

Cavendish News

www.cavendish.manchester.sch.uk

Friday 14th September 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

We would like to remind you all that we do not allow dogs onto the school site. This is for obvious health and safety reasons. Please ensure that you pass this on to anyone who brings or collects your child. Someone breached the rule this week and there was dog dirt in the playground as a result. Help us to keep the school safe and clean - leave your dog at home.

PTA Coffee & Cake afternoon next Friday



Members of our PTA will be selling coffee and cake in the downstairs hall next Friday from 3.20pm. To keep congestion to a minimum, we ask that you collect your child as normal, and then come back into school through the main entrance. It sounds a bit convoluted but it will make things easier as the corridors used by Y1 and Y2 at hometime are too narrow for 2 way traffic!

The Birches

Each week, groups of our Y5 children work with children from The Birches School. It's a lovely collaborative project led by Carla Smith that breaks down barriers and from which both sets of children derive benefit. For this term's work they need a good supply of clear plastic 2 litre bottles (eg lemonade bottles). If you have any to spare when the drinks's been finished, please rinse them out well and send them into school for us to use.



Brownies

Elkie in Y4 is an enthusiastic Brownie and she has brought in some information about her Brownie pack, as she thinks other girls aged 7 to 10 years old might like to join. 10th Withington Brownies meet on a Monday at St. Christopher's Church, Moorgate Avenue, Withington, from 6pm to 7.30pm. They are holding an open evening there between 6.15pm and 7.15pm on Monday 24th September so that you can find out more about Brownies. For more information please contact Amanda on 07792 916925, or email her at amanda.phillips@teachfirst.org.uk

School Lunches

We now serve halal meat as a meal option in our school dining room. This means that when Glynis serves meat-based dishes (such as sausages or curry) there is a standard meat version, a halal meat version and a Quorn version. Each version of the dish is prepared and served separately, so you can be certain that your child will be eating the right meal for them. We have been awarded a halal certificate and we will be inspected regularly to ensure that we maintain the correct standards. Our Muslim children certainly enjoyed their halal sausages and Yorkshire puddings when I was serving lunch earlier this week! For more information about school meals, please contact our school office.

Messages from Teachers

Mrs. Day and Miss Hanly will be holding meetings about high school applications for current Y6 pupils on **Thursday 27th September at 3.30pm and 5.30pm**. If you have any worries or concerns about how the application process works, please come to one of the meetings which will be held in Mrs. Day's classroom upstairs in Shawgrove. We know that choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you have to make, and it's really important that you check the websites of local high schools (or phone them) to find out when they are holding their open evenings. There is simply no substitute for visiting the schools yourself.

Mrs. Powell in Nursery asks all parents/carers not to leave bikes and scooters outside the Nursery parents'/carers' room. The children who leave Nursery at lunchtime use that exit, and the items are a bit of a trip hazard.

Mr. King, inspired by the Olympics, has asked me to bring this to your attention:

British Schools' Modern Biathlon Series 2012-13

Pentathlon GB, the governing body for the sport of Modern Pentathlon, is inviting pupils (and teachers!!) to submit validated run and swim times for FREE inclusion to the rankings lists created for the Semi-Final Championships to be held in early 2013. The series culminates in the British Schools' Modern Biathlon Championships to be held at Crystal Palace on 24th March 2013.

The Schools' Modern Biathlon (swim-run) comprises a 50m swim and 500m run for Year 5 to Year 7 pupils and teachers.

We can organise time trials for the run in school but not the swim as we don't have access to a suitable pool because Withington is too small. If you can time your own child swimming 50 metres in either a 25m or 50m pool and you/they are interested in taking part in the Biathlon Challenge, please speak to Mr. King about entering. You need to be absolutely confident that your child can swim at a consistent pace, so you might want to time them a few times to be sure. You can find out more at:

www.pentathlongb.org/schools

Year 4 at MOSI

Year 4 pupils went to Manchester Museum of Science & Industry this week to learn about the Romans. They had a great time!



School Uniform

Our children look very smart in their new red, white and grey uniforms (or at least they do in the mornings...the school day takes its toll after the children have painted, used clay, played outside, had their lunch, stepped in a puddle etc!). However, we'd like to remind you that children should not wear jewellery for school other than a watch, and children with pierced ears may wear small studs, but not dangly earrings of any kind. They must not wear any earrings for swimming or other PE activities. We request that you don't let your child have their ears pierced during the school year. It's far better to get them done at the start of the summer holiday so that they have 6 weeks to heal fully. We are working with other Didsbury and Burnage primary schools and with Parrs Wood High School to establish consistency over issues such as unnecessary jewellery, nail varnish, temporary tattoos and over- use of hair gel, which we think are inappropriate for school, so please keep these things as treats for weekends and holidays. Please don't let your child wear necklaces and bracelets to school - we will ask children to remove them if we see them. The other thing that still causes concern is footwear. Boys' shoes generally aren't a problem as their shoes are usually flat with a gripped sole. Some girls' shoes are less robust, so please ensure that your daughter can run, jump, climb and be active in her school shoes so that she can enjoy playtimes. Flip flops and strappy sandals are not suitable for the rough and tumble of the playground. Lastly on uniform, please make sure that your child has a coat in school, even if it is just a lightweight kagoule. The heavens opened on Tuesday when Miss Tingling's class was walking to Withington baths, and some children got soaked because they had no coat.



Swimming Goggles

Swimming is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum, and **all** children will have swimming lessons in Key Stage 2. It might reassure our Muslim parents to know that you can buy girls' one piece swimming costumes that cover arms and legs - contact me for more details. Your child can also have privacy when getting undressed. The schools' swimming service has very strict rules about swimming goggles. Basically, they don't allow children to wear them unless they bring a doctor's note to say that the goggles are necessary. This probably seems pedantic, but put yourself in the place of a swimming teacher who has 30 children in a swimming pool, some of whom cannot swim at all. You'd want to keep distractions to a minimum, and you'd be quite frustrated if some individuals were busy playing with goggles (which is what children tend to do) instead of listening to you. The swimming service also believes that children have to experience swimming without goggles because in an emergency situation they probably wouldn't have goggles with them. I do understand parents'/carers' concerns about this issue and I know that you want your child to be comfortable in the water, but we have to abide by the swimming service rules and you will need evidence from your GP if there is a medical reason for your child having to wear goggles.

Messages from the Office

Some of you have asked us for the following reminders to be put in the newsletter - we've had a lot of new starters throughout the school this term, so we hope the following information is helpful.

Car parking - the car park is for staff parking only, and the barrier is down until 5.30pm each weekday.

School clubs - school clubs are paid for half termly in advance. You can use our on-line facility ParentPay - contact our school office for a unique activation code if you haven't already received one. You can also pay by cash, but we no longer accept cheques. Simply put the payment in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class, and what the payment is for, and pop it in the post box outside our school office. If you need any further support or advice about payments to school, please come in and talk to us.