



CHECKENDON CE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th December 2009

“Christmas with the Aliens” -

Wednesday, 9th December (2.15pm) and Thursday, 10th December (6.30pm)

Please do come along to the Owl Production of ‘Christmas with the Aliens’. There will be two performances: the first on the afternoon of Wednesday, 9th December, starting at 2.15pm; the second at 6.30pm on Thursday, 10th December. Both performances will be in the school hall. The School Association will be serving refreshments after the Wednesday performance.

Clare Willis and Sue Todd have kindly agreed to run a crèche in the Owlets’ classroom on the Wednesday afternoon. If you have preschool children who are unable to sit quietly throughout the performance we would appreciate it if you would make use of the crèche. The Owl children have been working hard to prepare for their annual performance and it is a shame if they cannot be heard as a result of noise in the audience.

Mrs McEvoy asks that the children be in school by 6.00pm for the Thursday evening performance. There will be no crèche on Thursday evening.

Christmas Service - Wednesday, 16th December, 6.30pm

Our annual Christmas Service will take place in the church on Wednesday, 16th December, at 6.30pm. All children will be taking part. Year 6 will be reading the Christmas story and leading the prayer, Year 5 and Year 3 will each be performing poems and Year 4 will be acting out the Nativity. Owls and Owlets will be joining in the Christmas songs. We do hope that you will be able to join us for this magical service. Year 6 readers and Year 4 actors should be in church by 6.10pm, the other children by 6.20pm.

Christmas Post

Sue Todd has kindly made us a new Christmas Post Box which is now standing in the entrance hall. We hope that the children will use it to post their cards for anyone in school. The post will be delivered in the last week of term. Details of the last collection date will be provided next week.

Mathematics Homework for Panda Class

Next term we will be providing supplementary mathematics homework sheets for children in Pandas whose parents wish them to have them. This homework will be issued on a Monday and collected in on a Friday. The exercises on the sheet will be differentiated and related to work covered during the term. They will not necessarily be related to the mathematics theme of the week. It is useful for Mrs Leadbeater to know which children will be undertaking this additional homework and for this reason we ask parents of children in Pandas to complete that attached sheet indicating whether or not they wish their child to participate.

Celebrations of Success

The school has had an extremely busy autumn during which the new classroom has emerged from the ground. We are pleased that the building of the new classroom is proceeding well and, weather permitting, hope to move in sometime during January. The Governors are planning a ‘Grand Opening’ later next year and will be writing to you separately with more details of their plans.

November was a particularly busy month. We had our annual Health and Safety audit on the 5th, and we were pleased to be judged '**Outstanding**' in this area. Governor David Horton went off to a special reception to collect our certificate, which is now hanging in the entrance hall. The FMSiS (Financial Management Standard in Schools) auditor arrived last week, and once again we were complimented on our achievements, with only a few minor development points to be addressed next term.

The Primary School League Tables have been published. However, if you have looked at them you will notice that Checkendon's results are not listed. This is because we only had 6 children in the 2008/9 Year 6, and schools with 10 or fewer Year 6 pupils are not included in the tables. However, we were pleased with our results, and particularly the progress the individual children made, as each child met or exceeded their target. In a cohort of only 6 children, each child represents 16.6% of the total year group. There was one pupil who did not achieve a Level 4 in writing (and therefore English overall) and two who did not achieve a Level 4 in mathematics. Previous teacher assessments, based on prior learning and individual needs, indicated that neither of these pupils would achieve Level 4. What was important was that they achieved their individual targets set by the school and that the overall progress of the group was good.

In our annual School Effectiveness and Improvement meeting this Wednesday, our school category was judged '**Outstanding**' on the basis of pupils' performance and outcomes at the end of the academic year 2008-2009. Congratulations should go to all involved – children, staff, governors and parents. The result cannot be achieved without the commitment and hard work of all members of the school community.

2008/9 End of Key Stage Performance Data

Key Stage 2	Percentage of pupils gaining Level 4 or above	
	School	National
Reading	100	86
Writing	83.3	67
English	83.3	80
Mathematics	66.7	79
Science	100	88

Key Stage 1	Percentage of pupils gaining Level 2 or above	
	School	National
Reading	91.7	84
Writing	91.7	81
Mathematics	91.7	89
Science	91.7	89

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 9 th December	2.15 pm – KS1 Christmas Play
Thursday 10 th December	6.30 pm – KS1 Christmas Play
Wednesday 16 th December	6.30 pm – Carol Service in Church
Thursday 17 th December	Pendle Productions visiting to perform "A Christmouse Tale" Pantomime to whole school
Friday 18 th December	Last day Term 2 (school day ends at 12 noon)
Tuesday 5 th January	First day Term 3