



## Dates for your diary:

### 2014

#### January

- 21 - Understanding your child's behavior Course
- 22 - Milad Un Nabi
- 28 - Understanding your child's behavior Course
- 29 - Chinese New Year
- 30 - Parents' Forum

#### February

- 3 - Y6 Parents' Safer Internet Workshop
- 4 - Understanding your child's behavior Course
- 7 - Coffee Morning
- 10 - Maths Enrichment Week
- 11 - Understanding your child's behavior Course
- 13 - Disco
- 17 - Half Term
- 26 - Safer Internet Day

#### March

- 5 - Ash Wednesday
- 7 - Coffee Morning
- 11 - Y5 York
- 12 - Holi
- 19 - Purim
- 27 - Parents' Evening
- 31 - Y5 Bikeability Training (31<sup>st</sup> March - 4<sup>th</sup> April)
- 31 - Y4 Production

#### April

- 1 - Y4 Production
- 2 -Yugadi
- 4 - Coffee Morning
- 9 - Easter
- 14 - Easter break
- 28 - INSET - Curriculum / Vision
- 30 - Passover

#### May

- 2 - Coffee Morning
- 2 - Curriculum Overviews out
- 2 - Targets negotiated / shared / displayed
- 7 - Cinco de Mayo
- 8 - Parents' Forum
- 12 - SATS Week
- 15 - Ascension
- 15 - Disco
- 19 -Enrichment Week
- 26 - Half Term

It has been really sad this week to hear on the news about children and young people who feel that they have no-one to turn to in times of pressure. It would seem that we are asking more and more of our young people, increasing the stresses and strains of childhood beyond that which I had to withstand.

The key to dealing with pressure is to be able to think correctly and trust the support that is around you. This can become a habit, which is why it is so important that we develop that habit in children at an early age so that when those teenage and young person pressures kick in, the individual has rehearsed strategies and attitudes that will help to see them through.

One of the resources that I use to encourage children to utilise these strategies is a book entitled *The Huge Bag of Worries* by Virginia Ironside. In the book, a young girl is besieged by fears and worries that threaten to overwhelm her, all because she is keeping them to herself.

It is then that she is found by an old woman. The neighbour notices her huge bag of worries and proceeds to help the girl unpack it, suggesting ways to deal with each one before finally reducing the worries into manageable proportions relevant to the girl.

By talking to the girl about her fears, helping her to see what worries are the girl's, which belong to other people and which everybody has, the old lady helps her to see the worries for what they are and helps the girl to feel much better about herself and the world around her.

This is exactly the reason that as a school, we have an open door policy and have designated Jo Whitcombe as our Child and Family Support Mentor. Assemblies and circle times encourage children to talk about their problems rather than bottling them up and post boxes around the school provide a place for children to write down their problems and let us know what is going on. These services can also be used by parents worried about their children, helping you to relieve the stresses and strains of modern living.

It's good to talk! Have a great weekend!

Mark

### **Emergency Temporary Parking Restrictions**

Given ongoing conversations between parents, local residents, school and Council, here is an excerpt from a notice sent to local residents on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014:

*"Following a formal request from the Police, emergency temporary parking restrictions will come into force on Sharmans Cross Road, Woodlea Drive and Blackthorne Close from 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014.*

*The police have requested restrictions...in order to address road safety concerns relating to parking at school drop off and pick up times. The restrictions shall remain in force for a maximum period of 18 months or until a permanent Order is advertised and made..."*

#### Total Prohibition of Waiting

**Blackthorne Close** - On both sides from Woodlea Drive in a generally westerly direction for a distance of approximately 20 metres.

**Woodlea Drive** - On its western side from a point approximately 20 metres north west of Blackthorne Close in a generally southerly direction to a point approximately 16 metres south of that junction, a total distance of approximately 36 metres; and on its eastern side, from a point approximately 18 metres north of Sharmans Cross Road in a generally northerly direction for a distance of approximately 22 metres.

**Sharmans Cross Road** - on its northern side from a point approximately 40 metres west of Woodlea Drive in a generally easterly direction to a point approximately 30 metres east of said junction.

#### Restriction of Waiting - Monday to Friday between 8.30 to 9.30 am and 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm

**Woodlea Drive** - on its eastern side from a point approximately 40 metres north of Sharmans Cross Road in a generally northerly direction for a distance of approximately 173 metres.

#### No Stopping at Any Time Except Buses

**Sharmans Cross Road** - on its southern side from a point approximately 24 metres east of Woodlea Drive in an easterly direction for a distance of 12 metres.

***NB - Please see the link on the School website for more information***

### **Love Solihull Poster Competition**

I would like to invite all Sharmans Cross children to take part in an art competition.

**The competition aims to help promote an early awareness of the local environment, which can be spoilt by litter, vandalism and general degradation.**

If you are interested, complete a poster encouraging people to bin their litter and clean up the environment. Please complete on A4 paper/ card using any medium, ie. Paint, crayon, pen, ink and pencils. You need to write your full name, age, class and school on the back of the poster and give it to Mrs Green in 5AG. I will have a tray for entries ready. **Deadline is Friday 14th February 2014**

The competition is being run by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

**The winner will receive a family ticket for cineworld and the class will receive an educational activity lead by a Neighbourhood Ranger!**

**Maths Week:** If you have any unwanted foreign currency at home, please can you send it in to Miss Jefferies so we can use it during Maths Week. Many Thanks, Miss Jefferies

**Poppy Appeal:** Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal in school. We raised £53.66. The district total is £10,000 to date.

### **Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Free 10 week Course**

**Held at Blossomfield Infant School Starting on 21<sup>st</sup> January from 9.15 - 11.15 am. Run by**

**Jo Whitcombe and Yvonne Cooper** Please see the Parent Page on the website for more information.