

York Road Junior School and Language Unit (Star Centre)

Junior School: 01322 224453

Star Centre: 01322 228669

Mobile for text messages only: 07502095295

Website: www.yorkroadschool.org.uk

Newsletter

Thursday 5th November 2009

Year 6 Parents – Secondary School On-line Registration

If you have applied on line please remember to let us have a copy of your application.

Isle of Wight – Year 6

The second instalment has now been paid. Thank you. The final payment of a further £138.00 is due by 29th March 2010. You may pay this amount in instalments by sending in your payment together with your receipt card.

Coffee morning

We would like to invite all parents of children in the main school and the Star Centre to a coffee morning on Thursday 26th November at 9.30 a.m. This will be an informal opportunity to chat. Mrs. Sillitoe, Mrs. Macknelly and Mrs. McHugh (our Parent Support Officer) will be present to chat with you. We would particularly welcome parents of our new year 3 intake or parents of any new children from the Star Centre so you can get to know us and the school better. Entrance will be via reception. If the coffee morning is successful we would like to make it a regular event.



ParentMail

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to Parentmail.

If you have not yet signed up and wish to do so, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school office.

School Meals

May we please remind you that the school meals are now £1.95 per day (£9.75 per week), Please ensure that you pay dinner money promptly.



School Fund – Never too late to pay!

Every year we ask each family to pay £5 towards our School Fund. This helps us to provide extra events for your children i.e. in-house theatre productions, dance performances etc. As we do not have a Friends Association at the moment, the School Fund has become even more important. Remember, it is only £5 per family for the whole school year. Please send in your School Fund in an envelope marked “School Fund” with your child’s name and class. Thank you to those parents who have already sent your £5, it is very much appreciated.



Contact Sheets

We have now sent home the contact sheets for all the children. Please amend and/or add the relevant details and return the form to the school office as a matter of urgency. It is very important that we have up to date information in the event of an emergency. Mobile phone numbers are often changed, so please check them carefully.

Asthma inhalers

If your child suffers from asthma please supply two inhalers, one for the child to keep on them, the other to keep in the first aid room as a spare. Thank you.

Information Regarding Swine Flu

In the event of swine flu being diagnosed, the school’s course of action will be in line with Local Authority and DCSF guidance.

Given the mildness of the virus, expert medical advice has advised that there is no good reason for schools to close, however, it is still essential that adults or children with flu-like symptoms should stay away (from school) until they are free

of those symptoms and should contact the National Pandemic Flu Service on 0800 1513513 or at www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk.

Should your child be absent due to swine flu, please report their absence from school as you would usually.

In the meantime, it is important that you continue to follow good hand washing and hygiene practice which can help prevent flu from spreading. Thank you.

Events in November

Tuesday 10th: Water Aid Day

Thursday 12th: Macbeth workshop – year 6 and Jupiter class.

Tuesday 24th: Amazon and Jupiter to Horton Kirby

Wednesday 25th: Thames to Horton Kirby

Friday 27th: Nile to Horton Kirby

Tuesday 1st December: Reynolds Performing Arts in school

Advance notice for December

Christmas Performances

Tuesday 8th: 10 a.m. Yrs 3 & 4

Dress Rehearsal

1.30 p.m. Performance to Year 3 parents

Wednesday 9th: 1.30 p.m. Performance to Year 4 parents

Thursday 10th: 10 a.m. Yrs 5 & 6 Dress Rehearsal

1.30 p.m. Performance to Year 5 parents

Friday 11th: 1.30 p.m. Performance to Year 6 parents



Friday 11th December

School disco 6.15 – 7.30: years 3 & 4 plus Sun and Mars

7.45 to 9.00: years 5 & 6 plus Saturn and Jupiter – a separate letter will be sent out later regarding the disco.

Monday 14th to Friday 18th – No school run clubs this week.

Monday 14th: Year 3 to St. Albans performance

Wednesday 16th: p.m. Years 3 & 5 Christmas parties

Thursday 17th: p.m. Years 4 & 6 Christmas parties

The children return to school on Monday 4th January (**there will be no school run clubs the first week back**).

Book Fair Week

We made £474 in commission. This money will be spent on books in the library and the classrooms. Thank you for supporting the school in this event.



Numeracy and Literacy (Phonics) Workshops

We held parent workshops in October to help and support parents to find out about how we teach literacy and numeracy. The parents who attended gave very positive feedback. However, we were disappointed by the number of parents who did not join us for these workshops and would welcome feedback about the reasons you could not attend.

PE shirts

Have you purchased your child's "house" T-shirt yet? We now have most sizes in stock. Price £5.

Gym Club

A start date should be known soon. We will notify you if your child has a place shortly.

Sponsored Events

As part of year 5 RE studies and after a visit from the Ellenor Foundation we have been doing sponsored events to support them. Oak class did a sponsored silence and Elm did a cake sale and fun run in their pyjamas! Thank you to everyone for their generous sponsorship. If you have not yet sent in your money we would be pleased if you could do so as soon as possible. We will let you know the total raised in the next newsletter.

Maths Challenge

Bethany Bridge, Liam Green, Ruby Lambie and Samuel Harrison took up the Maths Challenge

against 13 other local primary schools at Swan Valley. The challenges were very difficult but they did us proud and came third - well done!



Maths magician Visit

On Wednesday 21st October, Tony Charles, a mathmagician visited York Road. We all enjoyed watching his show of mathematics and magic. The Year 5 classes then had workshops exploring magic with numbers.



Wanted!

Sun Class would be very grateful if you could send in any children's umbrellas which your family have outgrown. We are looking especially for the small ones (doesn't matter if themed or plain as long as they are still in good condition). We would like to keep a store in the classroom so that we can still go out for walks even when the weather is bad. Thank you.

Holidays

We would like to remind parent/carers of the school's policy regarding the taking of holidays during term time; our policy follows the guidance we have received from the Local Authority.

Whilst parent/carers may apply for holiday leave during term time, we do strongly discourage the practice; your child will suffer both educationally and socially as they miss the work and the social interaction open to the remainder of the class during this time. Leave of absence during term time is authorised, or not, by the school and the school cannot authorise more than ten days unless there are exceptional circumstances. All requests for holiday leave will be considered individually and such factors as your child's existing attendance record will be considered when making decisions as whether or not to grant holiday leave.

Holidays taken without the school's permission, or if the pupil fails to return on the agreed date will mean absence is unauthorised (truancy) and the Educational Welfare Officer will be informed.

The deliberate taking of a holiday in term time without/against the school's permission (where it can be clearly demonstrated that the parent/carer understood that the permission had not/would not be given) and where this has created a period of unauthorised absence in the current term of at least ten sessions, parent/carers may be liable to a fixed penalty notice.

If a pupil fails to return within ten school days of the agreed return date, and there is no good reason for this absence, the school in discussion with the Attendance Behaviour Service may remove the pupil's name from the school roll.

Should parent/carers decide to take their child on holiday during school time (including a day's leave) an *Application for Leave of Absence* form must be completed and returned to the school office.

We would very much appreciate your support with this. Thank you.

Data Protection

Schools, local education authorities and the Department for Education and Skills (the government department which deals with education) all hold information on pupils in order to run the education system, and in doing so have to follow the Data Protection Act 1998. This means, among other things, that the data held about pupils must only be used for specific purposes allowed by law. We are therefore writing to tell you about the types of data held, why that data is held, and to whom it may be passed on. The **school** holds information on pupils in order to support their teaching and learning, to monitor and report on their progress, to provide appropriate pastoral care, and to assess how well the school as a whole is doing. This information includes

contact details, National Curriculum assessment results, attendance information, and characteristics such as ethnic group, special education needs and any relevant medical information. From time to time we are required to pass on some of this data to the Local Authority (LA), to another school to which the pupil is transferring, to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), and to Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) which is responsible for the National Curriculum and associated assessment arrangements.

The **Local Education Authority** uses information about pupils to carry out specific functions for which it is responsible, such as the assessment of any special educational needs the pupil may have. It also uses the information to derive statistics to inform decisions on (for example) the funding of schools, and to assess the performance of schools and support them in setting targets. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them.

The **Qualifications and Curriculum Authority** uses information about pupils to administer the National Curriculum tests and assignments for Key Stages 1 to 3. The results of these are passed on to DfES in order for it to compile statistics on trends and patterns in levels of achievement. The QCA uses the information to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Curriculum and the associated assessment arrangements, and to ensure that these are continually improved.

The **Department of Education and Skills** uses information about pupils for statistical purposes, to evaluate and develop education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole. The statistics (including those based on information provided by the QCA) are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them. The DfES will feed back to LAs and schools information about their pupils where they are lacking this information because it was not passed on by a former school. On occasion information may be shared with other Government departments or agencies strictly for statistical or research purposes only.

Pupils, as data subjects, have certain rights under the Data Protection Act, including a general right of access to personal data held on them, with parents exercising this right on their behalf if they are too young to do so themselves. If you wish to access the personal data held about your child, then please contact the relevant organisation in writing:

- the school at York Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1SQ
- the LA's Data Protection Officer at Room 2.42 Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ
- the QCA's Data Protection Officer at QCA, 83 Piccadilly, London W1J 8QA
- the DfES's Data Protection Officer at DfES, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA

PARENTMAIL

I am able to receive information and give permission for my email address and/or mobile number to be registered with ParentMail®.

Parent Name/s _____ / _____

Children/s names _____ Class _____

_____ Class _____

My Email address/es _____ (insert email address/es) *

Mobile Telephone numbers _____ / _____

Signature _____ Date _____