

Middleton Newsletter 6

Middleton Primary and Nursery School

Harrow Road, Wollaton Park
Nottingham, NG8 1FG



Head Teacher Miss R Plaskitt

Tel: 0115 9153261

Fax: 0115 9153262

Email – admin@middleton.nottingham.sch.uk

Thursday 10 February 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

This term has got off to such a positive and exciting start and much of this has been because of the wonderful support we have had from parents. I would like to thank everyone who kindly supported our Career Days, these were really enjoyed by the children and they learnt so much! Who knows to what extent this may influence their future ideas and career choices? We also had a wonderful response to our Annual Charity Week; raising a staggering £969.83. We hope a little more may still come in during this week to enable us to hit £1000! This event is also one which the children gain a great deal from. Not only are they learning about global and environmental issues and how to help others less fortunate than themselves but their original and innovative ideas for fundraising adds much to their own economic wellbeing and understanding.

2011 Year of Reading

Nottingham City have announced that 2011 will be a focused 'Year of Reading'. Aimed at encouraging children to love and enjoy books, the Year of Reading will encourage high-profile events in the city centre and local communities over the next 12 months and will highlight the pleasure and benefits reading brings. As part of this we will endeavour to offer additional opportunities to support reading events and continue to encourage our children to read regularly for pleasure using a range of reading materials.



Nottingham Year of Reading 2011



World Book Day - date change

As many of you already know, every year we celebrate World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters. This year we have decided to have a full week of Literacy/Reading activities and we will end the week by dressing up on **Friday 4 March**. Tuesday 1 March will see each class focus on speaking and listening activities, the school Book Fair will be held on Wednesday and Thursday after school and children will be able to use their £1 book tokens towards the purchase of a book. On Friday we will all dress up and we will hold a 'Book Swap' so that children can bring a book they have already read into school and swap it with one which someone else in their year group has brought in. This will enable everyone to take home a new book to read without any cost!

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Royal Wedding Bank Holiday

It has been announced that the Department for Education has granted an extra day as a public holiday for schools to mark the Royal Wedding. The wedding takes place during the existing school Easter holiday, on April 29. Nottingham City have considered when would be the best time to take this additional day to avoid disruption to the school year, SATs preparation and Secondary School examinations. It has been decided that in light of these considerations the best time would be at the beginning of the summer holidays, therefore schools will break up on Thursday 21 July 2011.



Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "Our children's education is vital. By taking the extra day granted by the Department for Education at the start of the school summer holidays, we are minimising the disruption to children's education. We hope that teachers and school children will enjoy the Royal Wedding as well as the early start to their summer holidays. Ultimately teachers and pupils will not feel left out of the Royal occasion."

School Improvement Work 2010/2011

We are constantly striving to improve communication and information between school and home. Our aim is to keep you informed about the work of the school, events which take place and how well we are doing. Our regular newsletters and our website hopefully do a good job in terms of this. We always have a display in school which shows our current areas for improvement and development, it is located in the corridor outside my office. However, I thought it might be useful to outline some of the key areas we are trying to improve this year within this newsletter.

Key Priorities 2010/2011

- *Improving levels of differentiation and provision for all learners*
- *Improving attainment in reading and writing throughout Key Stage 1*
- *Continuing to develop assessment procedures for all learners*

Background Priorities

- *Focus on speaking and listening activities to support children whose home language is not English*
- *To develop greater parent engagement, particularly with fathers and to attempt to break down cultural divisions within the community*
- *To further develop our creative curriculum to meet the needs of our children*
- *To continue to develop our expertise in information and communication technology*

I hope you find this information useful and I would welcome any feedback you might like to offer.

Middleton Community Room

We are very proud to announce that our new community room is now complete and ready to use. We are very pleased with the finished building and we are planning an official opening ceremony later in the term. **We are really keen to hear any ideas you may have** about how this room could be used/timetabled to meet the needs of parents and the community. A suggestion box is located in the Nursery and another at the school office for this purpose. Our aim is to offer adult classes, advice sessions and hopefully, parent and toddler sessions.



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ESOL sessions (English classes for speakers of other languages) are currently running on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-2pm in the Community Room. Please contact the school office if you would like to attend.

One World Meeting - date change

Please be aware that we have changed the date of our next meeting to **Thursday 10 March at 8.45am**. This meeting will take place in our new Community Room - everyone welcome!

F2 Parent Meeting

Next Wednesday at 3.30pm we are holding a short meeting for parents of children in our Foundation 1 and 2 classes. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the Early Years Foundation Stage Profiles which track the early progression of children before they reach our National Curriculum levels.

Health and Safety Reminder

Please remember that dogs of any size or description, other than Guide Dogs, are not allowed on our school site. Thank you.



Inset Day Reminder

Please be aware our next Inset day is **Monday 28 February**. Children will return to school after the half term break on Tuesday 1 March.

Spring Term Diary (* Please note some dates have changed since previous newsletter)

February 2011

Tues 15/Wed 16 Maths Activity Sessions with Parents (am)
Wed 16 F2 Parent Meeting - EYFS Profiles
21-25 Half Term - school closed
Mon 28 Inset Day - school closed for children

March 2011

Tues 1 Children return to school
Wed 2 School Book Fair in the Hall at 3.30pm
Thurs 3 School Book Fair in the Hall at 3.30pm
* Fri 4 World Book Day - children and staff dress as book characters
Tues 8 Parent Evening - late (appointments between 3.30-6.30pm)
* Thurs 10 Middleton One World Meeting 8.45am
Thurs 10 Parent Evening - early (appointments between 3.00-5.30pm)
Wed 9 School Science Week begins
Fri 18 Red Nose Day - Non-Uniform
Fri 25 Individual School Photographs

April 2011

Fri 15 School closes for Easter Break - 2 weeks

May 2011

Mon 2 May Bank Holiday
Tues 3 May Summer Term begins

Yours sincerely

R Plaskitt
Head Teacher