



Spring Half Term - 2011

Monday, 21st February to Friday, 25th February 2011

(Return to school - Monday, 28th February 2011)

International Celebration Day

As mentioned at the end of last year, we will be celebrating our International Schools Award by holding an International Celebration Day on Friday, 4th March 2011.

We would like the children to dress up in a costume from another country. During the day the children will get the opportunity to sample foreign food, music and culture. We have also organised an African drumming workshop and a mask making session.

We hope you will support the school and organise a costume for your child. It need not be elaborate and as a last resort, your child may wear the football strip of a country or the colours of their flag. As this is meant to be a fun day and we do not wish parents to go out and spend a lot of money on outfits, the children have been given a few ideas for inexpensive costumes. Children should still wear sensible shoes please as they will be playing outside. Thank you.

Bedfordshire Festival of Music

Pupils from Dunton VC Lower School will be taking part in the Bedfordshire Music Festival at the Corn Exchange in Bedford. The School Choir, comprising children from Years 3 & 4 is entered in the 'Junior Choirs – Village or Small School' class, Year 4 and under. This will take place on Saturday, 5th March at 3.50pm (please arrive at 3.15pm). The solo singing and recorder competitions will take place on Tuesday, 8th and Friday, 11th March respectively.



Don't forget there will be a preview performance for all parents, friends and family on Monday, 28th February at 9.30am in St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dunton.

Tag Rugby

By Isobel F



On a blustery winter's morning on the 10th February, the playing field of Stratton Upper School was teeming with eager children ready to play. Many lower schools competed against each other. Our local school (Dunton VC Lower School) took two mixed teams of Year Threes and Fours. It was certainly worth the cold when they got themselves a 7th and 5th place out of eight schools.

They were greeted by their friends when they returned to school. Everyone agreed they may not have won but the amount of team spirit was extraordinary.

Governor Update

The Governing Body are pleased to confirm that Matt Skirving has taken the vacant role of parent governor. We wish him a full and varied workload!

Our last Governing Body meeting focused on our legislative duties and we made a start on our strategic development.

The coming months see us working on the budget for the next financial year. With lots of changes happening at Central Bedfordshire, we certainly have our work cut out!

Finally, we have set up a steering group of governors to review our communication methods, specifically the setting up of a governor webpage and newsletter. If you have any experience in this field and would like to join the steering group, please contact a member of the governing body. Thank you.

Clare Neal, Chair of Governors

Absence from School – Holidays and Illness/Lateness

Absence from school during term time to take a holiday will only be authorised if there is a very good reason to do so. Please complete all sections of the absence form, including valid reasons why you are taking your child out of school, as entering just 'holiday' on the form will result in your application being rejected.

Time keeping: Please remember that school starts at 8.55am, as there are a considerable number of children who are consistently late. If you know you are one of the offenders, it would be appreciated if you could rectify the situation. For those of you who are usually on time, we are aware that on the odd occasion events conspire against us resulting in lateness. Please remember to come to the office to sign the late book if your child is late in the mornings. Thank you.

Lunch time arrangements and school dinners.

Over the past half term we have become increasingly concerned at the small amount of food some of the children are eating at lunchtime. We have been monitoring the situation and have decided that for the rest of the spring term we will be sending notices home alerting parents when their child has not eaten a reasonable amount of their lunch. This will also include those children who have packed lunch.

School dinners are 1.80 per day or £9.00 per week, payable at the beginning of each week. If you prefer to pay for the whole half term the cost will be £54.00. Please make cheques payable to 'Eden Services Ltd'. Thank you.

Snack money (Robin Class)

Snack money for the next half term is £6.00. It would be appreciated if you could pay the snack money in cash as this makes it easier for Mrs Rumble to purchase the groceries on a weekly basis. Thank you.

Missing Wellington Boots – At the end of last term a pair of size 11/12 children's Wellington boots went missing. It would be appreciated if over the half term you could please check to make sure you do not have an extra pair. Thank you.

School Clubs

There are still places available at the lunchtime multi skills club, organised by Premier Sport (cost £3.00 per session).

The Easter Craft Club has a few spaces available for pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4. Please come to the school office if your child is interested in joining either of the above clubs.

The Karate Club is full at present but Frank will be reviewing the numbers for the summer term.

Play Rangers - Activities

The Sports & Play Development team are running some community activities through the Spring Term please see below for more information:

- * Active Zone multi sports sessions with a variety of games & activities – On Saturdays, 9.30am to 11am, ages 8 – 13 year olds.
- * Dodgeball, Basketball, Benchball, Handball Club - On Mondays, 5pm to 6pm, ages 8 – 13 year olds.
- * Sportshall Athletics Club is a session based on indoor athletics run in conjunction with Biggleswade Athletics Club – Mondays 6pm – 7pm – 7+ years.
- * Play Rangers are also back February half term at a variety of locations across Central Bedfordshire (5 + years). Check out the website for more information or please call 0300 300 8072.

Achievements

Congratulations to the following pupils on their out of school achievements:

Well done to Danny and Abbie (and Sister Amy) for being selected to join the Everton Church Choir.

Congratulations to Alice for passing, with Distinction, the LAMDA Entry Level 3 Award in Communication.

Trinity has been busy taking part in the Pre-Primary in Dance, Class Award, for the Royal Academy of Dance. Trinity also achieved her 50 metre Rainbow Swimming Award badge and certificate. Well done.

Samuel has achieved his Stage 2 Swimming Award from the ASA National Plan Award Scheme. Congratulations Samuel.

Isobel F passed her Royal Academy of Dance Grade 1 examination, with Merit. Well done.

The following children achieved their next level of Karate belt:-

Acacia – Yellow Belt – **Outstanding**

Zoe – Yellow Belt – **Outstanding**

Alicia – Purple/White (2 Stripes) Belt – **Outstanding**

Alicia also becomes the highest grade in the school now!

Molly – Purple/White (1 Stripe) - **Outstanding**

Jorja – Yellow Belt – **Distinction**

Elise – Yellow Belt – **Distinction**

Abbie – Yellow Belt – **Distinction**

Kye – Yellow Belt – **Distinction**

Chloe – Yellow Belt – **Merit**

Iona – Red belt – **Pass**

Jake A– Red Belt – **Distinction**



These were the best set of results the school has ever had. Well done to everyone.