

3rd March, 2009

Book Week

Book Week has got off to a flying start! The children were very excited to come to school yesterday in a variety of colourful and imaginative costumes, representing characters from their favourite books. The Lower School staff stood ceremony on its head and spent the day dressed in a variety of wonderful costumes, representing characters from *The Worst Witch*, *Rainbow Fairies* and *The Three Little Pigs!* Today, author Heather Butler is running a series of enthralling workshops on the themes of aliens (for the Nursery) and dragons; children have been following these up with dragon writing, dragon art, dragon PE, dragon science – and as I write I am enjoying the sounds of dragon songs drifting up from the music room. We hope that these events will enhance the children's creative writing skills and inspire them to read more and develop a love of books.

Many parents sent in donations of money (nearly £200) to buy books – we shall pass this on to the Parents Association – and others sent in books for the library. Thank you – your generosity is much appreciated.

Times Books for Schools

Please see the enclosed letter which gives details of the scheme, which provides a simple way for the school to gain lots of free books. If your colleagues, friends or employees are able to collect tokens for St. Helen's, then so much the better!

Sports News - Cross Country

Twelve children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the District Cross Country Competition yesterday. All ran very well indeed, but special mention must be made of Myles Manning who came 4th and Isabella Sibley who came 5th out of the field of over 150 runners. Both runners have qualified for the Borough Finals next Monday. The boys' team came 2nd (out of 13 teams) to win the silver medal and qualify for the Borough Finals.

Team members were Myles Manning, Jagsukhbir Johal, Aadam Jung, Sachin Marwaha, Joshua Stidder, Thomas McKinlay, Adam Valman, William Shepherd, Isabella Sibley, Donjeta Lumley, Susannah Lee and Ariana Jung. Ms Walker was particularly impressed by the Y4 runners who were competing against children two years older.

Nursery entry 2009

We are currently allocating places for this September's Nursery class. If you have a child born between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006 whom would like to join the class in September, and have not yet registered, please do so straight away!

Adventure Playgrounds at Lower School

Children are not allowed to play on the adventure playgrounds before school starts in the mornings. They may do so in the afternoons, but only if closely supervised by their parents. The school does not take responsibility for the safety of the children once they have been handed over to their parents. We would be grateful if you would leave the playground by 3:30 p.m. so that it is clear for the Funtasia children to play.

Reminder of upcoming events

There are seven class assemblies before the end of term which parents are warmly invited to attend:

- N1 Thursday 5th March at 8:40 a.m. preceded by coffee from 8:15 a.m.
- 5S Friday 6th March at 10:30 a.m.
- 4P Monday 9th March at 10:30 a.m.
- N2 Thursday 12th March 8:40 a.m. preceded by coffee from 8:15 a.m.
- 4H Friday 13th March at 10:30 a.m.
- 3B Friday 20th March at 10:30 a.m.
- 2M Friday 27th March at 10:30 a.m.

In addition to the coffee mornings listed above for the Nursery classes, there are two other opportunities for parents to meet each other and their children's teachers informally over coffee and croissants:

- 3W Friday 13th March 8:15 – 8:40 a.m.
- 5H Friday 20th March 8:15 – 8:40 a.m.

Our charity Bring and Buy sale will take place next Wednesday, 11th March, and donations (toys, cakes, children's books and games etc. in good condition) are needed from Monday. For details, please see last week's newsletter.

This term's Parents' Forum meeting will take place next Wednesday, 11th March. The main topic of discussion will be school policy on sex education, but if you have any other points that you would like raised, please speak or send a note (via the school office if you wish) to your representative. Please note that only school-wide issues are discussed at the Forum – issues involving individual children or classes are usually best dealt with by talking to the form teacher concerned. The form rep's are:

N1	Shubhi Kaura (Abhay) Nawal Kaura	N2	Elaine Lowe (James)
R1	Michele Philipson (Yasmin)	R2	Areena Birdi (Dillon)
1C	Sunita Vaishnav (Kamran)	1H	Anita Raichura (Radhika) Fiona Baldwin (Rex)
2T	Bamidele Odulana (Oyin)	2M	Inthu Velani (Liam) Rajen Shah (Reenal)
3B	Peter Moroz (Anna)	3W	Joyce Otu (Kwaku)
4P	Navila Ruby (Hannah)	4H	Michaela Adams (Chloe)
5H	Ros Wilkinson (Carys) Elizabeth Buckley (Jessica)	5S	Chris Lawrence (Sophie) Birinder Kullar (Avneet)
6B	Nesh Sharma (Simran) James Manning (Myles)	6S	Claire Agius (Michael)

The annual Speech Competition will take place on Thursday 26th March. A letter providing further information is enclosed with this mailing.

Easter Holiday Club

Holiday Club during the Easter break will be on both sites, with exciting activities for both younger and older children. We shall have two or three male university students and a qualified dance teacher helping and, with the Funtasia team, they will provide a range of craft, dramatic, dance, musical and sports activities for the children. More details will be sent out next week!

N.B. Hot Meals and Holiday Club booking sheets are enclosed, and need to be returned by Wednesday 18th March.

Yours faithfully,