

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 13

13th January 2011

Dear Parents

Happy new year to you all and I do hope you had a wonderful holiday. After a month it was lovely to return to normality and see the children again. Let us hope we all stay fit and well and avoid the dreaded bugs!

I would like to welcome Millie, Jemima and their families to Dunannie and hope they all settle quickly into new routines and will be very happy here. I would also like to welcome Dot Lyon to the staff who is in Year 2 working with Jacqui. Unfortunately Georgina broke her ankle last week and so until she returns Melissa Canter, Christina's daughter, has taken over her role. We were so lucky to have somebody to step in to the breach so quickly. We all wish Georgina a speedy recovery and I am sure we will see her soon. Debbie Adamson-Brattland has joined the School to teach music and the lessons I have heard this week have been full of fun, and tuneful melodies and action!

Another welcome to Wendy Rogers, whom many of you know, who is covering for Marian whilst she is in New Zealand for her son's wedding.

Well done to Year 2 and 3 children who have been so sensible in going to their classrooms and sorting out their possessions independently. This quiet and settled start to the day means that lessons start promptly and the children are more focussed and attentive. Please can I ask that all children arrive on time at school each day? Thank you.

The safety of our children is at all times of paramount importance and so I ask that you park considerately and safely in the car park in the designated parking areas.

Our 2011 calendar is almost complete and should be with you by Friday 14 January.

As you know the School has a strong link with the Mbalenhle Primary School in Swaziland and each year a group of children travel there to help the local community improve school facilities. Much has been done already and the latest project is their Library. We would like to try and fill a container with books that will be shipped out shortly, so if you have any children's books that you can spare, please put them in the box provided in the entrance hall.






With best wishes

J



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REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

-  Clubs and Date List: The revised versions are attached to this letter.
-  Year 3: Please bring in musical instruments for orchestra on a Wednesday.
-  Reception: Please can all children bring shorts in on Thursdays and Fridays.
-  Childtalk: Surviving the Early Years (which was cancelled last term) has now been rescheduled with Mandy Hopkins for Friday 28th January at 2.30 – 3.20 in the Library. Do please come along – I am sure it will be very informative.
-  Playball Sessions: As advised there will be a demonstration tomorrow, Friday 14th January at 2.45pm. Sessions for this term will start on Monday 24th January.



Congratulations to the following children for their hard work in Mathletics over the holidays

Ernie (1 bronze)
Lola (1 bronze)
James (3 bronze & 1
silver)

Tiger (2 bronze)
Charlie (2 bronze)
Theo (1 silver)
Florence (1 bronze)

Mabel (1 bronze)
Charlie (2 bronze)
Felicity (1 bronze)
Andrew (1 silver)

Well done
David

SCIENCE CHALLENGE

This week's challenge fooled a few people but as expected I

received some wonderful answers. Several children said that as the sun and rain were not present in the picture, a rainbow would not appear (Ernie, Molly, Giselle, Leela, Felicity and Anne). Charlie and Nela queried why the rainbow ended in the water.

However, many children noticed the incorrect sequence of colours in the rainbow. A rainbow spectrum is always in the same order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Well done to Max, Talullah, Molly, Millie, Evie, Felicity and Anne.

Challenge club

On a Tuesday after school I am running a Challenge club in my room. Each week the children will be presented with a different activity to engage their creativity and thinking skills. Generally each week will begin with a lateral thinking problem such as the following:-

There was an old man who lived by himself. He felt tired so he went into the bathroom, went to the toilet and then turned the light off before going to bed. The next morning there was a news flash on the radio that a boat crashed. The man opened the window and jumped out. Why?

Usually the children will think of a whole range of answers.

Some weeks the children may have to solve a Rebus problem such as...



The main activity can involve any of the following:

- 1) Art and craft – mazes, painting and drawing pictures, model making
- 2) Mathematics – number puzzles, logic problems
- 3) English – word puzzles, brain teasers
- 4) Use of ICT – puzzles on the computer, using voice recording equipment
- 5) Physical activities – drama, problem solving in groups
- 6) Board games and logical thinking games

I would welcome warmly any other children interested in joining the club and am sure that they will have an exciting experience.

Best wishes

David

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Nursery



Enjoying the outdoors

Great Pedalling!



Sharing a ride

Reception



Building castles in the sand!



Hard at work making plans on clipboards outside

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Year 1



“It is very dark in our dark den. It got hot when we all got inside. We have had fun exploring with torches.”



“On Tuesday, Bridget helped us plant Broccoli Sprouts. We are watering them every day except for one tray. We have put them all on the windowsill except for one tray which is in the dark cupboard. We think we know which ones will grow best. What do you think?”

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Year 2



PE time in Year 2



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Year 3



Year 3 practising different balancing positions