

11th May, 2009

Dear Parents,

Choral Speaking Competition

The Choral Speaking Competition on Friday at All Saints' Church was a great success. The Year 4, 5 and 6 classes recited their poems beautifully, and all listeners were impressed by the children's use of expression, actions and unison. 6B, who learned all 171 lines of Tennyson's poem 'The Lady of Shalott', deserve a special mention! Well done to all of the children involved, and special congratulations to the winning class, 6S, who impressed the adjudicator with their rendition of 'London Snow' by Robert Bridges. 6S will now be the proud holders of the new Choral Speaking Cup, generously donated by the Buckley family.

Many thanks to the parents who donated books for the new school library. 52 books were bought and donated on the night, and all now have book plates inserted stating the names of the families which donated them. Thanks also to parents who kindly donated books during our recent book week.

Special thanks to the Parents' Association, who encouraged us to run the event, helped with the planning, and then set up and staffed the book stalls on the night. We are very grateful for your energy and enthusiasm!

District Swimming Gala

At last week's District Schools Swimming Gala our team of Year 5 and 6 pupils performed extremely well, gaining places in six of the eight finals, and coming third overall in the team competition.

In addition we retained the Carol Boyle trophy for best achievement in Year 5 swimming. This award is given to the school which has the highest level of achievement in swimming over the whole of Year 5. This is the eighth year in a row we have won this award and all the children currently in Year 5 contributed to gaining the award.

Sex & Relationships Education Meeting – Year 6 Parents

After half term, we shall be running a short course in sex and relationships education for the children in Year 6. At tonight's meeting (at 7:30 p.m.), Mr. Crehan and Mrs. Gilham will present the course materials and philosophy to you in advance of the course, and

answer any questions which you may have. We shall send notes of the meeting to any parents who are unable to attend.

Staff News

Mrs. Rodgers, who is currently on maternity leave, has decided not to return to work in September so that she can focus on her baby and postgraduate studies. However we are delighted to announce that Mrs. Gilham, who has been covering Mrs. Rodgers' maternity leave, will join us as a permanent member of staff.

Highflyers Tuition

We wrote to you in December about our plans for High Flyers Tuition, which would provide weekend tuition in subjects needed for Grammar and Independent School exams. The classes were intended primarily for children whose schools did not provide the academic training needed for the entrance exams, but might have been of interest to some St. Helen's parents.

Interest in this service has been limited, and bearing in mind the amount of work which would be needed to set it up and run it, we have decided not to go ahead with the classes.

School Photographs – Change of date for Year 2

Year 2 will now have their school photographs taken at Lower School on Tuesday 2nd June, not Wednesday 3rd June as previously published. Miss Walker is arranging a Multiskills Sports activity morning for 3rd June for the whole of Year 2 - further details will be sent to parents about this event shortly.

Forthcoming Events

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| Mon 11 - Fri 15 May | KS2 tests – Year 6 |
| Mon May 11 | 4P class assembly 10:30 a.m. – parents welcome Y6 Parents' meeting - sex & relationships education 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed May 13 | Parents' Evening Years 2-6 7 – 9 p.m. |
| Thu May 14 | 8:15 - 8:40 a.m. coffee for R2 parents followed by class assembly |
| Fri May 15 | 6B & 6S parents' coffee morning 8:15 – 8:40 a.m. |
| Sun 17 - Fri 22 May | Year 6 trip to France |
| Wed May 20 | Reading evening for Nursery parents |
| Thu May 21 | 8:15 - 8:40 a.m. coffee for R1 parents followed by class assembly |
| May 25 - 29 | Half Term |
| Tue Jun 2 | Photographer at L. School – including Y2) individuals & classes |
| Wed Jun 3 | Photographer at U. School) but <u>not</u> sibling groups |
| Fri Jun 5 | 2M parents' coffee morning 8:15 – 8:40 a.m. |

Yours faithfully,

D.A. Crehan

G.R. Crehan