

Early drops

The prompt delivery of children to the leisure centre on Tuesdays has been very much appreciated and has meant that we have started all swimming sessions on time.

Please remember, however, that teachers arrive at the pool at 8.45 before which time children should not be left unattended.

Support for Patina

Class 4 will be marching on to secondary school soon and celebrate the transition with the PATINA moving-on parade. To help cover the cost of the event a Bring'n'Buy sale is being organised for Friday, June 6 to raise funds. As it's after the half term holiday it provides a chance for some therapeutic space clearing!

Donations of toys, books, CDs, clothes, etc. can be left in the Quiet Room - marked as 'Bring'n'Buy' items. We need a few Class 4 parents/children to help with setting up, selling and clearing on the day. We will also be running a cake stall and need bakers and sellers. Any money over our target of £200 will go to the school. Unsold items will be donated to a local charity, The Gambia Reality, which raises funds for nursery schools in Gambia.

Sharna (*Serena, Class 4*)

Slip, slap...

In anticipation of more sunny days, please equip your children with hats and cream to protect them from the midday rays.

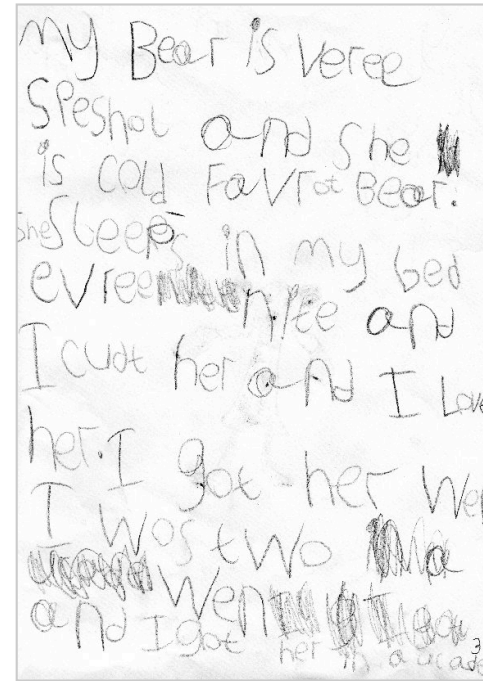
If you discover that you have more hats than you need we'd be happy to take them off your hands for our box of spares!

Support for Year 6

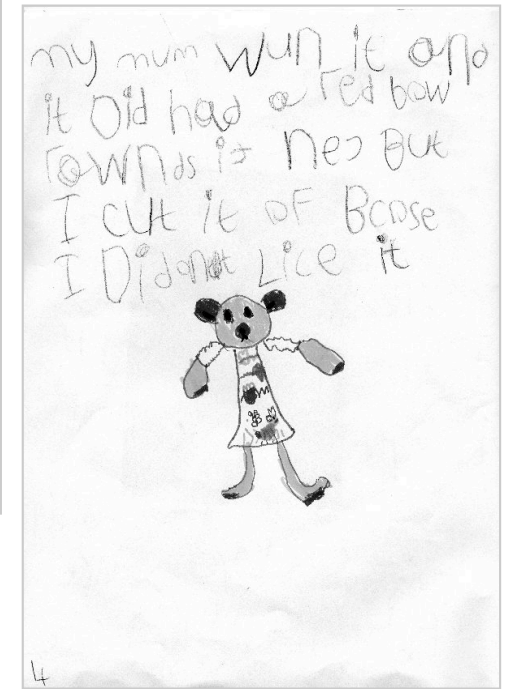
Would you be interested in joining a small discussion group to look at how we can best prepare our Year 6 children each year for their transition to secondary school?

The plan is for this group to meet soon after the half term holiday.

Please let Cath or Lizzie know.



Martha (Class 1)



Open Day

Many thanks to all who made last Friday's Open Day such a success. The development team met this week to de-brief and to set a date for a re-run in June.

If you would like to come on board and help we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Gian (*Molly and Isla*).

Jump to it

We have noticed an increased number of itchy heads in the last week or two.

Please keep your nit combs at the ready and remember that weekly checks seem to be the only way of preventing the head hopping.

Next Week's Lunch Menu

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| Monday (Dana) | DIY Pasta with salad | Carrot Cake |
| Wednesday (Dana) | Giant Cornish pastie | Chocolate mousse & fruit |
| Friday | Veg and cheese filo parcel | Raisin & oatmeal cookies |

Weblinks...

Something a little different this week. Neil (*Will*) put us onto some amazing "free to download" software called Sketchup.

Go to <http://sketchup.google.com> and get sketching in 3-D.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Next Week

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| Tue 20 | AM - Class 1 on Teddy Bears Picnic |
| Wed 21 | Parents Summer Fair meeting in Quiet Room 9.30 Mr Stratton here to talk to Yr 6's who are going to Priory |
| Thu 22 | 2pm May Festival and Tea |

Mon 26 - Fri 30 Half term

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| Mon 2 June | Jessie on First Aid Course, Lizzie covering |
| Fri 6 June | Patina Bring and Buy Sale |
| Fri 11 July | Patina Parade |
| Tue 15 July | Leavers' Performance |

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As part of our recruitment process I visited two schools this week where our shortlisted teachers are currently working. Both teachers were managing classes of about 30 kids in schools attempting to meet the needs of about 300. As I observed the teaching and learning I tried to remember how I had worked for so many years with such large groups of children. It made me realise how accustomed I have become, in a relatively short period of time, to what most teachers in this country would regard as the enormous advantage of working with a small group within a small school community.

As I was leaving one of the schools, the headteacher stopped to tell me how inspired she'd been by what she had seen on our website. Encouraged by her request to visit the school I told her of our plans to host an educational event in the Autumn where there would be opportunities to share ideas about child led learning (an idea hatched just the night before at the development team meeting!). We talked briefly about the constraints that schools like hers struggle with, and she was encouraged by the idea of our school working to develop an alternative model.

I, like many teachers, entered the world of education with a vocation to improve the lives of children who experience disadvantage or deprivation. I loved the buzz of working in Hackney and Nottingham where schools provided a wealth of experience that our own children are thankfully able to take for granted. I know my younger self would have struggled with the politics of working in an independent school providing for children whose lives are already rich and full of advantage. When good teachers choose to work in areas of deprivation it undoubtedly makes a difference. But what, in my older age, I am now aware of, is that when young teachers come to a school like ours the bounty of their hard work has the potential to go much further.

Lizzie