

Dear Parents,

8 MINUTES TO OXTED

The campaign group has had some very encouraging news that the Tandridge councillors will all support the alternative admissions criteria proposed by the Headteachers and Governors of Dormansland, Lingfield, Godstone and Oxted Schools. However, the proposal still has to be agreed by the Council Executive Committee and after that by the full council, so the 8 minutes to Oxted campaign group are very keen that a large number of parents attend the Executive Committee meeting on 12th February. Please see their website at www.8minutestooxted.co.uk for more details, including an offer of coach transport to the meeting.

TWO AWARDS!

Over the past few weeks the school has earned two awards: the Activemark and the Financial Management Standard in Schools.

Activemark

To gain the Activemark, we had to show that

- the percentage of pupils participating in at least 2 hours of high quality PE and school sport each week is significantly above the national average; and
- hold a sports day; and
- meet or better the national average for pupils involved in sports leadership and volunteering and the percentage of pupils participating in sports clubs linked to their school.

Financial management standard in schools (FMSIS)

We were the first primary school in Surrey to be awarded the FMSIS, which means that we have good practice in the following areas:

- Leadership and Governance – good financial management with clear leadership and effective governance
- People Management - the staff who are responsible for financial management are well trained and ably led
- Policy and Strategy – resources are deployed carefully to ensure the school meets its objectives, achieves Best Value, and undertakes activities that it can afford
- Partnerships and Resources – the school uses its resources efficiently and effectively, and seeks to access additional resources through partnerships and other arrangements
- Processes - financial management includes effective processes for budgeting, monitoring, control and reporting to ensure that financial plans are achieved, loss and waste are minimal, and that safeguards against fraudulent practice are robust.

So now we can say that we are both financially and physically healthy!

SCHOOL COUNCIL'S "WEAR GREEN TO SCHOOL DAY" – 4th March

The school council has voted to raise funds for a willow 'igloo' to be planted in the school grounds. Young willow saplings are planted and trained into an igloo shape which, once the willow is in leaf, provides a fun and shady spot for children during playtimes.

In order to raise the funds to purchase the willow, the School Council have come up with the idea of a "Wear Green to School Day". In return for a donation of £1 or more, children will be able to wear an item of green clothing or dye their hair green (no face paints, please).

IGLOO PLANTING DAY – 28th March

If the school council is successful in raising the funds, we are planning to plant the igloo on 28th March and would welcome any help you can offer. Please get in touch with Mrs Douch if you are able to come along with your spade on that day.

PREMISES WORKING PARTY

Our premises working party met recently and discussed a range of possible improvement projects for the school and grounds. Their recommendations were passed to the governors who have decided to proceed with the following projects:

- Feasibility study to resite our reception classroom in the current Year 2 classroom and the creation of a larger outdoor learning area for Reception and Year 1 classes.
- Installation of video entry phones and CCTV cameras to improve site security.
- Identification of and bidding for external funds to create an all weather multi use games area on part of the field.

SCIENCE WEEK

Science and technology week starts next week. Our science exhibition for parents and friends will be at 2.45 pm on Friday, 15th February. Please come along and see what your children (and the rest of the school) have been learning about during the week.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS – 31st March

Another reminder that science is going to be the topic for this year's curriculum information evening. Make a note in your diaries now to keep the evening of Monday, 31st March free. We have invited Surrey's science specialist Ron Bibby to come and talk to you about science at school. Ron is a very entertaining speaker and he will be sure to have plenty of science activities for you to try. Come along for an evening which promises to be fun as well as informative.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Cowley
Headteacher

REMINDERS

§ In the event of an emergency closure of the school, (through, for example, bad weather) in addition to an announcement on Radio Mercury, all information will now be posted on the Surrey County Council Web site – www.surreycc.gov.uk/education as well as on our own school site – www.dormansland.surrey.sch.uk

