



# Update

## Autumn Term 1

Welcome back after what I hope was a great summer holiday.

### In School

This has been a fantastic week back. It has been lovely to hear the laughter and watch the skipping. There are a few new things to let you know about.

**Infants:** The sensory garden is looking fantastic. A huge thanks to Mrs Van de Griend and her team. It's great, pop in and have a look but the tomatoes are for the children!

**Juniors:** We are trying out a new lunchtime system which is more flexible for the children in terms of seating and timings. Please ask them how they think it's going so we can have a conversation with their class councillors and tweak it as necessary.

### Life skills

As part of the enrichment programme for year 5 and 6 this term, we have decided to provide opportunities for children to learn key practical skills via an enjoyable and interactive series of learning sessions. We have called it Kids University and it was borne out of interviews with pupils in the Summer Term about what could be changed for the new academic year.

The life skills are taught in groups of no more than 9 pupils with a member of staff and occur as part of the weekly Monday afternoon sessions. The programme for the whole year covers 32 skills and each half term we will decide on a new group of skills to teach, following appropriate health and safety guidelines. This half term, we will be covering the following skills:

- Sew on a button
- Make a hem or mend a tear in material
- How to read washing labels, prepare and sort items for laundry and use a washing machine
- How to hand-wash an item of clothing (socks/t-shirt)
- How to peg and fold laundry as well as iron a piece of clothing safely
- How to clean and dress a wound and make a basic sling for emergency use.

As you can see, there is a real opportunity for parents to get involved and provide additional opportunities for children to practice and master these skills further!

## September 2010

We would welcome any spare buttons. We would also be delighted to hear from you if your child has demonstrated the skill at home too! If there are any comments, queries, or offers of help please contact Mrs Warren (Inclusion Manager) via the school office.

Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Harvest (tins in sell by date etc to school in the morning)
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Parents eve ,early Juniors / late Infants
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Photographs of children (from 8:45 at the Church centre for family or sibling photographs. You will need to bring them to school afterwards) Parents eve, early Infants / late Juniors
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	INSET day
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Half term
1 <sup>st</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Y6 to Fairthorne Manor
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Friends Against Bullying Week
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	INSET day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Children in Need
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Christmas Fair (provisional)
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Infant Guildhall Concert TBC
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas production Juniors 2.45pm & 6.30pm
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas production Infants 2.45pm & 6.00pm
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Christmas holidays
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Pantomime

### Piano/Key Board

**Highfield Singing Club** – This will move to a **Tuesday** after-school – open to everyone in Years 3-6. More details soon.

**Highfield Keyboard Club** – runs during the school day. Places will be available to last year's students plus new starters once the availability of the music room is clarified. For details of Mrs Hasting's after-school keyboard club (Thursdays) contact her direct on m:07989 381948 e:thehastings@ntlworld.com.

### Spanish Club

We currently have a successful lunchtime Spanish club in the school run in cooperation with El Club Español. The club is for children aged 7 - 11 and runs every Monday from 12.20pm to 1.00pm. It is a fun club where children learn Spanish through activities they enjoy, such as games and songs. It will start on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September and run for 10 weeks. If you would like your child to join, to come for a visit, or simply wish to find out more, please contact Elysabeth Sheppard on (01962) 882655.

### Celebrations

Well done to Karita who passed her times tables test at the end of last term.