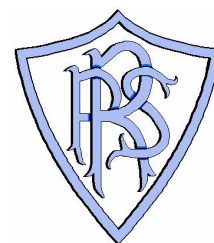


Rayleigh Primary

Parent Newsletter



13th May 2008.

The Silly Season - Discipline in School

I read that the Daily Telegraph reported that pupils cannot be admonished. Strange as the Guidance states teachers have the right to keep misbehaving children in detention after school or on Saturdays without parental permission. We can add to this the power to intervene physically and it seems the Telegraph has misunderstood the guidance. It seems we have reached the summer when newspapers scramble round for a story.

Yes it is the summer season, and after SATs children begin to let off steam. At this period we often find children get into more arguments and fall out of friendships quicker.

Our children act responsibly and I am proud we praise more children than we ever discipline. To ease the excitement on the playground, when the weather is fine we will take children to Spring Gardens. In fact I will try to take the Year 5 & 6 footballers on Wednesday lunchtime whenever possible. We will continue with our approach and with good grace and good children I hope we will not be inviting many children back to school on Saturday! ☺

School Information Technology.

I am delighted to announce the new ICT Suite has been completed. We now have 32 computers for children to use, so even our larger classes have a computer each.

The idea behind our expenditure is to move away from being limited by the number of computers on line. As we find our children are becoming used to making movies, digital stories and podcasts they need a way of sharing this work with the wider community. Now they will no longer need to wait for a computer to become available or find a computer with sufficient storage!

I would like to thank Madeline Balls' father for his work in providing the air conditioning. It is no surprise that during this hot weather the teachers are finding every opportunity to go into the ICT suite to cool down!

Next Steps.

We hope to bring the excitement of sharing work with children round the globe to all our classes. By sharing such learning as simple nursery rhymes our children can gain a real insight into growing up across the globe.

Parent Support.

The school website in the 'Office' page houses those items I collect and post on children's learning and growing up. These research items are either in word or power-point format. I hope they are interesting reading and I will keep doing my best to share the thinking that shapes teaching and learning in our times.

Litter.

I asked parents to provide packed lunch items in a container that can be taken home rather than plastic bags and tin foil. It seems everywhere we look the plague of the plastic bag is raising concerns. I had to tell the children in Key Stage 2 that I could not allow them to continue to bring packed lunches if they continued to throw every wrapper on the floor. I realise this seems draconian but I found the oldest children in the school happily throwing their packed lunch wrappings under the table. Just as I witnessed this, a young boy ran to the bin and emptied his whole packed lunch, cling-film unopened straight into the bin.

A recent survey shows approximately 10% of children coming to school have no breakfast, a large number buy so much tuck they cannot eat it all at playtime and at lunchtime an enormous amount of food is thrown away.

I cannot emphasise enough that parents think carefully about the food they send children to school with. If children are eating large amounts of snack at playtime and then snacking at the end of school, they will not eat a large lunch. So please, support our school, use plastic containers and help us reduce the wastage that attracts vermin.

New Building.

Many of you will have noticed the Planning Permission notice attached to the front of the school. For many, many months the Governing Body has been working behind the scenes to create a new entrance for the school. These plans are coming to fruition and as soon as we have planning consent, we will exhibit the drawings for everyone to see.

New Certificates.

Our Friday Assembly Awards given to those children that have lived up to our expectations are popular with the children. Recently, we added a certificate to take home to show mum and dad. It appears these have gone down well with the children and I hope parents view also them positively.

Dates For Your Diary.

23rd May – Multi-cultural Day

24th May to 1st June. - Half Term

2nd to 4th June. – French Children Visit.

4th June – KS1 Sports Day am

5th June – Art Day

6th June – KS2 Sports Day am

9th June – Junior Music Festival

16th to 20th June – PGL.

1st July – District Sports

8th July – Yr3&4 Swimming Gala pm

9th July – Open Evening

10th July – Yr 5&6 Swimming Gala pm

18th July – Last day for children.

INSET Days for 2008-2009.

1st September 2008

13th and 14th November 2008

20th July 2009

One day to be set in response to the next Government initiative!