

Mandeville Primary School

Issue 2: 7th November 2011

Hawks News

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second Hawk's newsletter of this school year. There have been lots of exciting things happening over the last half term.

Firstly, thank you to all those parents who came to see the harvest festival before the half term break. The children put on an amazing performance and worked very hard to prepare for it. There will be some difficult choices when casting for the next class assembly!

It was also lovely to see lots of you at our Eid parties this week. It was lovely to hear about your celebrations and for you to come and celebrate with us.

The children have all been working very hard in the classroom and have produced some great work. I would also like to give a special mention to the following children who are putting fantastic effort into their school work. Well Done Blythe, Shane, Daniel, Hasnat, Robbie, Joesephina and Erin Jakeman. Keep up the hard work!

PE lessons are on **Monday** and **Friday** but PLEASE make sure your children have their PE kits in school everyday, including plimsolls or trainers. No earrings for PE please.

Homework is given out on Wednesday and must be back in school the **following Monday**. Please encourage your child to take pride in their work and take responsibility for doing their own homework, with your help where necessary. Any homework not handed in will be completed during break times. This is in preparation for secondary school when homework will be much tougher!

Spellings to be learned are given out on Wednesdays and will be tested the following Wednesday. It is SO important that these are learned and practised every day. Those pupils who do not achieve 60% or more will be tested again on Friday.

Times Tables All children now know what times table they are on and these should be being practiced at home as well as school. A good understanding of these is vital, especially when solving mental maths problems. Tests will be scattered throughout the week and these will remain the children's targets this half term.

Good attendance is VITAL. Every day off is a day's less learning. Please make sure your child is at school by 8.50am every day ready to learn with all the things they need for the day.

Breakfast Club is open from 8am to 8.50am every day (£1.50 per day). A healthy breakfast makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

In the next few weeks...

In **Maths** we will be learning about number and practicing our mental arithmetic skills.

Children's targets are focused on times tables and are up on the classroom door for you to look at.

In **Literacy** we will be finishing looking at stories set in the past and move on to looking at explanation texts.

This will include designing and explaining our own chocolate bar. Individual writing targets are now stuck in the front of your child's Literacy book, as discussed at parents evening and focus on punctuation, sentence construction and adding description.

Reading targets are laminated and inside your child's guided reading folders so feel free to ask to see these. We look at these each week in our guided reading sessions.

This half term, those of us in year 4 are lucky enough to be working on the topic:

“Chocolate”

During this unit we will be learning about science, geography, art, history, ICT, technology and international issues to do with chocolate. We will also be learning about PE, PSHE and RE alongside these other lessons.

Miss Eames says...

In Art we'll be:
creating our own packaging and marketing campaign for chocolate and finding out what is important to include in order to sell a product well.

In Geography we'll be:

Finding out where Cacao beans are found and the climate and other factors that affect their growth.

In ICT we'll be using the internet to research more about chocolate.

In History we'll be finding out about:
the importance of cacao beans for trade and who brought the first chocolate to Europe and when.

In Science we'll be looking at materials and how to keep warm.

In Technology we will be:
devising and making our own chocolate.

The children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking how well your child has learned through particular activities and by asking the children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

The interest you take in your child's work makes a real difference to their learning. Please talk about your child's work with them as the term goes on and let them teach you if they can. If your child has some work to research please help them – **but without actually doing it for them!**

In particular you may be able to discuss different types of chocolate you have at home. What ingredients are in it? What does the packaging look like? What is the packaging made out of? What is on the packaging?

Please feel welcome to come and have a look in our classroom whenever you like! If you have any free time and can help in the class we'd love to see you. I am always happy to answer any questions and help in any way!

Laura Eames