



Friars Primary Foundation School



Newsletter - Volume 9 No.23 Friday 11th March 2016

Dear Parents,

Benchball

Yesterday, year 4 represented Friars at a Benchball tournament at the City of London Academy (COLA). 6 schools took part. Each of our 3 teams played 3 games each. All teams won 2 and lost 1 meaning each Friars team came 2nd in their league. Our "A" team made it to the finals and came 4th overall. Well done to all the children and particularly Gabi, Toluwani and Tyler who were awarded "man" of each team by the organisers.

Parent coffee morning / school house presentation

Next Friday (March 18th) from 9:00 – 9:30 we will be hosting our second coffee morning for this half term. At this meeting parents will have a chance to see the plans we have for developing our school house (subject to getting planning permission from Southwark Council) and meet the architect and developer working with us and Governors who have been involved in the project. We are proposing the redevelopment of the existing caretaker's house to provide additional facilities for the school including classrooms, an ICT suite, informal teaching areas, meeting rooms and offices and changing/showering facilities. These additional spaces will be flexible in their usage and provide much needed space for art, DT, science, music and dance provision. As we only have one hall there are always timetabling issues for such provision. Also it will enable meetings to be held more privately. In order to pay for these additional facilities, 8 residential flats are to be constructed above the new facilities and we have partnered with Hambridge homes, a developer to take this work on. We have an excellent team of architects, project managers and lawyers working on our behalf whose role is to maximise the benefit to the school and to protect our assets.

In addition to the construction of the new facilities for the school, the project will enable a number of school improvement projects to enhance the environment of the school and the educational achievement and wellbeing of our children. These projects will include:

- Extensive reconfiguration of the school's reception area and administration offices to improve safety, security and communication.
- Significant investment and upgrading of the school's IT infrastructure including tablet access for all pupils
- Wide ranging creation of music facilities, purchase of instruments and provision of tuition
- Substantial improvements, refurbishments and rebuilding of the main school play areas.

Parent questionnaire:

At parent consultations this week we handed out copies of our annual parent questionnaire. It is also available to print from the letters section of our website. The deadline for return will be Tuesday 22nd March after which results will be analysed and findings shared with staff, Governors and parents. We look forward to receiving your views. If you would like to complete the questionnaire but are not able to print one from the website or were not given one at parent consultations, please ask for one in the reception area of the school.

RE focus days:

We will introduce our first RE focus day next Tuesday. Across the school year the six major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism) will be covered on specific days. Next week, the whole school will be focussing on **Sikhism** with each class learning about a different aspect of the religion. Those aspects are: EYFS – Names; Y1 – Festivals; Y2 – Beliefs; Y3 – Places of worship and symbols; Y4 – Religious figures; Y5 – Artefacts; Y6 Stories. Also visitors from the Harley Grove Gurdwara will be taking assembly and Y3 will be visiting the Gurdwara in the afternoon.

Dates for the Spring and Summer term 2016:

Tuesday 15th March – whole school RE focus day (Sikhism)
Friday 18th March - **Parent coffee morning 9am**
Thursday 24th March – last day of Spring term. No Playcentre
Friday 25th March – Friday 8th April– Easter Holiday
Monday 11th April – INSET day
Tuesday 12th April – Summer term begins for children

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Have a great weekend!

Yours sincerely,

J. Burtt, Headteacher