

Work hard. Aim high. Have fun.



## **FOLLY HILL INFANT SCHOOL**

Autumn Term 2009  
October Newsletter

Dear Everyone,

We hope you have all enjoyed September at Folly Hill School. Thank you so much for your support so far. The Friends AGM was most enjoyable with a chance to talk to parents and have some refreshments.

Rainbow parents attended a reading workshop. Unfortunately Ingrid was unable to be at the meeting but I hope to run a workshop for ALL parents/carers later in the year.

Gardening Saturday was very productive and we found parts of the pond path we didn't even know existed. The children enjoyed harvesting grain and sunflower seeds.

Our Arts Mark paperwork has now been completed. This has been a year-long project for Mrs Norbury - she has worked wonders transforming our Arts curriculum. It is now vibrant with opportunities to use the arts, see the arts and enjoy the arts. Thank you so much Mrs Norbury.

The clubs have now all started for the autumn term. The children are loving the free lunchtime football and hockey clubs. All children are given the opportunity to join in but they do not have to.

Mr Hancock has been working to transform the Friendship area into a Friendship Castle. When it is complete he will work on a risk assessment for its safe use.

Mr Hancock and Mr Ely have been working with the children to plant our winter and spring vegetables.

All the children now seem to have settled into the school routine and we look forward to some happy months ahead!

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### School Council

The governors and staff have been reviewing the home/school agreement. All pupils and parents signed this agreement before they started school.

School council reviewed the agreement with me last week. They decided that there needed to be a few changes to the pupil agreement. The list below is the agreed document with pupil changes in red. I hope you agree with their decisions.

I will:

- Listen carefully when I need to and join in at speaking times
- Enjoy my learning - **staff will help me do this**
- Care for other people and the things around me
- Walk inside school and use an indoor voice - **unless it is important not to**
- Help to keep the school tidy
- Learn to be a member of an eco school
- Use the trim trail safely when it is my turn

- Not wear jewellery **to school unless it is a stud earring, watch or medic alert bracelet**
- Look after my clothes and belongings - **my name should be on all my things in clear writing**
- Take care of school property at home and in school
- Only leave the school grounds with my teacher, parent or carer
- Eat a healthy lunch and playtime snack and drink plenty of water **especially if it is hot**
- Join in with exercise times
- **Care about myself and be safe on the playground and in school**

### **Rainbow Parents to Lunch**

Make sure you have booked in for lunch. The date is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November and we start lunch at 12 noon.

### **The Big Draw Doodle**

You are all invited to doodle with us on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 3.00 - 4.30pm. The Friends of Folly Hill have kindly sponsored this event.

We do need some rolls of wallpaper for doodling - please hand to Mrs Norbury or the school office.

It really is great fun - release your inner artist!

### **Meet the Parents**

**Wednesday 21st October 3.15-6.00pm and Thursday 22nd October 5.30-8.15pm**

Please make sure you sign the appointments sheet to speak to your child's teacher. The lists will be outside the school office from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The focus of this occasion is to discuss how your child has settled in school/class. Staff will be based in the hall and you will be called for your appointment from your child's classroom where you can have a look at the things they have been doing.

The children will be having their own interviews with the teachers before this evening to discuss their own personal learning targets. SO please, this is an occasion for parents and staff, - could I ask you to provide for children to be looked after elsewhere? Many thanks.

## **School Photographs**

The school photographer will be here on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October to take individual photos. If you would like to have photos of family groups/younger siblings, please sign the list in the school office - you will need to be here from 8.30am.

## **CURRICULUM**

### **Assessing Pupil Progress**

APP is one of the top issues on the education agenda at this time and it is the number one priority for Folly Hill this year.

APP is a process by which pupil progress is tracked - initially in reading, writing and maths. The child's learning need is identified along with the curriculum objectives they should be learning. Children can then be very specifically taught according to need in flexible groups. This means that they do not permanently stay in the same learning group - the groups change according to need. Staff help children to learn through a variety of strategies. Pupils' learning is then reassessed and next steps identified.

### **Inset Day**

A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for staff training on Assessing Pupil Progress.

### **Internet Café**

Our first Internet Café of the year will be held as part of the Friends Bonfire cake sale on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 2.00 - 4.30pm. Come and work with your child and see the things they have been learning.

### **Every Child Matters Coffee Morning**

The five strands of the Every Child Matters agenda are:

Be happy. Stay safe. Enjoy and achieve. Make a positive contribution.  
Achieve economic well-being.

This is every child's right. At Folly Hill School, we aim to put the agenda into practice wherever and whenever we can. Look out for future events.

At our last coffee morning we discussed safety issues around checking the adults who come into the school. The parents and Mrs Green had a very helpful discussion. Parents agreed with staff that a family celebration in spring would be more fitting than our current Mother's Day assembly bearing in mind the variety of family circumstances.

We also talked about how we could make Grandparents' Day work in light of Child Protection limitations. The staff discussed the options put forward by the parents and felt that a grandparents' day for pupils in Sunshine Class would probably work the best, then all pupils will have a grandparents' day whilst they are at Folly Hill. This could still include an entertainment, chance to see the grounds and children's learning as well as a drink in our popular café. A team of suitably registered volunteers would be on hand to take part in the day with children who do not have a grandparent present.

Any comments? Please put them in our suggestion box in the office window.

### **Number Bags**

Thank you so much to the parents/carers who came to the number bag talk. If you have any problems with your bag or want to discuss activities you can try please see Mrs Green.

### **Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers**

We collected an incredible number of vouchers this year and have been able to exchange them for some fantastic equipment as well as a morning of salsa and ballroom dancing for the children. Look at the school notice board for a detailed list of the items we now have and THANK YOU!

### **Home/School Link Worker**

Sue Harfield's next drop in session will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Please call in and see her if you would like to discuss a home/school issue. She will be in the admin office between 9.00 and 10.00am. If you would like to ring her, you can call her on 07806757587.

## **Music Training**

The staff have been involved in two workshops run by music consultant Alita Mills. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to use a range of instruments and our voices. Hopefully this will give some of us more confidence in working with children on being creative with music.

## **Admissions 2010-11**

Please make sure you have made your applications for entry to Reception and transfer to Year 3 by midday on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009.

<b>FRIENDS</b>
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## **Elections**

It was good to see so many of you at our recent Friends' cheese and wine evening. We held our annual elections at this meeting and your new representatives are:

Chair	Jules McColl (Ruari in Moonbeam, Isla in Rainbow)
Vice chair	Vicky Ponsonby (Abigail in Rainbow)
Secretary	Jacqui Holroyd and Fiona Taylor (Oliver and Caitlin in Sunshine, Isabelle in Rainbow)
Treasurer	Debbie Bedbrook (Thomas in Sunshine)
Rainbow reps	Tasha Thompson (Louie) and Kerry Howard (Roman)
Sunshine reps	Rachel Holmes (Anwen) and Susan McKenzie (Ben)
Moonbeam reps	Shona Allan (Grace and Rosie in Rainbow) and Neal Appleton (Holly and Freya in Sunshine)

Thanks to all who came and offered help in various forms.

## **Events**

Please remember to get your team together for the Friends' Quiz night on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Our next Friends' meeting is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm in the school hall. We will be planning future events with a particular focus on the Christmas Fair. Please come and share your ideas or offer to make a gift, donate a prize or run a stall. We need as much help as possible! Thank you.

The Friends are also running a cake sale on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November - this will have a bonfire theme. We will be asking for donations of cakes and inviting you for tea and cake at that event.

## HEALTH and SAFETY

### **School Milk**

Our school milk is organised by an outside provider, - if you would like further details, please ask at the school office.

### **Tissues**

Thank you so much to all families who have sent in tissues, they will be very useful in the next couple of months.

### **Birthdays**

Birthdays are very special. During the week of your child's birthday, they will blow out the candles in assembly and receive an age sticker. During their birthday month they will sit at the birthday table at lunch time and receive a little gift from Mrs Baldwin.

As we are a Healthy School we do not allow children to bring sweets or cakes to share with other children. Thank you for supporting us with this.

### **Code of Conduct**

The staff and governors have now agreed a Code of Conduct - all adults in our school should follow our code when working with pupils in the school and on school outings. If you are a regular helper please could you leave a request at the office to receive a copy through e mail? Thank you for your support.

## **Riverford Organics**

The media argument as to whether organic vegetables and fruit are better for you continues!

Annie from Riverford Organics will be with us on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2.30pm. She will be doing a brief presentation in the school hall about Riverford and their products.

Come along and find out about Riverford. If enough people are interested we could arrange a delivery at school and a percentage of the profits would go to school funds.

## **GOVERNORS**

### **New Governors**

I hope you will join me in saying a huge welcome to our new parent governors, David Holroyd (Oliver in Sunshine) and Neil Taylor (Caitlin in Sunshine and Isabelle in Rainbow). They have already attended at least one meeting and are starting their induction process. We look forward to working with them over at least the next four years.

### **Newsletter**

Jeanette Griffiths, one of our local authority governors, has been working hard to produce the latest copy of governor news. It is attached to this newsletter. Thank you Jeanette and happy reading.

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Parking**

We have had a complaint from a member of the public about cars being double parked at lunchtime pick-up. He could not get his car down Coniston Drive. We have also had a complaint from a neighbour because someone had blocked his exit from his drive. Please park with consideration for other road users and our neighbours - thank you.

## **Harvest Collection**

The monies from our Harvest collection will be going towards supporting the Farnham Assemblies School Team and Angus Cleaver's Romanian Trust.

Money from Christmas collections will go to Friends of Snehalya Orphanage in India. Mrs Ely (grandmother of William Fraser in Sunshine) works as a volunteer there. Mrs Ely ran an assembly on Tuesday with their children and received a cheque for £40 which was raised by Mr Ely's gardening club.

## **Students**

We are very lucky at Folly Hill School to have the support of many local colleges. They send students to us on a regular basis and they are a great support to our staff and pupils. This term Sian Slade will be working in Rainbow Class. Sian is taking her Health, Care and Early Years qualification and is learning at Basingstoke College of Technology.

## **Great Britons**

As part of our work on community cohesion we will be working with the children to learn about the lives of Great Britons. So far I have talked to the children about Roald Dahl and Mrs Norbury has told the children about the lives of Grace Darling and Baden Powell.

Surrey Commercial Services, who prepare our school meals, are sponsoring the young diver Tom Daley and are working with him to encourage children to eat healthily and exercise. You can find out more about Tom on [www.myschoollunch.co.uk/surrey/tomdaley](http://www.myschoollunch.co.uk/surrey/tomdaley).

## **Brixton**

Last year you very generously made a collection of second hand story books which were in good condition and we sent these to a school in Brixton which is very under resourced. The children loved the books and the teacher used them as a special treat for children who had worked hard.

Do you have any science books that your child does not use - plants, animals, light and dark etc? I am making a collection in the box in the school foyer. Please help.

## GLOBAL

### Romania

Thank you so much for all the cuddly toys you brought to school for the Roma children in Brasov and for Brasov children's hospital. Angus talked to the children about Zaccheus and how he kindly gave away some of his belongings to help others. Angus will ensure that your gifts arrive with the children for Christmas.

### Comenius

I have now completed my Comenius workshop and funding has been received to begin our European project. The Comenius project is funded by the British Council and encourages schools from across Europe to apply for funding to work on joint projects in order to enrich the learning of the children in their schools.

We are working with Slagstaskolan in Sweden, Hale School in Farnham and Volksschule Absdorf and Volksschule Stainach in Austria on developing reading skills - both through sharing books, assessment opportunities and communication through IT.

Our first meeting is here in Farnham on the 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> November. I hope you will take the opportunity to welcome our visitors.

### Diary Dates - Looking Ahead

October 20 <sup>th</sup>	School Photographer
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Diwali Assembly
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Salsa Workshop for all pupils
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Talk by Riverford Organics
October 21 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Meet the Parents
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Big Doodle Draw We break up for half term on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October at 3.00pm. Parents may join children at 3.00pm for the Doodle Draw.
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SCHOOL CLOSED for staff training on APP
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Recycling assembly with Waverley Council

November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Moonbeam visit to Wisley
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Friends meeting in hall
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Rainbow parents to lunch
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Green Council - if you care about eco matters, join us in the staffroom at 9.00am to discuss the school's approach.
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Friends' Bonfire Cake Sale and Internet Café 2.00pm
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Saturday with bonfire
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Farnham Firework Fiesta - tickets will be available from the school office. We have one offer to be a fire marshal - could I have another volunteer please? It means extra money for the school - 50% of ticket sales.
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Reverend John - Remembrance Assembly
November 11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Comenius project starts
November 16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Anti- bullying Week
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rainbow Christmas performance 2.00pm - Siblings may attend
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rainbow Christmas performance 9.30am - adults only please
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fair - NO FOOTBALL CLUB
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bags 2 School collected
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pied Piper Theatre Company - The Enormous Present
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sunshine/Moonbeam Christmas performance 9.30am
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Every Child Matters tea afternoon 2.00pm - Community Cohesion
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunshine/Moonbeam Christmas performance 1.30pm
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Number Bags in please
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Carols around the tree - pupils only
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas lunch
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas party
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term - Break up at 2.15pm

Yours sincerely

C S Green

# **OFFICIAL TERM DATES**

## **ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010**

Autumn Term 2009 Half Term	2 September to 18 December 2009 26 - 30 October 2009
Spring Term 2010 Half Term	4 January to 31 March 2010 15 - 19 February 2010
Summer Term 2010 May Day Half Term	19 April to 23 July 2010 3 May 2010 31 May - 4 June 2010

## **ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011**

Autumn Term 2010 Half Term	2 September to 21 December 2010 25 - 29 October 2010
Spring Term 2011 Half Term	5 January to 8 April 2011 21 - 25 February 2011
Summer Term 2011 May Day Half Term	26 April to 22 July 2011 2 May 2011 30 May - 3 June 2011