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Newsletter 3 November 2011

Welcome from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to bring you this newsletter in the new electronic format! If you would also like a hard copy then please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will arrange this for you.

It is hard to believe that it is already over 3 weeks since we returned after half term. I hope that you all managed to have some relaxing family time together over the break. Year 6 have already sat their 11+ examination and I congratulate them on all the hard work they have put into this. We now reach the busy run up to Christmas and the children are excited about the end of term events we have planned and are already busy practising for the carol services. I look forward to seeing you at these.

Best wishes,

Mr. Nick Jones, Headmaster

Updates

Sports/Teams: One of Mr Jones' first intentions when becoming Headmaster at FKS was to build upon the already successful sports department, and Rugby has already been a welcome addition this term. Mr Jones is very keen for all the children to have the opportunity to represent the school in a sports team wherever possible but, as in any school, it is not always easy to achieve this. With our relatively small numbers there are times when a few children may feel left out and we are conscious to make sure this happens as infrequently as possible. We are doing all we can to find fixtures that present an opportunity for every level of ability and over the coming months we anticipate looking to field teams at 'A' and 'B' level, although not necessarily on the same day. Our under 11 teams are usually selected from Year 5 and 6, under 10 teams from Years 4 and 5 and under 9s from Years 3 and 4. Participation in an after-school club does not guarantee that a child will be picked for an 'A' team but obviously does give them a better chance due to greater practice opportunities.

Uniform: Miss Lipman has been working hard to rectify the situation of unavailable uniform with Townrow, our suppliers. We offer our sincere apologies for the inconvenience that some families have been caused due to delays with their orders. We have now been informed that the pinafore dresses and grey skirts should be available from December 2nd and that blouses are now available in most sizes. If any parent does experience any further problems then please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will investigate the matter on your behalf.

After-School Sports Clubs at Edwards House: Due to the failing light, it has been necessary for us to cancel the Hockey Skills club and shorten the Netball clubs for the remainder of the term. We are, however, still able to supervise any children who are unable to be collected until 4.30pm.

Mathletics: This is now up and running and the children are being given their log in details. Please do encourage your child to use this facility at home as well as at school.

Clarion Call – a tool for communication: Unfortunately we have encountered some delays with the set up of this facility although it should be ready to trial before the end of term.

Questionnaire: This should have arrived with this email. We look forward to your responses.

Year 6 Programme: At present, we are busy making changes to the Year 6 ‘Life Skills’ programme, which will gradually filter in during the course of the final two terms of the year. We believe it is an important part of our leavers preparation for the future and are grateful for the input of a group of Year 6 mothers who got together recently to talk over their thoughts with Mr Jones. There are various aspects of the previous programme which will remain and other areas which will be both changed and extended. We are looking to get the children out into the community more and to think about issues which involve others as well as themselves. Further details will be shared once the activities are confirmed. Mr Jones would like to assure parents that, for the majority of the time, Year 6 will continue to follow the school curriculum and our expectations of them will remain high. Some children still have examinations to sit and we want to ensure that every child achieves their full potential by the time they leave FKS. Homework will be set as usual and there is likely to be some more extended work set to widen their knowledge. Mr Jones is more than happy to discuss any of this further with any parents who may wish to see him.

Academic Year Dates 2012/13: Please will be published on our website by the end of next week.

Staffing

Mr Ward: As many of you will be aware, we will be saying farewell to Mr Ward at the end of this term. Mr Ward will be sorely missed at Edwards House, but we all wish him well for his retirement. There will be a collection for a gift for him and any parents who wish to contribute to this should do so via the School Office by Friday, 9th December please.

End of Term Arrangements

A further information letter regarding the end of term events and arrangements will follow.

Andrews House Nativity/Carol Service: Unfortunately we are unable to hold this year’s service in the village church as usual, due to it being closed for refurbishment. This means that we will hold our Nativity in the Memorial Hall and, as a result, we will be more restricted on numbers than usual. We must therefore limit each family to only 2 seats and we apologise for any disappointment this may cause, but please be assured it is for this year only. The service will begin at 2.00pm. After the service the children will return to Andrews House where they can be collected.

Edwards House Carol Service: This year’s service will take place at the Felsted School chapel at 7.00pm and, as usual, the parents of Year 6 children will have reserved seating. The children will need to arrive at 6.30pm but further information on the arrangements will follow nearer to the event.

Spring Term Arrangements

Calendar: It is our intention to now publish the calendar in advance of a new term and we are currently working on the Spring Term calendar. A draft version will be made available on the website before the end of this term. Please note that there may be some alterations or additional dates added after this.

After-School Clubs: The Andrews House After-School Activity Club will recommence on the first day of the Spring Term. The Edwards House Spring Term Club Programme will commence on Thursday, 12th January. We will be issuing a draft programme within the next two weeks and asking you to return your forms with your child’s selection as soon as possible please.

On a final note, we would like to ask if any parents (who are perhaps ex-FKS pupils themselves) are able to assist us in providing an old photograph of life at FKS? We are currently working with a group of representatives in Felsted to create a heritage trail and have been asked to provide a photograph. If you can help, please contact the School Office.