

Goodbye to Anna

We say goodbye next week to a teacher who has been instrumental in moving the school on over the last 2 years. Anna Kendall joined us as an NQT nearly two years ago and has worked with fantastic energy and commitment to create a hugely successful learning context for the children in her class. She has been a much valued team member who has contributed a great deal to the school's development.

Anna – we will miss you very much but wish you all good things for your new future!

Daft games, mud and footie

For all those who are out on a limb on a Sunday, or simply fancy having a giggle, why not come down and get stuck into some games on the playing fields down by the river?

Myself and several other dads, mums and children, have been meeting to play a variety of daft running about and falling over a lot type games...and it's been tremendous fun! The children love it and it gives you a cracking appetite for lunch and a pint.

We've been playing British Bulldog, Dodge ball, Stuck-in-the-mud and a type of hopeless football (except Alfie, who's pretty good).

We meet up by the skateboard park behind Tesco's at around 10am and play for anything from 1-2 hours. If it's piddling down, we'll abandon, but so far this year it's been great. Absolutely anyone's welcome, friends and strays. Just bring yourself and a drink...it'll be great to see you.

Cheers
Dave (*Japhy*) 07917 275795

Concert

On Monday at 2.30
Pedja has organised for all his piano students to perform in the hall to the whole school.

Please come along and enjoy the products of their hard work.

TO FESSIE,

I hope it is pizza
or pasta. Kes I ~~am~~
amry he is an amazing
m shes. I love emy
mele he makes aspleshly
pizza, and pasta,
and soup they are amazing.

Yesterday I went on the
computer on a website called
Rabit - tooth. Ruben (Class 2)

Posh Jam

From not-so-posh indie pop choirs *Jam Tarts* and *Wham Jam Thank You Ma'am* comes *Posh Jam*.

Singing workshops for adult music-reading warblers of any level who fancy singing lah-di-dah posh choral stuff. Next workshop: Sunday 27th April, 10-5.
Lewes New School - £30/25 conc.

For details, to book or for info phone
Li Mills on 601123
or email limills68@hotmail.com

Next Monday's Lunch Menu

Weblinks...

The NUT come round to our approach...at last!

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/teachersworkload/story/0,,2267748,00.html>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Next Week

Mon 31	2.30 - Concert with Pedja
Tue 1 Apr	End of Term

Monday 21 Apr New term begins
Friday 9 May OPEN DAY

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28 March 2008
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From the earliest days in this job I've found myself re-evaluating what exactly *is* new about our school. Having been a teacher since the mid eighties, I know that a good deal of what we hold dear has indeed been done before. Any of the delegates at this week's NUT conference proposing that we 'return to the fantastic work (of) the 1980s which saw children flourishing' (see Weblinks for Guardian article) will tell you that projects such as Class 4's play and exhibition; the go-cart making and other skills workshops or Class 1's wonderful shoe box castle would have been typical of the kind of projects that characterised learning in many schools at that time.

Teachers have certainly enjoyed a freedom in the past to work creatively and to develop the skill to engage children with activities that provide opportunities to do things for real and with clear purpose. Whilst many teachers still intuitively know these values to be important, it has become increasingly difficult to practise them in schools today. Government interventions imposed over the last 20 years have led many schools to introduce overly mechanistic and crude systems which have resulted in widespread disaffection amongst teachers and children and significant loss of interest in, and knowledge about, the process of learning.

But without my tinted spectacles I know that the 80s weren't all rosy and rather than return to a bygone era, my vote is to look forward in the belief that the best is yet to come. There is great educational practice from the past to hold on to, but at the same time we need to know that our happy children are also acquiring the skills and understandings that will bring life long success and fulfilment. In our recent meetings to inform parents about how we plan, assess and monitor the children's learning, it was clear to me that probably the most important new work for our new school is the continued refinement of the systems that will bring true rigour and scrutiny to all that we do.

Lizzie