

# Headteacher's Headline 11th February 2009 - No 7



## Two Weeks of Terrific Table Manners at Reigate Parish (and longer we hope!)

Following last year's successful focus on table manners, we are going to do it again! We always encourage the children to eat nicely using knives and forks etc, and we always help them cut food up if they can't. It is quite noticeable though that many children do not try to use a knife and fork. Many expect their food to be cut up for them and then only need to use their fork. Midday supervisors will always help children but haven't got the time to do it all for them and so we hope you will support us by encouraging your child/ren at home.

We are going to talk to the children about good manners at lunch time, whether they have a school lunch or a packed lunch. For two weeks we are going to encourage the children to try their best giving stickers for good effort and having a go. I understand that families have different expectations and habits but I think most people would wish their children to have the basics.

### Our golden rules in the hall at lunch time are:

- Use your knife and fork - not your fingers
- Cut up bigger bits of food - don't nibble them from the fork
- Have a go yourself before asking for help from a grown up
- Don't talk with your mouth full!
- Sit down before you start eating
- Finish your mouthful before you get up
- Sit quietly at the table when you have finished

Thank you to everyone who supported The Really Good School Dinner campaign: we raised an amazing £87.

### School Meals - Debt Management

Following a review of the debt management process for school meals, we have been advised by Surrey County Council that all dinner monies must be paid at the beginning of the week or term. In the future, late payments will be pursued by Surrey County Council. We are conscious that given the current financial climate, more families may have become eligible for Free School Meals but are unaware that they can claim. Please speak to the office if you would like more information.



### **Gardening Club**

Mr Wilkes (father of Victoria in Ladybirds) has been very busy preparing for a new Gardening Club that will start after half term. The whole school will be involved in a sunflower competition and a national potato growing competition too. Reigate Garden Centre has been very supportive and donated **all** the wood Mr Wilkes needs for the raised flower beds he is creating. They have also given him a 15% discount card, compost bags, pots and trays. We are very grateful to Reigate Garden Centre for their generosity.

What can you do to help?

Mr Wilkes needs compost! Please use half term to turn out the garden shed or garage for these half full bags of compost and bring them into school. There will be an empty builders sack to tip it into - the more the merrier.

If you would like to help with any aspect of the club then please contact the school office or Mr Wilkes. We are so grateful to Mr Wilkes for giving so much time and energy to gardening in school: he has already got the reception classes busy gardening!

### **Breakfast Club**

We started our breakfast club in September and the children who attend have a fun time and a yummy breakfast. Juanita Collman and Jessica Gibson run the club and provide a safe and a happy atmosphere. Mr Sears often pops in too and is very popular with the children. Daily activities include draughts, construction and games. In order for the club to continue we need more children to attend regularly otherwise there is a real danger that it will close at the end of the school year. It is a great facility; once you are registered you can just turn up on the day that suits you.

We will be trialling various ideas and the first is a change in the way the fees are applied. From **after half term** if your child comes between 8.00 - 8.30 am and has breakfast, you will be charged £4.00. If however, you only want to use the club from 8.30 am to the beginning of school you will only be charged £2.00 - please note breakfast will **NOT** be included. In order to be viable we need plenty of people to use this facility and this pricing scheme will be trialled for half a term initially.

The playground will still be supervised from 8.45 - 8.55 am as usual.

### **SHROVE TUESDAY - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**Pancake Day:** come and have a pancake at Breakfast Club on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>. £4.00 - book in advance as places are limited.

### **Playground Notice board**

The notice board on the slope up to the playground advertises children's activities and there are spare pamphlets available about these in the school reception area.

### **Parents' Forum**

The next meeting is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15 pm. All parents are welcome and we can accommodate pre-schoolers, so please come and join us. It is an opportunity to help the school move forward by making suggestions and giving a parent's perspective on school matters. It is chaired by the headteacher and a representative of the governors is usually in attendance.