



Dear Parents/Carers

This week is Eco Week ~ 1-5 February 2010



We shall be holding the sale of books and toys on Thursday. Thanks to those who have sorted out donations - we've had a good response. It's a good chance to re-cycle, helping the environment and your pocket! We'll use the money raised to purchase an 'Oxfam Unwrapped' gift. The Eco-Council will decide which animal to purchase once we know how much we've raised.

Non Uniform Day ~ Friday, 12 February 2010

We'll be supporting Havens Hospices 'Dress Down Day'. All you have to do is wear something Pink or Blue to school on 12 February and pay a fine to support our local hospices. You can wear one item along with your uniform or your whole outfit can be pink or blue!



School Meals Price Increase

Most of you will have received our e-mail about the increase in price for a school meal. Suppliers to Milton Hall have increased their costs forcing them to pass on the increase to us. They are charging us an extra 20p each day but we're trying to absorb some of that cost for a while and will be increasing our cost to you by 10p each day - making the cost of a meal £2.00 and £10.00 for a week. If you have paid in advance for several months or the whole term then please call into the office and Mrs Holmes will calculate your shortfall. The new price comes into effect from 22 February - straight after the half term break.

CLIC News

For the Whole School ...

We have twelve places on our next Parent Assertiveness course [a follow on course from 'Positive Parents'] starting Tuesday, 2 February at 9.00 am for eight weeks.

- For all courses please book your places in the CLIC with Mrs Hume and let her know if you need a crèche place for any younger children. We ask for a contribution of at least £1 per session. Thank you.

Dates for your diary ...

12 February 2010 ~ there is still time to order your child's Chinese meal - **slips must be back by Monday, 8 February** for us to let Milton Hall have exact numbers for their supplier! Regular meals will be available on the day for those not ordering a Chinese meal.

1-5 March 2010 ~ Health and Leisure week

The Parent Support Group will be organising a quiz night to take place towards the end of March - details to follow...



Survey Results ~ detailed results available in school shortly

We sent out three questionnaires last term and the responses have been analysed. The information will be used to improve our services to you. Thanks to everyone who responded.

- There was a 29% response to our **website** questionnaire and it seems the most popular reason for visiting the website is to check dates and term times - we'll do our utmost to keep them up to date. Some people have commented that they don't have access to a computer ~ remember you can always log on to the World Wide Web in the CLIC and check out **our** website amongst many others!
- 27% responded to our **communicating with the school** questionnaire. Over 90% of you preferred face-to-face contact and appreciated our welcoming approach ~ thank you! There were also some useful suggestions:
 - Class Representatives - the Parent Support Group would love to set this up so if you're interested in being your 'Class Rep' please let us know;
 - Questionnaires by e-mail - we've had some helpful advice from a parent regarding web-based surveys and will trial our next questionnaire this way.
- We had a brilliant 59% response to our **starting Reception** questionnaire. Everyone appreciated the 'meet the teacher' session and nearly all felt the Home Visit and REACH appointment with the Headteacher were valuable too.

Hakuna Matata! What a wonderful phrase! Key Stage 1 ONLY (Oak, Hawthorn and TreeTops)



Thanks to everyone who has already paid their deposit but there are still some outstanding so please bring in your £5 per head as soon as possible.

A big thank you to the Parent Support Group! The Charity Band event they organised at Bar Lambs last week was extremely successful and raised just over £500 to subsidise the cost of the visit so keep supporting all the events advertised and we'll keep the cost as low as possible.

Thank you to some generous grandparents who have made a small donation to the 'Lion King' fund. All donations are always welcome! And because we're a Registered Charity [charity number: 1079812] remember you can 'Gift Aid' it and we'll get the tax back! Just ask for a form.

giftaid it



If you would like to save up weekly for The Lion King remember you can open a **Credit Union Junior Savers** account for your child and save up weekly or monthly by making a deposit on Fridays!

World Wide Web ~ www.baronscourt.southend.sch.uk

Don't forget! You can check the school website for diary dates, newsletters and other activities taking place at Barons Court. We've had 105716 hits since the website was launched!

- Thank you to everyone who has registered to receive the newsletter by e-mail. If you have not yet given in an e-mail address you can do so at any time! It saves us at least 160 photocopies every time - brilliant! Please don't forget to update our record if you change your e-mail address.

School Terms and Holiday Dates

February Half Term Holiday ~ Monday, 15 Feb to Friday, 19 Feb 2010 inclusive

Spring Term ends on Thursday, 1 April 2010 at 3.15 pm

Easter Holiday ~ Friday, 2 April to Friday, 16 April 2010 inclusive

Summer Term commences on Monday, 19 April 2010 at 8.55 am

- If you are planning early for next year, 2010-2011 holiday dates are available in school and on our website now! Our Governing Body has just approved the first three days of the next academic year as Non Pupil Days. This will allow staff training to take place and gives a 'safety net' just in case the new building is not quite ready! Children will return to school on Monday, 6 September 2010.

G R Wood, Headteacher