

Lunch Menu

Monday	Creamy autumn veggie bake with green salad	Super seedy coconut bars
Wednesday	Class 3's you choose meal	
	Cheese and onion pasties with baked beans	Apple crumble with custard
Friday	SCHOOL CLOSED	

We are really delighted to welcome back Stefan as our accompanist for singing assembly on Fridays

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 23rd Break up for half term

***Mums' Cocktail Night tonight.
Meet at Buddha Belly in Fisher St at 8pm***

Mon 2	3.30 Pottery club starts
Tues 3	NO SWIMMING!
Wed 4	3.15 Yoga class
Thur 5	School closes at 3.30*
Fri 6	School closed for staff inset day

Nov
Weds 25th 10am Open Morning

Dec
Sat 5th Winter Fair

****Remember, remember that on the 5th of November many roads in Lewes will be closed from 4pm***

FRIDAY
23 Oct 2009
FRIDAY

Well here goes my very first Friday letter! This half term has of course been full of firsts for me. My first day at the Lewes New School, my first quiet time, my first slice of Alex's lemon drizzle cake... I could go on. One of the biggest and most exciting 'firsts' for me, though, has been my journeying into what could be described as an 'emergent' curriculum.

Up until now, my role as teacher has involved to varying degrees deciding and 'planning' in advance the curriculum for children. However, at the Lewes New School the children do a lot of what used to be my job – rather than the stimulus for new topics or projects coming from the teacher, the children's interests initiate and guide learning as we go. This, apart from meaning less paper work for me, means in turn they are - perhaps ironically - more motivated and engaged (what Stephanie might call a 'win-win' I think). This makes things more exciting for everyone, as no one knows where things are going to end up – there is genuinely no predetermined product or outcome in mind at the start of a project. Instead of practically dancing on my head to engage children in handpicked topics, I am now in a position to offer children the freedom to follow their natural curiosity and discover the world for themselves.

It was interesting to me to hear the topic of 'pupil voice' being raised in snippets of conversations at last Friday's conference. Whilst this is not an unfamiliar subject to me and even though I have only been here a matter of weeks, it seemed rather strange to me to hear familiar conversations replayed. Here of course the children's voice is so embedded in what we do, we do not give it a special name or have separate discussions about how we can involve them, almost as an afterthought.

For me, it's the trust expressed here in children that makes this such a special school; trust that they will be naturally curious about the world in which we live; trust that they can ask their own questions and trust that they will have their own ideas about how to communicate their discoveries. I am looking forward to my next adventures in Class 2 as I wait to see where they will lead me!

Clare (Teacher, Class 2)

Net.....

On Wednesday this week some of class 3 took part in a netball tournament for local primary schools at Southover School. We had a great afternoon and felt very welcomed, with the children coming a very credible fifth out of eight teams! The atmosphere was both enthusiastic and very friendly with the umpire giving helpful coaching tips throughout the games. Well done to all who took part for their fantastic netball and, most importantly, for the encouragement and support they showed each other, Faustina

.....Ball?

With all the teachers settling in to new roles this term it hasn't felt appropriate to launch into a special mid-winter performance project in the way that we have in recent years. Instead we are planning a relatively low-key, candle-lit carol concert for all to enjoy in the last week of term (date to be confirmed very soon). However, because the end of the Autumn term just wouldn't be the same without a bit of a show we'd like to give the children something of a treat. The teachers will be taking the principal roles in a version of Cinderella and will need support from parents – in all areas – acting; singing; playing in the 'pop' band; making costumes; applying the greasepaint – everything to make it an hilarious show for the children – our own pantomime! Let Matthew, Cath or Mandi know what **you** can do – but let's try and keep mum!

Amplifade

After years of service at the school, Matthew's amplifier in the hall is sadly beginning to fade away. If you are able to repair such things or could donate a suitable replacement he'd be most appreciative!

Lizzie has already mentioned the great benefits for your child(ren) of learning to touch type and I would like to reinforce this - especially for the children in Class 3. It is such a useful life skill and something the children would really love to be able to apply to their on-going projects.

There are now practical resources available online such as:

**www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/
www.typeonline.co.uk/lesson1.html**

Why not have a go over half term and let us know how it goes!

Anne-Marie

.....working

Since its inception LNS has had an ambition to play its part in a wider debate about what makes good education for all our children.

Last Friday saw the first of what we hope to be many 'New School Thinking' conferences where teachers, head teachers, academics and parents have opportunities to come together from around the country to discuss how best to create successful models of curiosity led primary education.

The day was sympathetically chaired by Professor Ivor Goodson a newfound friend and ally with enormous experience in the world of education. Bill Lucas, our key speaker, kicked off the discussions with an inspiring romp through many of the important ideas that have been written about in recent years. In the afternoon Jeremy Stockwell facilitated a session, which certainly kept us awake and thinking despite the overeating of Alex's wonderful food at lunchtime.

But it was undoubtedly the parents and staff of this small community who were the real stars. Together they pulled off this inaugural event with wholehearted grace and huge success. Big thanks to one and all and a reminder that if you'd like to get on board you can join the debate at www.newschoo thinking.com.

Our next big 'New School Thinking' event will be when Richard Pring (Professor of Education at Oxford University and Chair of the recent Nuffield Review) visits the school in November. We are really excited that the process that took us through to the conference brought us into contact with so many of the influential thinkers in the field and that they are inspired to visit us to see the work that we are doing.

And, on Tuesday, to continue our boundary pushing, Lizzie will be representing the school at the RSA's 'Opening Minds' conference [www.thersa.org/projects/education]

This year the school is in receipt of a discounted subscription for two issues each week of the TES (Times Educational Supplement). One copy will always be kept in the Quiet room and all members of the community are welcome to pop in and read it .