

Watlington Community Primary School

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Our ref JR/HMH

27 May 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

Half term already and at last some lovely summer weather for us all to enjoy over the break.

Major new building project

This summer we will be undertaking a major project to dramatically improve our facilities. The central courtyard area and surrounding corridors will be demolished and a new room built at the heart of our school. The new space will be a library, ICT suite and open classroom. Building work will start just before the summer holiday and we aim to complete the bulk of the work before the children return in September. The school will remain fully open as usual.

We are very excited about this project, which will be a huge benefit to the children as well as making the school more fuel efficient (if you've walked through that corridor you will know how cold it is in the winter and how hot in the summer). We would like to share these plans with you; details of when and where are outlined below.

Parent Forums

The redevelopment of the courtyard will be the subject of an exhibition at the first of our parent forums on Wednesday 9 June 2010. We will also be sharing with you plans to develop the school's outdoor facilities as part of our Eco-schools project. However the main focus of the forums will be to discuss our Home/School Agreement which we ask each family to sign as their child enters the school. We think it is ready for an overhaul and we would like to hear your views on what the new agreement should look like. We will, of course, also be pleased to discuss anything which you would like to talk about regarding the school.

There are two forums on this day; one between 2-3pm and a second between 5.30-6.30pm. There will be two further forums, at the same times, on Wednesday 7 July 2010.

QCA/SAT Tests

The children have worked incredibly hard last week and the week before completing their Sats and QCA tests. We are now busy marking the tests taken by years 3, 4 and 5 and we will ensure their results are reported to you in their end of year reports, including what progress has been made during the year. For year 6, whose tests are marked independently, the results are due back in school by 6 July 2010.

Year 2 completed their tests during this half term; their results will also be included in the end of year reports.

Ear rings and hairstyles

After much consideration we have decided to relax our rules on ear rings. From now on it will be acceptable for children to wear **one pair of small studs only**. Children must still remove them for PE; we cannot do this for them, so please ensure your child can remove their ear rings themselves before allowing them to wear them for school.

On a slightly separate issue, please be reminded that we do not condone children having designs shaved into their hairstyles. This is in line with the policy which is enforced at Downham Market High School.

Headteacher: Jenny Dowden



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Snacks

Money for snacks for the next half term is due on Monday 7 June 2010. Prices are;

Orange Juice and Biscuit:	£12.25
Orange Juice:	£ 7.00
Biscuit:	£ 5.25

Eco schools

Our project to become a more sustainable school continues apace with the children this week planting our first vegetables in raised beds. There are many more exciting development planned for the future; we will be sharing these with you at the parent forums next month.

A big thank you is due to Dyane Cakebread and Maria Vanpelt for organising the planting, to Matt Collins for making the KS2 beds and to all the parents who have donated seeds and plants.

Downham Market Sure Start Children's Centre

Sure Start Children's Centre services are just beginning in the Downham Market area for families with children aged 0-5. If you would like to find out more please contact Sue McNeilly on 01366 387403 or 07826954347.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Dowden
Headteacher

Mr J Rice
Deputy Headteacher

Diary Dates

7 June 2010	Children back to school
9 June 2010	Parent Forums 2 – 3 pm & 5.30 – 6.30 pm
10 June 2010	New Intake Parents Evening @ 6.30 pm
11 June 2010	Year 6 Stockmarket Day
15 June 2010	Acorn Class visit to Butterfly Park @ Long Sutton
17 June 2010	Year 2 attending the Infant Music Festival
30 June 2010	Sports Day - Key Stage 1 @ 9 am, Key Stage 2 @ 1 pm
2 July 2010	Year 6 Induction day at Downham Market High School
2 July 2010	New Intake in School
2 July 2010	Summer Fair 6 - 8 pm
7 July 2010	Parent Forums 2 – 3 pm & 5.30 – 6.30 pm
8 July 2010	Year 5 & 6 Orienteering @ Sandringham
9 July 2010	Year 6 Technology day at Downham Market High School
9 July 2010	Open Afternoon at 1.30 pm
12-16 July 2010	International Week
16 July 2010	Leavers Disco Years 2-5 6 = 8 pm, Year 6 = 9 pm
19 July 2010	Talent Show
21 July 2010	Leavers Assembly @ 1.30 pm
23 July 2010	End of Term

Suggestion box

We are most grateful to those of you who have completed the suggestion boxes on previous newsletters. Your contributions are of great value to us and we are looking at ways of implementing them where possible. If you have any thoughts on school improvement, please fill in the box below and return the slip to school via the lunch post box. Thank you.