



Michael Drayton Junior School

Newsletter

February 2010

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 15th - Friday 19th February
- Half Term
- Thursday 4th March -
World Book Day
- Tuesday 9th March -
Parent's Coffee Morning
- Friday 26th March -
Teacher Training Day
- Monday 29th March -
Friday 9th April
- Easter Break

MDJS pupils raise money for Haiti.

Our compassionate pupils have responded to the devastating Haitian earthquake by undertaking a variety of fund raising events. Our School Council organised a Bring and Buy sale for all of our pupils and raised over £400 which will be donated to the ShelterBox charity

There have also been some individual fund raising events. A special mention goes to Caitlin Stokes, Elise Ward, Molly White and Emma Trickett who organised and completed a sponsored run around Galley Common, raising over £100 - brilliant! Also fund-raising was Megan Whitehead who organised a sponsored run. Megan and friends; Chloe Dolman, Megan Pardoe, Jade Beniziri, Charlie Barlett, Holly



MDJS pupils running for a good cause.



Clitherow, Jak Mullineaux, Indea Shepherd, Abbie Porter and Tom Ellis completed their run in the school grounds, running 8 times round the school field. George White and Thomas Hill from 4GB sold cakes to raise money, Shauni

Gilbody and Lauren Evans from 5Ey held a sponsored silence and, in contrast, Tayla Williams from 5Ey held a sponsored sing. All in all, over £600 has been raised by our pupils and we are very proud of them. Well done!

Keeping Up With the Children: Numeracy Course.

There are still a few places left on this free course for parents.

The programme is designed to:

- Inform you about what your children learn at school in numeracy and how they are learning it.

- Find ways to help your children at home with maths.

- Brush up on your own numeracy skills.

- Give you the opportunity to work towards National Qualifications.

10 x 2 hour sessions
Thursdays 9-11am
25th February - 13th May.
Ask at Reception for an
application form.





Get Into It!

Get Into It is a government scheme aimed at Families who are eligible to claim for free school dinners. The scheme enables children to take part in up to 2 hours of activity a week for free. We are also able to pay fees to attend clubs such as Scouts, Cubs, Beavers,

Brownies and many other organisations, the funding can also purchase a pass for activities. All you have to do is decide on an activity with your child, complete an activity request form (available from Reception), book the activity then the school will deal with the payment.

Get Into It will also pay for school trips such as Manor Adventure for Year 6 pupils.



Pupils rafting at Manor Adventure.

The Woodlands Entrance Car Park

Could we remind parents that The Woodlands entrance car park is for staff parking only and not for the dropping off or collection of children from school. We have noticed that this area is becoming increasingly congested at the end of the school day.

Help us to raise funds for the school.



What's Been Going on in School?

Year 4 recently held their very own French Day where pupils and staff came to school dressed in red, white and blue and had a taste (literally!) of what life in France is like. The main hall was transformed into an airport, one classroom became a French café, the corridors were filled with the smell of

crepes cooking and the book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar was translated into Franglais!

Class 3Ho and 4Ga were joined by a visitor from the Royal Shakespeare Company in January to participate in a script writing and drama workshop.

Well done to **3ST** who have won this half term's

award for **Good Lunch-time Behaviour**.



L'année 4 dire Bonjour!

Recycle Your Mobiles!

Your old mobile phones could help us achieve the Gold Eco School Award and raise funds towards our school's resources. Our Eco Council are working alongside a company called Foneclub on a mobile recycling initiative. Foneclub will pay

£2.50 for any handset that is received regardless of age or condition. Please send in any unwanted mobiles in the Foneclub bags which have been sent home with children. Once we have finished running this collection we will receive a cheque from

Foneclub which we will put towards resources. The collection will end at Easter. Collection boxes can be located in the main hall. For further information, visit:

www.foneclub.org.uk

School Sports News

Rugby

On Thursday 4th February our school rugby team competed in the Nuneaton Schools Rugby Tournament. The team played 6 games and, after a great team effort, they won four, lost one and drew one. A special mention has to go to the star players of the day; Elise Ward and Josh Bateman. Well done team!

Netball

On 19th January our school netball team - Lauren Roberts, Amie Thompson, Tonicha Copson, Ellie Stockton, Betsey Morgan, Charlotte Dewis, Callum Wood and Jack Randall played against Milverton Primary school and won 2-1. On 9th February they played against Weddington Primary school and won 7-4. Well done team!

Cross Country

The Cross Country team are busy practicing for their third race which will be held at Hartshill High School on Monday 22nd February. The top runners will be selected to represent Nuneaton.

Good luck team!

HOME ACCESS



Free Broadband and Laptop Opportunity for Families

Home Access is a new government drive which helps low income families get access to a computer and the internet to get online at home. If you're a low income family, you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or at least one years' internet access to help your child learn at home. The programme is aimed at those that need it most and targets families that do not have access to a computer or the internet at home. Children who have access to technology at home tend to do better in school exams, learn and achieve more, and have fun while they're doing it. It also benefits the whole family.

The programme is being rolled out across England from January 2010, with eligible families able to apply for a Home Access Grant to pay for a computer and/or internet package. To qualify, families must have a child in school years 3 - 9 who is entitled to receive Free School Meals which normally means the household having an annual income of less than £16,040. Looked After Children who are in foster care may also be eligible for a grant and their local authority can apply for them. Families that do not qualify for a grant, are still able to buy a Home Access package from a range of well known high street retailers, as well as other suppliers approved by the programme.

If you think you qualify for a Home Access Grant please call 0333 200 1004 for an application pack.

New School Councillors

Year 3

3Mc - Nicole Kerrigan
3Ho - Katie-Mae Wylie
3Wa - Lily Manton
3St - Anya Atkins

Year 4

4Br - Aiden Todd
4Ga - Jamie Jowett
4Go - Mia Dolman
4GB - George White

Year 5

5Bu - Cole Gisbourne
5Ma - Harry Staine
5Ra - Georgia Roper
5Ey - Jared Atkins

Year 6

6Za - Tom Ellis Moor
6Rs - Elliott Hurst
6Hi - Marty Bewell
6Re - Dominic Clark

Call for Volunteers!

Many of our school fund raising events rely upon the tremendous help and support we get from parental helpers. Our PTA is looking a little thin on the ground at present and is also in need of a Treasurer so we are looking for volunteers who can spare some of their time to help with events to raise money, to support the school and make a difference for the children.

If you feel you could offer some of your time, no matter how little, please ask at Reception for further details.



Childnet's TOP TIPS for Parents of Primary Children

Use the tools...

- Teach Childnet's SMART rules to your children or come up with your own and stick them up near your family's computer.
- Set up "favourites" on your web browser and show your children how to use them.
- Talk about what your family does to steer clear of viruses.
- Use a family email account for signing up for things online or shopping online.
- Mobiles and games consoles generally have inbuilt safety features for children, ask the retailer about them.

Use your brain...

- Teach your children that there are strangers on the internet just like in real life.
- Explore MSN with your children and become one of their online 'friends'.
- Speak to your child's friends' parents about your rules and agree together ages when you all think children should have access to MSN and other chat functions.
- Model safe online decision-making to teach your children that responsible behaviour is important.
- Manage your child's time online by talking with them about other real life activities they can participate in.

Talk things through...

- Discuss with your children what they should do if they or someone they know is being bullied online.
- Talk to your children about what they should do if they see something "yucky" online:
 - Click on Hector the Protector visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk
 - Turn off the screen
 - Tell an adult
- Talk to your children about what information they need to keep safe online such as their name, where they go to school, and where they live.

Staff News



Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Lorraine Swami who has been appointed as our new Catering Supervisor and also to Mr Langton, a student teacher who is working with 3Wa.

News from Mr Jones!

Mr Jones left us last year to travel to New Zealand to teach. He is now in Auckland and is about to start work in a new school.

Please could all telephone messages from parents to pupils be done before lunchtime to enable us to put them in the registers? Thank You!

Live to Learn



Learn to Live!