



Mercenfeld

# Mercenfeld Primary School

## NEWSLETTER 3rd February 2010

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Have you read with your child this week?



Parents' Evening  
Booking Form – see over



### TERM DATES

#### SPRING TERM

Mid Term Break Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to Fri 19<sup>th</sup> February

School Closes Fri evening 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### SUMMER TERM

School Opens Mon 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010

May Day Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Mid Term Break Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May to Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June

School Closes Fri evening 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010

#### 2010/11 ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

### Swimming Pool Update

The Local Authority have now completed their surveys and given their views as to the viability of our school pool. To maintain the pool in its current form (as a small, shallow, training pool) would cost circa £150,000 but to refurbish it to a high standard and make it deeper and longer/wider (to make it more suitable for use by adults i.e. a true community pool), would cost circa £650,000. As you can imagine, school does not have this kind of money to support such a development (we get just £9,000 a year towards the costs of running the pool; the energy costs of heating the water and building alone, come to over £12,000 per year!). The Local Authority recommendation is to demolish the building.

However, all at Mercenfeld, including our Governors would very much like to keep our pool. I am meeting with our County Council and Borough Councillors to see what funding streams could support both the refurbishment and on-going costs of keeping it.

In the meantime we will soon be arranging swimming at another pool, which will of course, as is the case for most other schools, involve transport costs and will be more limited in terms of which year groups swim and for how many weeks of the year. I will inform you of arrangements as soon as possible.



### FREE Laptop & Internet Access

If your child is entitled to free school meals it is possible that you may be eligible to claim a free laptop and/or 1 year's internet access via a government scheme.

Full details and an eligibility check can be found at:

<http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/>

Or ring the Home Access Grant Helpline on 0333 200 1004 to get an application form.

### FSM - Are you claiming what you are entitled to?

It may be that your child qualifies for Free School Meals (FSM). Even if your child prefers to have packed lunches, it is still worth applying as there are other benefits from being registered for them (e.g. see laptop offer above). The current criteria include: Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit (where taxable income is not in excess of £16,040. Families who also receive and award of Working Tax Credit do not NOT qualify for FSM), the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit, Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

You can apply by telephone and check your eligibility on 0116 3056588 or 3057093

# PARENTS' EVENING BOOKING FORM

Dear Parents,

Our Spring Term Parents' Evenings for ALL children, including those in the Foundation Stage, will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

It is important to attend so that we can discuss with you, your child's progress and how you may be able to further support him/her at home.

The children's work books may be sent home on the Monday ahead of the evenings. Please ensure that the books are returned on Tuesday morning so that school work can continue as normal.

Please return the form as soon as possible, to the class teacher, in order to get your preference of time and day. Please tick as many times as possible that are suitable for you. The class teacher will then inform you of your appointment time.

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Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>		<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>3.30 - 4.00</b>		<b>3.30 - 4.00</b>	
<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>		<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>	
<b>4.30 - 5.00</b>		<b>4.30 - 5.00</b>	
<b>5.00 - 5.30</b>		<b>5.00 - 5.30</b>	
<b>5.30 - 6.00</b>		<b>5.30 - 6.00</b>	
<b>6.00 - 6.30</b>		<b>6.00 - 6.30</b>	
<b>6.30 - 7.00</b>		<b>6.30 - 7.00</b>	

Please give names and classes of any other children you have in school as this will help us to try and avoid clashes of times:

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