



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

May 2011

I hope you are enjoying the lovely weather we have had so far in May. Please remember to send in sun cream and hats with names on if you haven't already.



The dates have now been arranged for the next academic year and there is a cut off slip at the bottom of this newsletter with all the new dates for you to keep.

You will see from the dates it will be very busy in the last week of term. I have had to juggle the events and leavers Assembly as I will not be able to be in school on Friday 22nd July as that is the day of my son's Graduation in Norwich. I obviously feel very torn as I want to be in Norwich but there will also be leavers on both Secondary and Primary Campuses plus this will also be Sara's last working day before she retires. I have therefore had to make some very hard decisions which I hope you will all understand. There will be BBQ, Sports Day and Leavers Assembly on Secondary Campus and Sports Day and Leavers Assembly on Primary Campus. The times and dates are later on in the newsletter and more details will follow.

Vouchers



We are collecting Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers on both Campuses and these will soon be coming to an end. Please send any vouchers you have collected to school as soon as possible as these all need to be counted and sent off soon. Please send in Tesco vouchers by Tuesday 7th June. Unfortunately, every year we have vouchers returned to school too late to be added to our total so please send all your collected vouchers after half term. Many thanks for your continued help as the items we are able to purchase really help our budgets go further.

Learning Resource Centre

We have just started to use the new Learning Resource Centre on the Secondary Campus. It has been very well received by students and staff alike. Joan, the librarian has worked hard organising the move of books etc from the old library and I know it will be an invaluable part of the Secondary Campus. We hope to have an 'official' opening of this wonderful resource in the near future.

Fund Raising

Red Nose Day



We raised £579.41 on both Primary and Secondary Campuses. This is a wonderful amount of money and includes £205.50 raised by Chris Brisland on Secondary Campus by having his leg waxed! Well done Chris. Thank you to everyone who contributed such a tremendous amount.

'Phil the Bag'

Following the very successful collection of unwanted clothes and linen on Primary Campus earlier in the year we will be collecting again. The date for the Secondary Campus is still to be confirmed but the date for the Primary Campus is Friday 17 June. Please start collecting but **do not send into school** until the week beginning 13th June. More details and the bags will be sent home soon.



Changing Places



Suffolk Coastal have recently opened a 'Changing Place' facility in the new public toilets located on Cobbold Road, within the Crescent Road car park in Felixstowe.

The Changing Places facility is available to be used by people who are in receipt of the top rate Disability Living Allowance (care and/or mobility) who require assistance of a carer to use the toilet or to have their continence pad changed. There is a hoist, changing bench and extra space to accommodate people with profound and complex disabilities and needs. To apply for a key contact Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill in Woodbridge Telephone 01394 444000. To find other such facilities around the country please see www.changing-places.org or the link from the links page on the school website.

History of Food

Just before Easter we had a street party on Primary Campus great fun was had by all.



School Uniform



If you wish to order school uniform please either print an order form from the school website or request one from the school office. Teresa will be sending the next order off on Thursday 26th May. She is in the process of arranging with the company that provide the uniform for you to order and pay online if you wish. More details will be sent out when this is up and running.

Lisa Burl – Music Coordinator Primary Campus

"Our two week practice-a-thon and CLIC day on Friday 6th May was a great success. The pupils on Primary Campus experienced Belly dancing, some modern dancing and a wonderful workshop linked to our Science topic 'Plants' amongst other things. On CLIC day itself, there was always somebody dancing from 9am until 3pm. During the afternoon, the whole school went onto the field to take part in more dancing and to try purple food (the colour that represents CLIC Sargent).

CLIC support children and Young people with cancer. The whole experience was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to those that have sent in sponsor money. If there are any outstanding sponsor forms and money, please could you send it in asap. The total fundraising amount will be published in our next newsletter."



Jacqui Davies

Jacqui has just completed her first course of chemotherapy is feeling very tired but very positive. She is due to start the next course early in June. We wish her well and hope to see her back in school as soon as she is able to.

Parents Group



Unfortunately we have had to postpone the 'Sing Up to 10.00 am on Tuesday 7th June on Primary Campus. Sorry for the change of date. We hope to set up some additional dates for Parents Group in the near future. We have however, had an invite from Thomas Wolsey for you to join their Parents/Carer's Information Mornings. A copy of their list is attached. If you wish to attend please return the reply slips to Thomas Wolsey School, Defoe Road Ipswich.

Curriculum Development Group

The Curriculum Development Group on the Secondary Campus has devised a new approach to the curriculum at KS3 and KS4. The new approach is being piloted this term and means the students are based in their pastoral class for Communication and PSHE each day and then move out to subject specialists for other subjects.

Initial feedback from staff and students seems to be positive and all the lessons that are learnt this term will help us to improve what we plan for the next academic year.

It has taken some time to come up with the best model and I am hopeful that we can have a settled approach in place throughout the next academic year.

Wrong Trousers Day

On Friday 24th June Primary Campus will be taking part in Wallis and Gromit's Children's Foundation which supports sick children in hospitals and hospices across the UK by donating £1. All money will go towards supporting local sick children and their families. Staff and children wear their trousers inside out, pyjamas, shorts anything goes!



Dates for your Diary

27th May Break up for Half Term

6th June – Staff Training Day

7th June – Pupils return to school - both Campuses

7th June - Sing a long – 10.00 Primary Campus

13th - 17th June – Phil the bag- Primary Campus

6th July – Parents Evening - both Campuses

19th July – 1.00 pm Secondary Leavers BBQ

20th July – 10.00 am Sports Day Primary Campus

21st July – 10.00 am Leavers Assembly Secondary Campus

21st July – pm (time to be decided) Leavers Assembly Primary Campus

22nd July – Last Day of Term

5th & 6th September – Staff Training Days

7th September – Pupils return to school

And Finally.....

As mentioned earlier Sara Pells, Campus Director of the Primary Campus will be retiring at the end of July. Sara has been at Heathside and now The Bridge School for 33 years starting as a Teaching Assistant before she went away to train to be a teacher. After being a Class Teacher for several years she was then promoted to Senior Teacher and then Deputy Headteacher. Some of you who have older pupils will also remember that just prior to my appointment she was acting Headteacher for a while. It is with great sadness that Sara leaves us but we all wish her well in her retirement. More details will be in the next newsletter about how we are marking Sara's retirement.

We have now interviewed and appointed a new Campus Director, Simon Black who will start in September 2011. Simon has many qualities and skills gained from working for several years with pupils with Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties in Norfolk. I am sure you will all help Simon settle into his new position and he will be keen to meet parents and carers on Primary Campus when he starts in September.

Please cut and save for next academic year

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The Bridge School

Term Dates 2011/2012

Autumn Term

**Wednesday 7 September to Friday 16 December 2011
(Half term week commencing 24 October 2011)**

Spring Term

**Wednesday 4 January to Friday 30 March 2012
(Half Term week commencing 13 February 2012)**

Summer Term

**Tuesday 17 April 2012 to Friday 20 July 2012
(Half Term week commencing 4 June 2012)
Bank Holiday Monday 5 & 6 June 2012**



Staff Training Days

5 September 2011

6 September 2011

3 January 2012

16 April 2012

23 July 2012