

Welcome back after the half-term vacation – we hope that everyone had a restful week. This is going to prove to be a very busy half-term in the lead up to Easter.

### **Inclement Weather**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents/carers who collected their children on that very snowy Friday afternoon in February. It may have seemed like organised chaos, but the collection of children would not have been so easy to do without the patience of parents and the sterling efforts made by staff in difficult circumstances.

### **Children's Books for Sierra Leone**

Many thanks to everyone who donated children's reading books for Sierra Leone. An amazing 1080 books were donated and have now been collected by the Dorset Library Service to send to Africa.

### **Banana Breaktime!**

We are all looking forward to joining in the Fair Trade banana breaktime on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.



As usual, the school will be joining in the fun of Red nose Day on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**. We hope that staff and children will come to school dressed in anything unusual – fancy dress or just something odd are welcome. Hair can be coloured for the day. A donation of 50p will be requested from children not wearing school uniform on the day.

Red noses will be on sale at the school office from tomorrow (Tuesday) price £1. To ensure a fair distribution, we are limiting purchases to two noses per person.

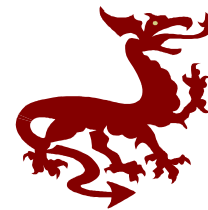
### **Red Nose Coffee Morning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Year 6 children have been set a challenge to design and make Red Nose cakes to sell so that you can be sure of a real treat! Everyone (younger children included) are warmly invited to come to the school library to relax amongst friends and enjoy a refreshing cup of tea or coffee or a fruit juice with a mouth-watering cake.

Please make a date in your diary for a 9.00am start on Monday and help us raise funds for Comic Relief.

### **World Book Day**

You may be aware that this Thursday is World Book Day. We hope that you will encourage your child to bring their favourite book to school and talk to them about your favourite book.



### **Congratulations to Dragon House**

After many exciting and close-run matches, Dragon House has succeeded in winning the inter-house football cup. Congratulations to them and well done to everyone taking part for playing in such a sporting manner. The inter-house netball tournament is also reaching an exciting climax with the final matches being played over the next two weeks.



### **Congratulations to Phoenix House**

Congratulations to Phoenix House for winning the house point cup for February.

## Netball Success

Our school netball team have won the South & West Dorset Netball League. Congratulations to the team members and thanks to Mrs Garland and Mrs Mitchell for their outstanding coaching.

We wish the team good luck in the Weymouth, Portland & Dorchester schools netball tournament being held at Budmouth Technology College on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## Year 6 Maths 'Booster' Classes

Year 6 teachers are going to run maths 'booster' classes for any pupil in Year 6 who feels they need extra help to prepare for the SAT's in May. These are optional classes and will take place on Mondays (3.30-4.00). There will be further information about the classes provided in the near future.



## Cycling to School

Following the School Council investigation into the desire to ride a cycle to school, 20 cycle stands have been purchased. We will be writing to parents/carers in the near future to explain how the system to allow children to ride will operate.

## Photographer

The school's photographer will be visiting the school tomorrow afternoon to take photographs of classes and teams.

## School Gardening

You may have noticed that Mr Hayne, our school caretaker, has built a number of frames for raised flower/vegetable beds behind the low walls on the main playground. We are hoping to fill these with soil in the next few days. The intention is for every class to grow plants in their own beds, so improving the look of the area and engaging children in the enjoyable activity of horticulture. We look forward to seeing the beds in bloom.

The tools provided from the Morrison's 'Let's Grow' vouchers will be arriving soon and we will be providing each class with a mini greenhouse for propagating plants.

## Visits

Year 4 pupils were involved in the residential visit to Leeson House during the week before half-term. We hope that they had an enjoyable time. The behaviour and attitude of the children was outstanding – a credit to the school. Our thanks to everyone who supported the visits, especially to Mr Maslin for his excellent organisation and leadership.

Over 90 Year 6 children will be visiting London during the last week of term. We hope that they will have an exciting and memorable time.

Year 5 will be taking the coach to Portsmouth on Thursday to visit the Mary Rose in the Naval Dockyard.

## 'Rights Respecting Schools' Week

2009 has been declared 'The Year of the Child' in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> March, the whole school will be involved in activities related to the UN 'Rights of the Child' articles. Classes will team up to produce items to be displayed in an exhibition to be held in the school hall on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Members of our families and the local community will be invited to view the exhibition. More information will follow in the near future.

Maddie Roberts in 5B has won the school competition to write and compose a Rights Respecting Schools song. Her composition will now be recorded and entered for the Dorset competition being judged by singer/composer Billy Bragg. Well done Maddie and thanks to all the children who entered the competition.

## A Reminder

The school closes for the Easter vacation **at 2.05pm** on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and re-opens at 8.45am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

As April will be a 'short' month in school, the next newsletter will be published in the first week of May. We hope that everyone has an enjoyable Easter.

**Happy  
Easter**