

PILGRIMS POST

UP TO DATE NEWS FROM PILGRIMS PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ISSUE DATE: 24 APRIL, 2009

Welcome back for the summer term. The children all appear to have grown enormously over the Easter holidays! We have been incredibly fortunate with the weather this week and it is lovely to see the children in their summer uniforms. They are all enjoying the freedom of the field at playtime and lunchtime and it is wonderful to see so much outdoor learning going on during the school day. Please remember to send your child's school hat in every day to help protect them from the sun.

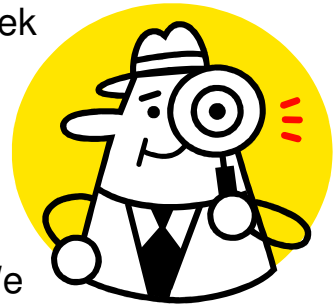


There has been some confusion with school shoes for the boys. Several of the boys are wearing Geox play sandals which they have bought from 'Angels and Urchins'. I understand that they have been specifically sold as shoes approved by Pilgrims but this is not correct. The only shoes I saw in 'Angels and Urchins' were the ones I was buying for Lottie. I have had a look online to try and find suitable styles to suggest. The three I have found are Startrite designs, Bonnie, Venture Scout or Cannon. The shoes must have closed toes for safety reasons. I have seen children take some nasty tumbles when they get the front sole of a sandal caught as they run and play. If you have bought girls' sandals please do make sure they are not open toe. I have spoken to the owner of 'Angels and Urchins' who has agreed to swap shoes bought from her if they are not



suitable for school. However, it is clear that this is a considerable number of children and I am all for encouraging local businesses not bankrupting them! Therefore I will allow children who have already purchased summer shoes to continue wearing the ones they have for the rest of this term. I will ensure that in future years I give suggested styles of shoes so that parents have a clearer idea of which shoes are appropriate.

The school inspection is planned for the week beginning the 8th June. Thank you to everyone who returned a parental questionnaire for the team. I have now had the overview of responses and I am delighted with your comments about the school. We



We know that we will almost certainly have an inspection of the Early Years Foundation Stage this term which includes all children up until the end of Reception. Parents of children in these years will receive a separate questionnaire as soon as we are told the dates of the inspection. We will only have five days notice of this inspection so when the questionnaires are sent out they will need to be returned immediately.

The summer term dates card should have reached you through child post this week. If it hasn't made it then please ask your child's key worker or class teacher for another copy. You will see that there is a lot planned for the term. Year 3 are off to Ironbridge next week for a residential trip as part of their Victorian topic. They are all looking forward to the visit and I am sure we will hear a lot about it on their return.

The first class assembly of the term is next week. The children in RKG are looking forward to performing and I hope to see as many of their parents as possible at the assembly.

On May 7th Year One will be visiting the Chiltern Open Air Museum as part of their Houses and Homes topic. They are also looking forward to a visit from a builder later this term who is going to show them how to lay bricks.

Also on May 7th we will be holding the first of our watersports afternoons.

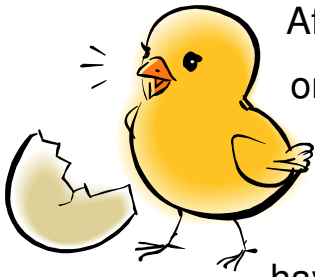


These are an ideal opportunity for parents to come and see the progress their children have made with their swimming over the past twelve months. A word of warning to new parents: you need to take your shoes off to be poolside and the swimming pool can get very hot!

I have spent today interviewing candidates for teaching positions in the autumn term. We need to replace Miss Edwards, who is jetting off to teach in the Caribbean. The candidates have been excellent and I will let you have full details of the new member of staff we have appointed as soon as we have confirmation.

Otto has now settled down a lot and I can open my office door once more. Please feel free to pop in and see me if you have anything to discuss. We also have two new additions in Little Pilgrims with the arrival of our guinea pigs Twinkle and Star. They are definitely the centre of attention at the moment.





After half term we will be having Living Eggs in school once more. We have the chicks once every two years and it is an incredible experience watching them hatch and grow. In the past we have found families in school who have been happy to home the chicks at the end of the fortnight. If you would like to offer this year's chicks a new home then please let me know. They will be in school at the beginning of June and ready to go by mid June.

We are currently revamping our school website to make it more user friendly and more informative. I am hoping the work will be finished before the end of the summer term. In the meantime please do check the site which is updated regularly with photographs of school events. There are also copies of some of the key school policies on the website.

This half term will finish with Grandparents' Afternoon. This was an exceptionally well attended event last year and I hope that we will have as many visitors again this year. The invitation is to all grandparents of children who are in nursery or older. Unfortunately only nursery children who are normally in on a Friday afternoon will be able to invite their grandparents. Further details of the afternoon will be sent out in a few weeks.

I hope that you enjoy the summer term and I look forward to meeting you at the various events.

Maxine Shaw
Headteacher