

York Road Junior School and Star Centre

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Website: www.yorkroadschool.org.uk

Newsletter

Thursday 1st October 2009

Hello!

I am now into my fourth week as Executive Headteacher of York Road School – some of you may have seen me in the playground at the beginning and end of the school day.

Mrs Sillitoe and I work closely together; I'm here most Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and Mrs Sillitoe on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, albeit that we have to swap days sometimes! When I'm not here, I'm at Joydens Wood Junior School in Dartford, where I am also Headteacher.

I have had a lovely start here at York Road; your children have made me most welcome and some have even told me that they have friends and cousins at Joydens Wood, so it's almost like home from home!

I am very much looking forward to working with you, your children, staff and governors in these coming weeks until York Road's new Headteacher is appointed and takes up post. During this time, we will all be working together to ensure that the school continues to provide the education, care and welfare we would all want for our children.

In the meantime, if you see me in the playground...please come up to say hello!

Kind regards

Mrs K H Reynolds
Executive Headteacher

Year 6 Parents – On-line registration

When you complete the on-line form for secondary schools would you please let the school have a copy of your choices for our records. Thank you.

Isle of Wight – Year 6

Payments towards the Isle of Wight trip in June may be made throughout the year. Just a reminder that a *further* £150 is payable by Monday 19th October. Please send in your payment with the receipt card which was issued when the deposit was paid.

ParentMail

We had a good response to our request for parents to join Parentmail and the system is still be updated. Next month, everyone who has signed up to ParentMail will receive their newsletter by email. If you have not yet signed up to this service please seriously consider doing so as it is the securest way to receive all the information relating to events in school and up to date information. You can even store the information on your computer rather than risk losing pieces of paper.

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), just a small increase from last term. Please ensure that you pay dinner money promptly.



School Fund

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 no longer have a Friends Association, 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 are in the process of sending home the emergency contact sheets. Please amend and/or add the relevant details and return the form to the school office as soon as possible. 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.

Gate opening times

The school gates are opened at 8.40 a.m. for the start of school and again at 3.10 p.m. at the end of the school day. Please note that the first gate is opened at these times and the others may be a little later being opened. Please be patient.

Events:

Thursday 8th October: Literacy (Phonics) Workshops for Parents – please see section below
Monday 12th October to Friday 16th October: Parents Consultation Week
Tuesday 13th October to Friday 16th October – Book Fair Week – see below
Wednesday 14th October – Year 3 and Mars - Victorian Day – Kent Museum of Life – Children and staff will be dressing in Victorian costume for the day.
Tuesday 20th October - Black History Day
Wednesday 21st October – Maths show
Thursday 22nd October – Numeracy Workshops for parents – please see section below

Book Fair Week

The theme this year is "Spirit of Adventure". Come and share the adventure with us.

The Book Fair is from Tuesday 13th October to Friday 16th October, 3.15 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.



Numeracy and Literacy (Phonics) Workshops

We will be holding parent workshops for numeracy and literacy in order to demonstrate the teaching and learning methods used in school and allow parents the opportunity to 'have a go!'. These sessions have previously been very helpful in supporting parents to understand and help their child with homework.

Please come along and join us. Tea and biscuits provided!

Dates and times:

Literacy (Phonics) workshops: Thursday October 8th 2pm and 6.30pm

Numeracy workshops: Thursday 22nd October 2pm and 6.30pm.

We have sent home a separate letter regarding these workshops with a reply slip. Please let us know if you will be attending.

Curriculum Information

Year group curriculum topic webs are on the school website: www.yorkroadschool.org.uk.

These will provide you with details of what subjects and topics will be covered over the coming term along with ideas for homework activities.

If you do not have access to the internet please let your child's class teacher know, so they can arrange to forward you a paper copy.

PE shirts

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

Judo Club

We hope to be running a new judo club in the very near future. We will let you know as soon as dates and times are available.

Gym Club

Danielle will no longer be running the gym club at school but Mrs. Burroughs will be taking over and the club will be offered free of charge. Numbers will be limited and therefore will be offered on a first come, first served basis. If your child is interested in taking up one of the places, please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school office. We hope to start this club after the October break.

Football Club

The after school football club on a Monday evening is struggling to survive due to the reduction in numbers. If you are interested in your child starting at this club please contact the school office.



Morrison's Let's Grow Vouchers

We are collecting these vouchers. They are available in store up to 1st November. We have a deadline of 25th November to send in the vouchers so please bring them in as soon as you have some. Collection boxes are in the main reception, ICT suite and Star Centre reception.

Teaching Assistant Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies, one in the main school for approximately 13 hours per week and one in the Star Centre (Language Unit) for approximately 16 hours per week. If you are qualified i.e. CLANSA, BTEC, please ask at the office for a job description and application form.

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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 _____

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GYM CLUB

Child's name Class

I wish my child to join the Gym Club on a Tuesday evening 3.20 p.m. to 4.20 p.m.

I also give permission for any medical treatment, including anaesthetic, which may be urgently required.

I will collect my child / my child will be allowed to walk home on their own after the club

Signed Dated