

24th August 2009

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and their families.

Late Newsletter

My apologies for not getting the newsletter out last week, this was due to technical difficulties. We had hoped to rectify this by Wednesday but unfortunately this didn't happen. So this page is really just a 'catch up' and the next full newsletter will be out on Monday 31st August.

We are currently looking at ways to set up a 'website' update notification for you. This would ensure you knew when new information had been added to our website. Information on this will be available soon.

A Fond Farewell

Last Friday we farewelled the lovely Mrs Frances Fraser, our school Executive Officer. Frances has been an invaluable member of staff since February 2002 and will be greatly missed for her amazing organisational and personnel management skills, not to mention for her ability to provide scrumptious meals for the staff on 3 Way Conferences evenings!

Frances has set out for exciting new adventures and challenges and has taken a position with an architectural firm. We wish her much success and happiness in her new position.

Re-structuring Changes To The Front Office

Mrs Michelle Wilson, our wonderful school Secretary will be moving away from the front office this week. Michelle has taken over Frances' role of Executive Officer and is now working in the back office.

When you phone or pop in to Willowbank School, another member of our staff, Mrs Amanda Harris, will greet you. Amanda will be covering the office until we are able to appoint a new School Secretary.

Absences and Lateness.

Please may I ask you to ensure that you ring the school prior to 8.30am and leave a message if your child is going to be absent. We have noted also that there are an increasing number of children who are arriving at school on or after the 8.55am bell. It is important that children arrive at school no later than 8.45am so they are able to prepare for the day and are present when the roll is taken at 8.55am.

Assessments this Week

Our third term assessments start today. All children completed writing assessments today and the Year

4 to 6 children will complete an AsTTle reading assessment on Wednesday.

Friday 28th August is...

Daffodil Day and to celebrate we're having a 'Cosy Cumfy' day. Children and staff will be wearing their most comfortable clothes to school on Friday – this could be their favourite track pants, Pyjamas or jeans. Maybe a pirate suit or even a Batman outfit – its what ever makes them feel relaxed!

Daffodil Day Cosy Cumfy Day is a fund-raiser for the Cancer Society and children are encouraged to make a gold coin donation for wearing their favourite comfy cosy clothes to school.

Friday Farewell

We also farewell Ms Amanda Isgrove this Friday as she is off on her great OE to England to teach for a year. We know Amanda will have an absolutely brilliant time and we look forward to regular updates on her adventures.

Mrs Sarah Nancolas (nee O'Brien) returns to our teaching team to replace Amanda. Welcome back Sarah.

Mathathon

A reminder that all sponsorship money collected for the Mathathon is to be at school by **Friday 28 August** please.

Please place all money along with the sponsorship form into an envelope for your child to give to their class teacher. **All** children must return a sponsor form, with or without monies raised.

Many of our teachers have commented on the increase of basic facts knowledge which is helping children with their maths and numeracy learning so many thanks for helping your child(ren) learn their facts!

Many thanks for your support as we raise money for our ICT equipment.

I would like to thank our anonymous sponsor for donating our fantastic Mathathon prizes for the three highest fund-raisers (most money collected).

First prize: **PSP**

Second prize: **Remote controlled Monster Truck**

Third prize: **Numberworks voucher**

There is also a prize draw for the children who scored the highest results.

Thank you for supporting Willowbank School.