

# Newsletter - January 2012

A rather belated Happy New Year!! Although it all seems a long time ago now I do hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year celebrations and, together with all the staff at Long Sutton, I hope that 2012 is all that you hope for, for you and your family. This term is always a busy one with everyone working very hard to ensure the best outcomes for all the children. As always we value your support in this and appreciate the need to work together to provide the best education for your child. We have parents evenings very soon but if you have any concerns or queries at any time please don't hesitate to contact us.

## Healthy Eating

We are pleased to see more children eating, and enjoying, school lunches – it is not essential for your child to order a cooked meal every day – they can use the menu to select the meals they prefer, please ask Mrs Wythe in our office for a menu if you would like to see what is available. Children are still welcome to bring a packed lunch to school and I am always pleased to see so many of their boxes filled with a healthy, balanced meal. **Please ensure that Mrs Wythe knows exactly when your child is having lunch and if there are any changes to your normal arrangements. We have to order the school lunches by 9.30am and any changes after that can be very difficult to accommodate.**

It would also seem to be a good time to remind you of the following information should you wish to consider claiming free school meals.

*Your child is entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of:*

- ♦ *Income Support*
- ♦ *income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- ♦ *an income-related employment and support allowance*
- ♦ *support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- ♦ *Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs\**
- ♦ *the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit*

*\* Note: Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school lunches.*



Please speak to Mrs Wythe or Mrs Hill in the school office should you require more information. As always, any personal information you give us is confidential.

We are pleased to see children bringing healthy snacks and remembering to bring in a bottle of water to drink – even though we have drinking water available it is often useful for children to have their own bottle particularly as the weather becomes warmer.

## Headlice

As you know headlice are a recurring problem in every school so a regular reminder of the procedures to follow is, I feel, always useful. Please could I ask you to check your child's head regularly and treat them as soon as you find them. If you have tried using the 'conditioner and comb' method and are still having problems please talk to your local pharmacist as there are products available that deal with the problem but are kind to your child's hair and skin! If you find headlice on your child please treat before you return them to school and make sure the whole family is checked and treated too.

Thank you for your support in this, I don't think we'll ever be completely rid of them but together we may be able to reduce the problem. Remember to look at the 'Once a Week Take a Peek' website, [www.onceaweektakeapeek.com](http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com), for more information.



## School Clubs



The children have, recently, enjoyed taster sessions of judo and golf. If your child would now like to join these clubs please contact Mrs Wythe in the school office for more details or contact the companies responsible for the club directly. We continue to offer as wide a range of clubs as possible and are grateful to those of you who support them.



## Lost Property

Jack Emes & Joseph Bridges have lost their PE kits, please could you check your child's belongings to ensure that they have not picked up the wrong things by mistake. Unfortunately, this does happen occasionally, even when items are named, so please do check regularly that no items belonging to other children have been brought home.

## Flu

So far this winter we seem to have avoided the outbreaks of flu which have been a problem during the past couple of years but we still remind the children, as I'm sure you do, of the basic hygiene procedures which can help to prevent the spread of infection, such as:

- covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible and then disposing of it promptly and carefully
- maintaining good hand hygiene - washing hands with soap and water to reduce the spread of virus from your hands to face or to other people.

We will contact you if your child develops flu-like symptoms during the school day as we would normally if a child is hurt or unwell and need to go home.



## Cancelled Clubs

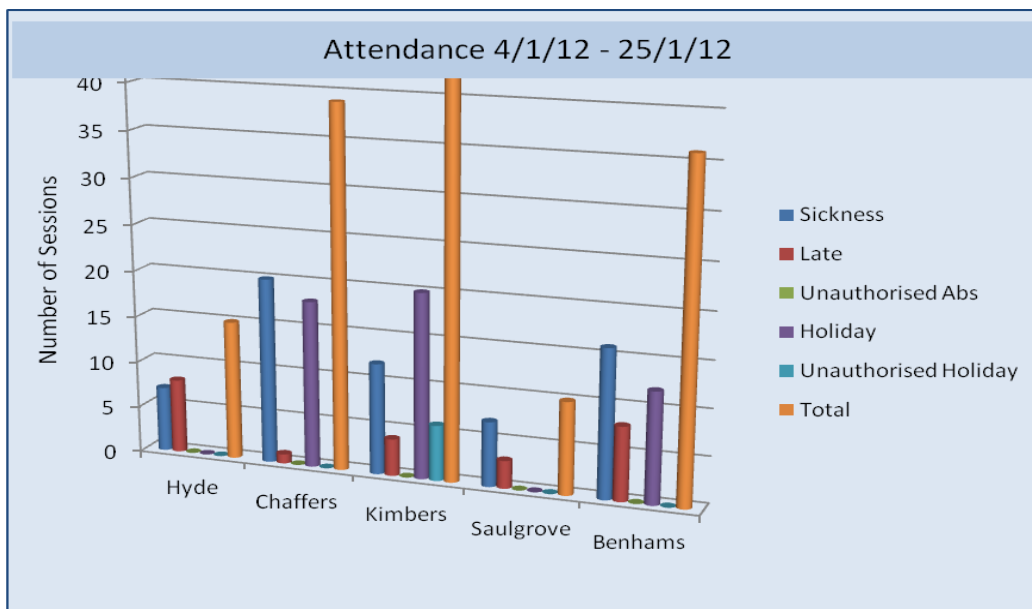
Due to the parent evenings taking place w/c 6<sup>th</sup> February, both Netball and Choir clubs will be cancelled this week.

## PTA News

The work of the PTA is very important to the school and is much appreciated by all of us – staff and children alike. If you would like to become part of the committee you would be very warmly welcomed! The next meeting is on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am when the main topic for discussion will be a disco for the children. If you are unable to join the committee and/or attend this meeting but are willing to help at PTA events please speak to Becky Conway or ask at school for more information.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Although, as you know, we are very keen to ensure that children attend school regularly and punctually we do also appreciate that children do become ill and in those circumstances they are definitely better off staying at home! Please remember that if your child is ill and therefore off school we do ask you to inform school in person or by phone, text or email by 9.00am. It is our policy to contact parents if we have not heard to ensure the child is safe and to confirm the reason for the absence.



## Dates for your diary

**2<sup>nd</sup> February** – Hyde class assembly – 9.15am  
Tag-rugby tournament, Years 3/4 – 4.00pm

**9<sup>th</sup> February** – Chaffers class assembly – 9.15am

**13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Half Term

**22<sup>nd</sup> February** – Saulgrove class trip to 'The Living Rainforest'

**23<sup>rd</sup> February** – Year 5 and 6 cycle training starts

**1<sup>st</sup> March** – Kimbers class assembly – 9.15am

**8<sup>th</sup> March** – Saulgrove assembly – 9.15am

**15<sup>th</sup> March** – Benhams assembly – 9.15am

**30<sup>th</sup> March** – Term ends – 3.15pm