.15 – 4 pm, year 1.

Choir, gardening club and various recorder groups will be running during lunchtimes – there is no need to fill in the form for these groups.

There is a charge of £4.00 for the term for each club and children must be picked up promptly. This goes towards paying for the materials and equipment. Please could you register your child's interest in a club by filling in the slip at the foot of the letter and returning it to school in an envelope (NO MONEY YET!)– please post it in the letter box in the entrance hall (so we can avoid the enormous queues!). Places will then be allocated and a request sent to you for the money if your child has been given a place. The money will need to be returned to school (in the post box) by a specific date (this will be in the second letter). If it is not received by this time a place will be allocated to another child. If you do not receive a request for money please assume that your child has not been allocated a place but they will be put on a waiting list. Priority will be given to children on the waiting lists from last term (please indicate on the form if you would like your child to take up their place at the club they are on the waiting list for). We do expect children to attend the club if they are allocated a place – if the children do not attend regularly another child might have taken their place. Street dance club follows slightly different arrangements and it is a private club run by Mandy, our dance teacher. Please see the letter enclosed with this one.

The Governors have asked me to remind you that they strongly discourage parents from removing their children from school to take a holiday. Should you still decide to take your child on holiday during school time we ask you to complete a holiday form, available from the office. I am only able to authorise up to 10 school days absence in exceptional circumstances. Education Welfare Officers do check the registers regularly and contact parents if their children have a high absence rate. I am unable to authorise any holiday in May due to the testing that goes on in school at this time and holidays at this time for year 2 and year 6 children must be avoided. If your child is absent from school for any other reason (hospital/dental appointment) a letter, e.mail or phone call is fine.

Unfortunately, at the end of last term, we were made aware that some of our parents have been parking in the dentist's car park or on their grounds. When asked to move they became aggressive and abusive. Please do not park, at any time (day and night), on the dentist's property.

Please could all parents of year 3 and 4 children ensure that their permission slips and money are sent to the office asap. Green class will be swimming on Wednesday 9th September.

Mr Clayton is coming to school on Wednesday 16th September to take individual photographs. He will take brothers and sisters together. Should you wish your children to be taken separately please let Mrs Rawlings know. Family photos (with older or younger brothers and sisters) will be taken between 8.30 am and 9.30 am. Please contact Mrs Rawlings to make an appointment. Scanning photographs is illegal and Mr Clayton will take legal action against people who do this or who do not return unwanted photographs to school.

The year 6 children will be bringing their admission forms for Gillingham School home very shortly. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE FORMS ARE FILLED IN QUICKLY AND SENT TO THE RELEVANT PLACES.** If the form is not completed your child may not be allocated a place.

Please can I also remind parents of children who are due to start our school in September 2010 to register with the school as a matter of urgency. We have been oversubscribed for the last few years and the Local authority will only allow us to admit the first 30 children. Thank you.

A little bit of late news is that we raised £210 on Red Nose Day through our nose sales – thank you!

A list of holiday dates for the next academic year is attached also.

We will be running a 'Parenting Course' during this term on a Thursday morning. If you are interested please pop into the office for details.

Dates for the next fortnight:

Tuesday 8th September, 7.30 pm -	Friends Meeting – ALL WELCOME,
Wednesday 9 th September -	swimming starts for green class,
Thursday 10 th September, 9.15 am -	parenting course starts,
Wednesday 16 th September -	school photographs,
Monday 21 st September -	clubs start.

With thanks.

Yours sincerely

Catriona Williamson

PS A copy of the most recent newsletter is on both notice boards – the one near the water fountain and the one in the office. Newsletters come out on Mondays fortnightly.

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CLUBS

I would like to register my child's interest in the following clubs:

Netball

Beginner recorders

KS1 Tennis

Chess

Science

Food Technology

Maths

Years 3 & 4 Tennis

Art/Pottery

Badminton

Sewing

Table Tennis

Years 5 & 6 Tennis

Football

Fun Club

Drama

Choir

(Please register your child's interest)

Name Class

My child has been on the waiting list forclub. I

would/would not like them to be allocated a place.

MERE SCHOOL

Autumn Term 200

Thursday 3 rd September -	school starts NEWSLETTER
Tuesday 8 th September, 7.30 pm -	Friends meeting
Wednesday 9 th September -	swimming starts for green class
Monday 14 th September -	NEWSLETTER
Wednesday 16 th September -	school photographs
Thursday 17 th September -	parenting course starts
Monday 21 st September -	clubs start
Monday 28 th September -	NEWSLETTER
Friday 2 nd October -	Special Person to Lunch Special needs support group meeting
2.30 pm	
Tuesday 6 th October, 7.30 pm -	Friend's meeting
Monday 12 th October -	NEWSLETTER
Monday 19 th October -	music week starts
Thursday 22 nd October, 7 pm -	an evening of musical entertainment (details later)
Friday 23 rd October -	T D day (children do not attend school) half term begins for children
Monday 2 nd November -	T D day (children do not need to attend)
Tuesday 3 rd November -	children return to school NEWSLETTER
7.30 pm -	Friend's meeting
Monday 16 th November -	NEWSLETTER
Wednesday 18 th November, 9.15 am -	open morning
2 pm -	governor and head teacher question time (details later)
3.30 pm	parent interviews
Friday 27 th November -	Christmas Bingo - details later
Monday 30 th November -	NEWSLETTER
Tuesday 1 st December, 9.15 am -	purple class assembly
7.30 pm -	Friend's meeting
Wednesday 2 nd December, 9.15 am -	red class assembly
Thursday 3 rd December, 9.15am -	green class assembly clubs end
Friday 4 th December, 9.15am -	gold class assembly
Monday 7 th December, 9.15 am -	silver class assembly
Tuesday 8 th December, 9.15 am -	yellow class assembly
Wednesday 9 th December -	trip to pantomime
Thursday 10 th December, 9.15 am -	amber class assembly
Friday 11 th December, 9.15 am -	blue class assembly
Monday 14 th December -	NEWSLETTER Christmas Performance (details later)
Tuesday 15 th December, 6 pm	Christmas performance (details later)
Thursday 17 th December -	Christmas lunch (with a difference!)
Friday 18 th December, 9.30 am -	Carol Service break up
Monday 4 th January 2010 -	TD day (children do not need to attend)
Tuesday 5 th January -	children return to school
Tuesday 5 th January -	children return to school