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9th January, 2009

Newsletter Number 24

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to all staff, parents and children. I hope you all had an excellent Christmas holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy new year.

I am delighted to have started work at Sawtry Junior School and feel very excited to be here working with you all. I am looking forward to all the challenges that lie ahead in my first headship and feel it is a real privilege to be here. Already I can tell that Sawtry Junior School is a very good school. I am trying to get to know all 266 of the children's names, but please bear with me if I get a name wrong!

In order to get to know you all a bit better, I would like to invite all parents/carers to 'Coffee and Cakes' with Mr West on Friday 23rd January at 2.15 – 3.10 p.m. in the staff room. This will be an informal chance to find out a little bit more about me. Please complete and return the slip at the end of this letter if you are able to come. I will also endeavour to be around the front of the school at the beginning and end of the school day if you feel the need to have a quick word with me. May I remind you though that any specific concerns you may have about your child are best discussed with your child's class teacher in the first instance. You may make an appointment directly with your child's teacher or through the school office. Please also contact the school office if you would like an appointment with me.

I would also like to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me and particularly to thank Miss Bennett for the time she has spent giving me her wealth of knowledge of the workings of Sawtry Junior School.

Cold weather arrangements

At present the weather is fit for the season and is very cold. Mr Mason has done a fine job to salt the pathways but please encourage your child/ren to take extra care when walking. I am sure you will agree that the ice has been treacherous and we don't want any accidents to happen! In addition, the staff have noticed that several children have not been wearing coats to school. It is vital that a warm coat is worn to school throughout these wintry months.

Can I also make you aware that if there is a heavy snowfall overnight and school needs to be closed, we will inform BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, Heart Radio (formerly Hereward) and Lite FM Radio. In the unlikely event of closure during the school day, we will contact the above radio stations and a network of parents with our arrangements for closure.

Healthy snacks

I am pleased to have joined a nationally recognised 'Healthy School'. At breaktimes I have noticed that many children are eating healthy snacks, however, some are choosing chocolate and crisps. As a 'Healthy School' we encourage you to provide a snack of fruit/raisins or vegetables, such as carrots. At the start of a New Year, I think it would be a really good moment for all the children to make the resolution to try a healthy snack.

After school and lunchtime clubs

If your child has brought home a permission form for a club they have signed up for, please complete and return it as soon as possible to guarantee their place.

Contact details

Please notify the school office in writing (or by e-mail) if any of your contact telephone numbers have recently changed, i.e. change of work or childminder etc., so that we have the correct information should we need to contact you urgently. **Please note that we are not able to telephone anyone who is not on your child's contact list.**

Diary dates and events

A list of events that have been arranged so far are listed on the following page.

Yours sincerely,

Steve West

DIARY DATES SPRING TERM 2009

The events that have been arranged for this term include:

JANUARY	Friday	9th.	9 a.m. Assembly	
	Friday	16th.	9 a.m. Mrs Williamson/Ms Canning's class assembly	
	Monday	19th.	Clubs begin 6.30 p.m. JSA committee meeting	
	Friday	23rd.	9 a.m. Mrs Lusted's class assembly	
	Friday	30th.	9 a.m. Assembly	
FEBRUARY	Monday	2nd.	p.m. Theatre group – Sleeping Beauty	
	Friday	6th.	9 a.m. Miss Pomfret's class assembly	
	Tuesday	10th.	4 - 7 p.m. Parents' Consultation meetings	
	Thursday	12th.	4 - 7 p.m. Parents' Consultation meetings	
	Friday	13th.	9 a.m. Mrs Ellis' class assembly	
				Monday 16th. - Friday 20th. HALF TERM
	Friday	27th.	9 a.m. Miss Bennett's class assembly	
MARCH	Friday	6th.	9 a.m. Miss Baird's class assembly	
	Friday	13th.	9 a.m. Mrs Duncan's class assembly	
	Saturday	14th.	JSA Auction of Promises	
	Tuesday	17th.	2 – 4 p.m. Book Fair in hall until Monday 23rd March	
	Thursday	19th.	A1 Music Festival @ Cressett, Peterborough	
	Friday	20th.	9 a.m. Miss Sargeant's class assembly	
	Thursday	26th	6 – 9 p.m. JSA children's discos	
Friday	27th.	9 a.m. Mr Mallott's class assembly		
APRIL	Wednesday	1st.	9 a.m. Year 4 visit to Burwell	
	Friday	3rd.	Year 4 visit return from Burwell Last day of term	
	Monday	20th.	Professional Day 4	
	Tuesday	21st.	Summer term begins	
MAY	Monday	4th	May day	
	Half-term – Monday 25th – Friday 29th May			

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'Coffee and Cakes' with Mr West

I would like to attend 'Coffee and Cakes' with Mr West on Friday 23rd January from 2 – 3.10 p.m.

Name of child: Class:

Signed:

number attending