

# HEATHSIDE NEWS

APRIL 2010

## PARENTS GROUP

At the moment I have not organised any "speakers" for the Parents Group this term.

Attendance was a bit lower than previously last term and due to other commitments I was unable to attend all of the sessions.

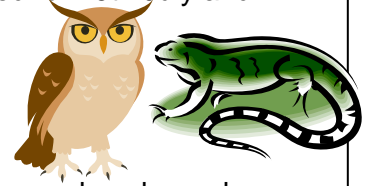
So, I'm not sure what you as parents and carers might want. If you have some ideas for topics or issues to be covered please let me know and I will see what I can organise.

If you feel a repeat of previous sessions would be useful I can look into that. Also, I am happy to just organise "informal" sessions if that is what you would like but **please let me know.**



## TOPICS THIS TERM

The children and staff are having an action packed term, covering lots of different aspects of the curriculum. The main topic for the term is "Animals and Movement" and there will be lots of different animals visiting the school during the term including; ponies, some agility dogs, birds of prey and various reptiles. The children will get the chance to observe the animals up close and to handle them in some cases. A whole school visit to Banham Zoo is planned for 19th July and further details will be coming home soon about this. We may be returning to school a bit later than usual but will let you know what the implications are for transport home once we have worked everything out.



Further trips, by individual classes, to farms and pet shops are also planned. The curriculum focus in History this term will be on toys and the children will look at, compare and play with old and modern toys. If you have any old toys that you would be happy to share with us please let me know. We promise to look after them!

Later in the term we will get caught up in World Cup fever and use it as the focus for our multi-cultural week's activities. Each class will choose a country that is participating in the World Cup to find out more about.

All in all, a busy term with lots of fun and exciting learning experiences.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

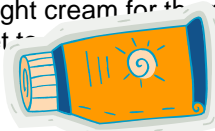
The After School Club has been running successfully for four years now and around 18 different children make use of it, with between 5 and 7 attending each evening. The children have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities, play outside, use the computer, watch DVDs, look at books or just chill and relax. Amy, the Playleader, Michelle and Jasmine are settled in now and know the children well.

Quite a few children who currently attend will be leaving in July so we will have places available most nights. If you are interested in your child attending we can arrange a free trial session so please contact Amy at the school number or on: 07956 648536. More information is available on our website: [www.heathside.school.com](http://www.heathside.school.com)

## SUMMER PRECAUTIONS

After a long, cold winter it's nice that some sunny weather has arrived. It may not quite be summer yet but don't forget to send in hats and sun creams for your child to use on sunny days during breaks and playtimes.

The staff are happy to apply sun creams but please put your child's name on the bottle or tube so we can ensure we use the right cream for the right child. Don't forget to send in a hat on the



## SPORTS DAY

I am pleased to let you know that we are intending to hold our Fun Sports Day on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00 a.m., weather permitting.

The morning will be the usual assortment of races and a host of sensory and fun events that everyone can take part in. We will of course also ensure there are some activities for parents, brothers/sisters etc. to take part in too!! Make a note of the date in your diary and a reply slip will come with a reminder a bit nearer the date.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are not intending to take any more orders for school uniform at the moment while we sort out arrangements for a new logo which we can use to represent our new name, The Bridge School.

The colours of the uniform will remain the same and there will be no pressure on anyone to have the "new" uniform with the new logo on it.

We are discussing with the suppliers the possibility of having some "logo patches" created that can be sewn, or ironed, on to existing uniform for those people who would like to have the new logo but don't wish to, or need to, purchase replacement items of school uniform.

As soon as we have the logo sorted out we can get on with the changes to the school uniform and we will let you know what is happening as soon as we can.

### *The Bridge School*

It is going to be a very busy term as we gear up for the merger with Belstead School and become The Bridge School in September.

I am keen to keep parents and carers fully involved and informed about developments and to achieve this will be organising some meetings later this term where I can provide information, answer any questions and provide reassurance if this is necessary. I will organise a day time and evening meeting so that everyone who wants to is able to attend. I will send details of the proposed dates out soon.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to call me.

Coming together to become one school is a really exciting opportunity to provide continuity and consistency in the learning opportunities we offer the children whilst retaining a sense of moving on



### *PARENTS EVENING*

Our termly parents evening will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

This is an opportunity to meet with the staff who work with your child and to get an update on progress or discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

A separate letter will be coming home after half-term asking if you are able to attend.



If your child has an annual review of their Statement in June then you may feel there is no need to meet with the class teacher again, but it is ok if you want to.

Hopefully, all the details of class and staffing arrangements for September will have been sorted by then and if possible the Parents Evening may be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher if they are moving to a new class.

There will also be a representative from Speaking Up – Young Voices Advocacy Service at the parents evening. This is a free, independent advocacy service for children and young people with additional needs. Pop into the Resource Room and have a chat with them to find out more about Speaking Up.

### *Diary Dates*

- 10<sup>th</sup> May Staff Training Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> July Parents Evening
- 15<sup>th</sup> July Fun Sports Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> July Whole School Trip to Banham Zoo
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July Leaver's assembly & End of term
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September Staff Training Days



**3<sup>rd</sup> September children return to school**

### *Happy Holidays?*

If you are looking for ideas to keep your child happy during the holidays why not check out

[www.noveltywarehouse.com](http://www.noveltywarehouse.com). The website has a rich variety of inexpensive sensory, play and tactile toys that will appeal to most children.

The situation regarding the Holiday Club at May half-term, and also during the Summer holidays, is still unclear.

We have had to call into question our agreement with Crossroads to provide the staff for the Holiday Club because they have made unreasonable, unplanned and excessive demands for additional funding which the Holiday Club cannot afford to pay. I will be meeting with representatives from Crossroads and Suffolk County Council on 6<sup>th</sup> May to see if a solution can be found.

If we are unable to continue our relationship with Crossroads then I will be working hard to find another partner organisation to work with, or will look to see whether we can employ staff through the school. Whatever happens, please be assured that I will be doing everything I can to have the Holiday Club up and running during the Summer break.



### *Free Cinema Pass*

A scheme exists whereby a person with a disability can apply for a card which will give free entry for one person accompanying them to the cinema.

There is a £5.50 processing fee for the card and an application form can be obtained from local cinemas (Cineworld) or from this website: [http://www.ceacard.co.uk/downloads/ceacard\\_application\\_form.pdf](http://www.ceacard.co.uk/downloads/ceacard_application_form.pdf)