

RAYNSFORD LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

10 September 2009

Dear Parents

May I welcome you all back to the start of a new academic year at Raynsford and I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer. A special welcome to the children who have joined us in Pluto class and those who have moved from other schools.

In the future we will be sending letters and emails out to parents on Thursdays only to avoid parents having to look through bags everyday. Many thanks to everyone who have supplied us with an email address and if you are reading this electronically then our first e-newsletter has worked.

Harvest Festival – For our Harvest Thanksgiving this year we will be joining the special Harvest Service in St Mary's Parish Church at 11am on Sunday 4th October. All children and parents are most welcome. Harvest gifts would be gratefully received and will be sent to the homeless day centre in Bedford after the service. These gifts may be brought into school, week commencing Monday 28th September or taken to Church on the Saturday 3rd October between 10am and 4pm. Do come along and give thanks for the many good things we are still able to enjoy and to share. The children will be taking part with songs and readings.

Toddler Praise!

An Invitation to all pre-school children and carers to join St Mary's growing session of play, singing and refreshments. It's on the first Wednesday of every month at 2.15pm and ends in plenty of time for those who have to collect older children from school.

Parent Open Days

As I am sure you are aware, we have been looking at ways of how we could work even closer in partnership with our parents so we are introducing two new ways of doing this. Firstly, we would like to ask willing parents to become 'class representatives' to liaise with both parents and the class teachers to improve communication and identify specific skills which parents have and may be useful in the classroom. This will be led by Mrs Janet Bell, who is both a parent and member of staff. Please feel free to ask her for more information. There will be a separate letter once this has been organised.

Secondly, come and see what happens at school! We would like to invite parents to come to school for the day, half day or even just a few hours. You can attend your child's class, join in his/her lessons, stay for lunch and generally have a taste of school. The dates are as follows:

Monday 12 October

Tuesday 24 November

Wednesday 27 January

Thursday 25 February

Please complete the form below indicating which day you'd like to attend (there are a limited amount of places per day and you can only book for a maximum of two days).

Parents Consultations - will be held on **Wednesday 21 October**

Class appointment sheets will be displayed in the Hall on Monday 12 October and Tuesday 13 October. You will be able to sign your **child's** name against your chosen date and time (if you have children in different classes please leave at least 10 minutes between appointment times). Working parents can ask their childminder/carer to sign up on their behalf.

Operation Christmas Child - We will be promoting the Shoe Box appeal again this year, more information to follow.

Christmas Production - There will be two productions again this year but for a change children will be working with different classes.

Monday 7 December – Pluto Class at 5.30pm

Tuesday 8 December – Years 2 and 4 at 2pm

Tuesday 8 December – Years 1 and 3 at 6pm

Wednesday 9 December – Years 1 and 3 at 2pm

Wednesday 9 December – Years 2 and 4 at 6pm

Auditions will take place just before the half term break.

Staff Training Days

A reminder that Raynsford has **two** training days immediately after the October half term, 2 AND 3 November.

Also, we return to school after the Easter break on Monday 19 April NOT Tuesday 20th as shown on the Bedfordshire County Council Calendar for 2009/2010.

Parent Teacher Association

The PTA support school by organising social events for both parents and children and fund raising. In the past they have raised money to pay for playground equipment, computers, books and most recently electronic whiteboards. All parents are automatically members of the PTA and I hope you will again support the committee. The PTA Newsletter will be sent out next Thursday electronically, and this will give you an idea of future activities.

Finally, the staff and I look forward to another happy and successful year at Raynsford.

Heather Hill

Mrs H Hill
Head Teacher

Dates for the diary:

September

w/c 14th Clubs commence

October

4th Harvest Festival held at St Mary's Church, 11am

20th Governors Meeting at 7.30pm.

21st Parent Consultation Meetings

26th-30th t Half Term

November

2nd and 3rd Staff Training Day – **School closed**

December

7th Pluto Christmas Production – 5.30pm

8th Year 2 and 4 Christmas Production – 2pm

Year 1 and 3 Christmas Production – 6pm

9th Year 2 and 4 Christmas Production – 6pm

Year 1 and 3 Christmas Production – 2pm

17th Christmas Dinner and Father Christmas

18th Service in Church just for the children and staff.

Last Day of Term.

January

5th Term starts

Parent Open Day

Parent Name: **Child's Name:**

Please state which day you would like to attend school and morning, afternoon or all day:
(first and second choice may be indicated).

- Monday 12 October
 - Morning only
 - Afternoon only
 - All day and I would like to order lunch
- Tuesday 24 November
 - Morning only
 - Afternoon only
 - All day and I would like to order lunch
- Wednesday 27 January
 - Morning only
 - Afternoon only
 - All day and I would like to order lunch
- Thursday 25 February
 - Morning only
 - Afternoon only
 - All day and I would like to order lunch

We will send confirmation notes out prior to your visit.

Please return this form either via email or printed and handed to your class teacher or the office.