



Sharmans Cross Junior School

Striving for Excellence

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Dates for your diary:

2014

March

- 5 - Ash Wednesday
- 7 - Coffee Morning
- 7 - Quiz Night
- 12 - Y5 York
- 12 - Holi
- 19 - Purim
- 26 - Possible Industrial Action
- 27 - Parents' Evening
- 31 - Y5 Bikeability Training (31st March - 4th 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

June

- 6 - Coffee Morning
- 25 - Ramadan
- 26 - New Intake Evening

July

- 4 - Summer Fair
- 9 - Open Evening
- 16 - Y6 Performance [Solihull School]
- 17 - Leavers' Tea
- 17 - Leavers' Disco
- 18 - Leavers' Assembly
- 21 - INSET
- 22 - Summer

September

- 1 - INSET
- 2 - Possible INSET [TBC]

This week has been our own Safer Internet Day. On Monday evening, I hosted a group of Y6 parents to think about grooming behaviours, risks and possible counter-measures for keeping children safe. The video I used was produced by children from a local school, Peterbrook, and was aimed at their peers. [It's All About...Me!](#) tells the story of a girl who begins an online friendship with someone she doesn't know. In the end, she agrees to meet the "friend" who turns out to be someone and something totally different to what she was expecting!

At the workshop, and subsequently with the children in Y6, we discussed what we could do as adults and what children could do to make sure that they remain as safe as is possible. We agreed that talking about the issues openly and honestly, sharing why we as adults are concerned and developing mutually acceptable strategies for ensuring safety were critical. When children understand what the dangers are, have alternative strategies for dealing with them and feel able to talk about what makes them uncomfortable in an open, blame-free culture, then they have the ability to take responsibility for their safety. However, we also agreed that some children may need less open-ness than others, depending upon their ability to deal with certain fears.

The [PowerPoint](#) I used with the parents, including slides only used with parents, marked [P](#), and the children are available on the website. Please feel free to use both slides and video to have conversations with your child about their online safety. Please be aware that this particular video is recommended for children of 9 years and over.

All of the other children in school also did work around staying safe on the internet, including thinking about [SMART](#) internet use.

Safe - No personal details

Meeting - Don't go without permission / alone

Accept - Don't open anything you're not sure about

Reliable - Not everything online is true! Question it.

Tell - If you're not sure, feel uncomfortable, are meeting someone, tell an adult!

If you as a parent need any further advice, please contact us and we will be happy to talk it through with you.

On a separate note, as you may already be aware, Industrial Action is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 26th**. Staff have been asked to confirm their intentions in order that you can be informed of the impact this will have on the school and, if necessary, make alternative arrangements for any disruption this causes. We will be sending out a letter next week, 3rd March, to confirm what the plans are should the action go ahead.

Have a great weekend!

Mark

Quiz Night Friday 7 March 7.30 for 8.00 pm start

£7.00 per head to include a fish and chip supper

Teams of 6 - 8

Bring your own drink (and glasses)

Why not come and pit your wits against the Quizmaster over eight rounds

Please note - this is an Adults only event

Year 6 Solihull Indoor Athletics Tournament - 27 February 2014

After coming second in the heats before half term, our team qualified and competed in the final at Solihull College yesterday against the best schools in the county. The children all competed with effort, determination and showed excellent sportsmanship, cheering on all competitors.

After competing in a range of throwing, jumping and running events, we finished in joint 3rd place. A huge well done to all the athletes who competed!

Parking Safely

Please can we remind parents to park carefully and considerately and pay particular attention when turning. There have been several incidents reported recently that have caused concern.

Thank you

Destiny Africa Children's Choir

Many of you will remember the choir from their previous visits to Sharmans and we are delighted to have them back in school again on **Thursday 20 March, and Tuesday 3 June. Both concerts will start at 7.00 pm. Tickets will be available from the school office. Adults £6, Child £4.**

The choir from Kampala Children's Centre present their new show 'Inspire Africa' which tells their story of hope and changed lives through the vibrant use of music, dance and art.

The musical production is a mix of modern and traditional songs, drumming and dances from the heart of Africa. It features the inspiring stories of children who have journeyed from despair and tragedy into the new life they've found at Kampala Children's Centre (KCC).

Profits from the tour support the work of KCC, a centre established in 2005 to give a home and a voice to children in Uganda affected by poverty, disease and the legacy of war.

The centre is now held up as a model in Uganda for the way in which it cares for the children and seeks to nurture them to become agents of change for the future.

Warm clothes & coats for Destiny Africa

If you are having a sort through your wardrobes over the next few days, they would be extremely grateful for donations of winter coats (sizes from 8 years to adult, male and female), fleeces, hoodies, jeans, nightwear in good condition, tracksuit bottoms, black school shoes and trainers. **Please bring your donations to school on Friday 7 March.**

Many Thanks for your help.

For more information visit their website www.destinyafrica.org