



# Leehurst Swan School

Issue 62

New Year 2011

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## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a very good Christmas and a chance to enjoy a time of relaxation and the snow. Term has started with the smiles of many pupils keen to get back into the routine and activities of term, although the mock GCSE examinations have engendered rather less enthusiasm in the return of the Year 11 pupils.

There are a number of items that I wish to draw your attention to at the start of this New Year.

### **After School Care for Prep children over age eight**

The completion of the Walker Hall and the new conservatory means that After School Care can return to the Key Stage two class rooms and the Key Stage two library. This provides better facilities for the pupils and will allow more space and opportunities for different activities. As from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January After School Care will be based in this area and pupils staying for After School Care should be collected from this location. The emergency telephone contact number for After School Care remains the same and should be used if you need to contact the staff involved after 4.00pm.

The arrangements for After School Care for children under age eight remain the same in the Pre Prep.

### **Texting parents**

We are starting to introduce a system where parents can be contacted by text message, direct to mobile phones for rapid communication. This could be necessary if a trip or mini bus is due to return late to school because of traffic delays, or an over run sports fixture. If you wish to receive messages this way, please ensure we have your mobile number as

indicated on the data sheet issued last term. If you have changed your number in recent months please send an email to Reception with the new number, so that we can update our records.

We will not be texting you routinely or advising you of matters that can be communicated well in advance. (Once we have started using this method, please let me know if you have any comments regarding it.)

### **Visitors**

The school welcomes visitors and encourages parents of Pre Prep and Prep children to speak directly to the Form Teacher about any concerns that they may have, or to pass on information about their child. This is usually best done either when dropping off a child in the morning, or when collecting a child after school. No appointments are needed, and as the school is open at this time, parents are invited to go straight to the form room. At all other times of the day, and for Senior parents, visitors should first go to Reception to sign in and ensure the teacher is available. For child protection reasons, visitors will be accompanied to form rooms if they need to go to class rooms.

### **Car Parking**

I am aware that car parking on the Leehurst Swan site has been a major problem for drivers, staff and parents alike. Considerable amounts of time, effort and some money have been spent in trying to alleviate the situation, but the grounds are limited in size, being located on a cul de sac and, like the M25, demand can exceed supply. The situation has however, improved in a number of important ways in recent years. The introduction of the residents' parking scheme to Campbell Road and the yellow lines added to St Mark's Avenue have improved the flow of traffic. Parking for up to 2 hours is now possible on Campbell Road and longer in an evening after 4.00pm. The construction of the Walker Hall gave us the opportunity to restructure the car parks and the flow through system. No parking spaces were lost due to the construction of the Walker

Hall as spaces have been generated at the side of the hall as well as an improved flow through, and a safe drop off area.

Over the Christmas holidays further work has been undertaken to reserve more spaces close to the Reception for visitors and to restructure the former temporary car park near the Pre Prep Department. This car park is available for parent parking before 8.00am and after 4.00pm. During the remaining time it will be used for staff parking to maximise the number of spaces on the tarmac near Pre Prep for parents.

I am always happy to receive suggestions as to how we can further improve the parking and the flow through system but your co-operation with the existing system is much appreciated by staff and other parents alike.

#### **Year 5 Teacher**

It is with some sadness that I write to let you know that Mr Tim Marshall (5Y) has decided to leave the teaching profession this term. He has been an able and effective scientist, form teacher and has assisted with boys' games. I know his form will miss him along with his vibrant approach to teaching. We wish him the best as he explores other interests. The post is being advertised and I will inform you as soon as any decisions have been made.

#### **School Calendars**

The new school calendar has been printed and distributed to your child in school. Do please ensure they have passed on a copy to you. The Spring Term edition is always dark blue in colour and it contains the essential dates and useful contact numbers.

#### **Sports news**

Congratulations to Robin Ormerod (9Y) who has been selected to play polo in a British scratch squad in Argentina.

Sporting fixtures resume next week.

#### **The Rocky Monster Show**

The school production of 'The Rocky Monster Show' takes place this term on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. Due to the size of the Walker Hall and the three night run we hope to accommodate all those who wish to attend. It promises to be an excellent production, so alert your friends and relatives and why not put it in your diary?

#### **FOLS**

There will be a FOLS Coffee Morning in the Walker Hall on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 9.00 to 10.30 am.

#### **School Disco**

The date of the school disco has been changed to 4<sup>th</sup> March - further details to follow.

I hope you like me, are looking forward to the term ahead.

Best wishes

Roger Leake

