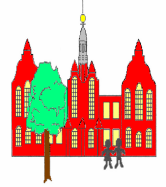


The Stepney Star

Stepney Primary School



A Small School With Great Expectations

Weekly Newsletter
Week: 10th — 14th May 2010
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www.stepney.hull.sch.uk

NAHT
The Association for All School Leaders



SATs Boycott

As you are probably aware from the national media, two of the main teaching unions, the NAHT and NUT are asking their members to boycott KS2 SATs. They believe that these tests damage the educational experience of children in year six, and are used to create unreliable league tables that misrepresent the excellent work being done in schools. It has not been an easy decision but they have recommended that their members participate in industrial action during the week of SATs (week beginning May 10th 2010). As a result, this year, the national SATs **will not** be administered at Stepney Primary School unless a last minute agreement is reached with Government officials. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly.

Our year six children will still be given an assessed level based on rigorous teacher assessment of what they have achieved backed up with tests that have been conducted throughout their year. These results are always passed on to the Local Authority as well as to their next school. The results, passed to the children's next school by teacher assessment, give a truer reflection of a child's attainment throughout the year rather than the chance that they will perform under immense pressure to their optimum level in a 20 or 45 minute test. The stress, put on pupils to perform during the SATs week, is Tremendous, with many worrying about what grade they will receive for many weeks before and after.

The unions have tried to negotiate with the Government in respect of change for a long time now but with little suc-

cess. NAHT believe that damage is done to pupils by SATs as follows:
They are stressful for children, parents and teachers;
They are an unreliable way of assessing pupils' progress;
There is an unacceptably high level of inaccuracy in test results – teacher assessment has proven to be more reliable;
They can narrow what is taught in a primary school, squeezing out time for creative subjects and sports.
They encourage "teaching to the test";
They undermine the morale of too many children;

Tests do not present a fair reflection of the breadth or depth of work done by the pupils or the school.
Teachers will continue to assess your children's progress as they do in all other years;
Teacher assessment, as always, will be moderated;

The boycott of SATs industrial action is not a strike and so school will not be closing at all over SATs week. As a Head teacher I truly believe that the harm caused by SATs far outweighs the positives and that adds pressure upon the children in schools today causing a lot of unnecessary heartache, stress and anxiety. My views have also been reinforced by issues we had with the marking of our KS2 writing tests in summer 2009. Upon the return of the marked tests to school, we found many glaring inaccuracies throughout the majority of papers. These included spelling mistakes as well as the more subjective decisions that have to be made when marking writing. Despite going through all the 're-marking' and 'review' procedures, our pleas for a

'fair' review were overturned by the powers that be, resulting in incorrect marks and inaccurate levelling for the pupils. We explained what had happened to the Ofsted inspectors in January 2010 and they were more than happy to accept our accurate teacher assessments rather than these incorrect SATs results.

I have already written to the year six parents in detail but should you have queries regarding any of the above, and wish to speak to myself or the Chair of Governors, Mr Lee Morfitt then please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

P Browning

Foundation Stage Entrance

Please note that we will be asking parents to use the Stepney Lane gates from now on as we are keeping the Foundation Stage gates locked in the mornings. This is to tighten up security and safeguarding for our nursery and reception pupils.

Free Dental Check Ups for Children Under 5

On Wednesday 19th May, Beverley Road Swimming Baths are hosting a range of free activities for parents and children, including: Mobile Dental Unit Giving Advice and Dental Check Ups; Healthy Eating Ideas, Car Seat Checks; Story Reading Sessions, Fire Awareness; Re-cycling, Craft Activities and Face Painting. These will start at 9.00am and finish at 11am

Class 4/5N Assembly

A brilliant assembly by Miss Northen's class all about film making and their science topic on light and sound. Well done to everyone concerned.



Our Breakfast Club urgently need some Lego bricks, if you can donate any bricks please bring them to the school office.

What the children need next week

Foundation Stage PE kits Monday and Friday.

Year 1 Bookworm on Friday morning. 8.55 –9.20. PE kit Monday.

Year 2/3A PE Kits Monday & Wednesday

Year 2/3B PE Kits Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 4/5B PE kits Wednesday please.

Year 4/5N PE kits Wed/Friday.

Year 6 PE kits Tuesday.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK AND MENU

Monday

Art Club-Year 2-3 (creative room at 12.30pm)

Horse and Pony years 2,3,4 &5

Today's Menu Braised Sausages, with Onion Gravy, potato wedges, mixed vegetables. **Dessert;** Jam Sponge & Custard. **Vegetarian Option** Vegetarian Sausages

Tuesday

Gymnastics—Years 2, 3,4,5, & 6 3.15pm-4.15pm

Today's Menu: Roast Pork Steaks & Gravy, Roast Potatoes, mashed Swede & Carrots. **Dessert;** Chocolate Crackle & custard. **Vegetarian Option** Vegetable Chow Mein

Wednesday

Needlecraft 3.15pm—4.15 Years 5&6

Today's menu: Minced Beef & Potato Pie, Mashed potato, broccoli and carrots. **Dessert;** Rice Pudding & Peaches. **Vegetarian Option** Cheese & Tomato Arrabiatti with Penne.

Thursday

Steel Drums (year 6 small room) 12.30pm

Athletics years 2,3,4,5,& 6 3.15pm-4.15pm,

Cookery Club (staffroom) 3.15pm—4.15pm

Today's menu: Roast Chicken, Boiled potatoes, Savoy cabbage & carrots. **Dessert;** Fruit Flapjack & Custard. **Vegetarian option** Curried Vegetables Pasty

Friday

Today's Menu :Breaded Fish, Chips and Peas. **Vegetarian option** Vegetable Risotto

Dessert Hungarian Chocolate Biscuit.

Always available Flavoured Bread, Yoghurt or Fresh fruit, fruit Juice, milk or water.

