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NEWSLETTER 5 -April 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

The sun is shining and the children have come back to school in a very positive frame of mind so we have had a good start to the term.

You will soon receive the latest extra curricular brochure, a topic web and homework menu from each teacher to help you track what is happening this term. Don't forget that you are always welcome to pop in and have a look at your child's classroom after school if you wish, although an appointment should be made if you also wish to speak to your child's teacher.

Let's start with two causes for celebration!

THEATRE LIGHTS AND SOUND SYSTEM

The PTA has raised enough money to install real spotlights and a super sound system in the hall. This should greatly enhance our Christmas productions in the future. A big THANK YOU for all their hard work.

EASTER HAMPERS

These raised nearly £500 - thank you for your support.

Our latest PTA fund raising target aims to support our themed weeks and to help us install well equipped extra library areas in each classroom. You may also not realise that the cost of all school trips this year has been brought down considerably by PTA sponsorship. The PTA will also be selling swimming hats at a cost of £1.00 each. No child can use our swimming pool without a hat.

LOST PROPERTY

Mr Wyman is very concerned about the amount of lost property we produce every week. He diligently goes through it all and returns all the named items to their owners, but -alas- the vast majority of clothes do not have names in. PLEASE would you help him by naming everything with an indelible pen. In the current financial climate, I am sure that nobody can afford to waste money by replacing school clothes more than necessary.

A MESSAGE FROM MR MOREL ABOUT INTERNET SAFETY

The internet is a resource of almost limitless potential and it is one that we actively encourage the children to use. The use of social networking sites like Facebook and Bebo, Chatrooms, Blogging, Podcasting and File Sharing is astonishing and the age of users is steadily decreasing. Unfortunately, with this increase in use comes the potential for misuse.

In school we teach Internet safety as part of the Curriculum, but as parents and carers you have a far greater influence on the potential safety of your children online. We suggest the following 3 simple considerations as a starting point:

- Have computers with internet access in 'common spaces' in the house and ensure that webcams are pointed towards an area that is frequently passed by
- Check over your child's shoulder once in a while and talk to them about what they are doing and sites/tools that they are using
- Make sure you discuss with your child what they should do if someone that they do not know contacts them online or if they stumble across material that makes them uncomfortable

If you have any queries about internet safety at home, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Morel for advice or visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk to find out more.



Mr Morel will also be holding 2 'Internet safety for parents' sessions either side of half term. They are aimed at educating parents and carers about the kinds of activities that are available to children on the internet and the potential dangers associated with them. The sessions will be held in the Activity Room on Wednesday 29th April and 20th May at 3.30pm, and then repeated after half term on 3rd and 10th June. Each session will last around an hour and will have a basic structure but can be tailored towards the needs of those who attend.

SMOKING IN THE VICINITY OF SCHOOL

A polite reminder that NO smoking is allowed in the vicinity of school - including the field and playground.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Now that the weather is warmer, I would like to remind all children and parents that crop tops, strappy tops and T-shirts with unacceptable slogans may not be worn at school. Please refer to the uniform guidelines if you are in any doubt.

SUNNY PLAYTIMES

During sunny days, please ensure that your child comes to school with a bottle of water and a sun hat to protect them from the heat. I recommend that you send your child with sun cream ready applied or, if children are responsible, with a small tube of sun cream that they can apply themselves.

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

We are having another collection on Thursday May 21st. You can leave bags on Wednesday after school, but not before then, please.

DINNER MONEY

Dinner money for this term is as follows:

£43.70 (21st April to 22nd May)

£66.50 (1st June to 17th July)

£110.20 – Whole term

Please make cheques payable to Cottenham Primary School.

With the current tricky financial climate this seems to be a good time to remind you that your child might be eligible for free school meals. We do not hold these forms at school, but if you wish to enquire about eligibility please ring 0345 045 1361.

Michelle - our wonderful cook - and her team would like to say a big 'Thank you' for your continued support of the school meals service. The single option menu seems to be very popular with both children and parents. We sent you a menu leaflet just before Easter so you can view each day's meal. You can also view all the menus on the CCS website or on the poster at the front of school and in the playground.

DATES FOR THE TERM

Sorry - there are lots of these!

Thursday May 21st - Bags2 school collection

Monday May 4th - May bank holiday

Friday May 8th - PTA Quiz night

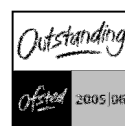
W/.B May 11th - SATS week for all KS2 pupils.

Saturday 16th May - Nearly New sale at school with the Toy Library

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May inclusive - Half Term holiday.

Monday June 1st all week - Year 6 pupils residential visit to Hilltop.

Friday June 12th - class photograph day - please send children in uniform.



W/B June 15th - Science Week

Wednesday June 17th, 6.30 - New Parents Evening.

Friday June 19th - Key Stage 2 Sports morning - 9.30, KS1 Sports afternoon, 1.30.

Monday June 22nd- Parent/Governor open evening - all welcome. More details nearer the time.

Thursday June 25th and Friday June 26th- Year 5 visit to Mepal outdoor centre.

Friday June 26th - Reports out to parents and carers.

Monday June 29th all week - Primary Week. Year 6 at Cottenham Village College.

Wednesday July 1st- class swap afternoon.

Wednesday July 8thpm, PTA Summer Fair

Friday July 10th all day swimming gala

Wednesday July 15th - Year 6 Leavers party - more details nearer the time

Thursday July 16th -DISCO for all the children - more details nearer the time.

Thursday July 16th -2.00pm - Year 6 leavers assembly. Parents/Carers of all Year 6 pupils welcome.

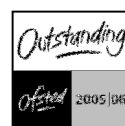
Friday July 17th - End of term. School finishes at 2.00pm

Term dates for next year are attached to the bottom of this letter.

I am looking forward to another happy and successful term.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Wright, Headteacher



TERM DATES 2009 - 2010

Autumn Term 2009

Teacher Training Day 2 September 2009

3 September to 18 December 2009

Teacher Training Day 23rd October

Half Term from 26 October to 30 October 2009

Christmas Holiday: 19 December - 3 January 2010

Spring Term 2010

Teacher Training Day 4 January 2010

5 January to 1 April 2010

Teacher Training Day 12th February

Half Term from 15 February to 19 February 2010

Easter Holiday: 2 April - 18 April 2010

Summer Term 2010

Teacher Training Day 19 April

20th April to 22 July 2010

May Day 3 May

Half Term from 31 May to 4 June 2010

