



Happy Half Term!

SEPT/OCT
09

TIDEMILL NEWSLETTER

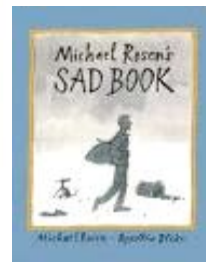
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An excellent start to the new school year

Welcome back to all the staff and children at Tidemill. I hope you've all had a well deserved refreshing and enjoyable break over Summer. To those of you who are new to Tidemill I hope you are settling in well and will continue to enjoy being part of the Tidemill Community.

Mark Elms

Michael Rosen



On Monday 28th September Year 6 had the opportunity to meet Michael Rosen. He is the most famous children's poet of all time. Michael Rosen is making a new web site to allow children to perform their own poetry and then post the video on-line. Mr. Graham planned a special project for a day and Michael worked with Year 6 to create their own poems. Some children had the opportunity to perform their poems in front of the camera. Tidemill was the first primary school that he worked closely with to help them develop some fantastic poems on camera.

Michael Rosen has written many famous books such as 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'. He is renowned for his work as a poet, script writer, performer and broadcaster.

Sumaya, Memunatu, Cassilda (Year 6)

Inset Day - Friday 27th November

Make sure you have made a note of the new inset day which has been added to the inset schedule - Friday 27th November. School will be closed on this day but Schoolfriendetc may be able to organise a play scheme. Do speak to Becki, the Club Development Manager, if this is something you could be interested in so they can try to organize something.

Welcome!



I hope that all the new starters from Charlotte Turner and other schools have settled in well, and feel they have received a warm Tidemill welcome.

We will be holding a coffee morning for all parents of the new starters to share their experiences.

Lisa Turner

The new staff at Tidemill would like to say...

"I was both excited and nervous about being Tidemill's new Deputy Head. Having worked in Lewisham for many years I knew Tidemill had a wonderful reputation as a forward-thinking and creative school with very high standards. I am pleased to say that Tidemill has lived up to it's reputation and I have not been disappointed. It didn't take me long to realise how talented the staff-team are and how dedicated they are into planning an exciting creative curriculum for the students. Although I am finding it difficult to remember everyone's name, the pupils have been friendly, polite and helpful. So thanks to everyone who has helped me to find my feet and if I haven't already said 'hello' then I hope to very soon!"

Richard Graham

"After taking a new career path I am now enjoying my role as a Teaching Assistant. I am delighted to be part of the new speech and language resource base which, so far, has been an exciting and rewarding experience. Tidemill staff and children have been very welcoming of me, and I look forward to the rest of my time here".

Collette Huggins

"I come from Cork, in the South of Ireland where I have trained as a Speech & Language Therapist. I've just moved to London and started to work in the new Speech, Language and Communication resource base. I've really enjoyed getting to know pupils and staff so far. They have been really friendly and welcoming I look forward to settling in even more here over the coming year."

Maire Sheehan

"I have recently moved to London from Southampton. My First 5 weeks here have been fantastic! I am really enjoying working in a large, exciting and diverse school and looking forward to starting a Tidemill netball team with Carly."

Caroline Hughes

The new staff at Tidemill would like to say....
(cont'd):

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my transition to Tidemill; the staff, pupils and parents have all been extremely welcoming and supportive. Having come from a large four-form entry school in Bromley where I taught for five years and was head of PE, Tidemill is a great change and challenge for me. I am enjoying teaching year six and I am also looking forward to developing my role as Literacy Coordinator".

Rachel Smith

Gemma Clark

Hello also to Gemma Clark who has joined us as Advanced Skills Teacher from a primary school in Croydon where she was the Science Co-Ordinator as well as providing outreach support for teachers in other schools. Her exceptional skills and enthusiasm for science will be put to good use here as she is stepping into the role of Science and Gifted and Talented Leader. In addition to teaching Tamarind class, she will also be continuing to offer support and guidance to other schools as part of our City Challenge. Welcome Miss Clark.....

Teresa Stadnik

Teresa has joined us as a Teaching Assistant in Chestnut class, having moved over to England from Krakow in Poland where she was teaching English as part of the National Curriculum to children aged 9 to 12. Teresa has a Masters in Education and English Linguistics and a BA in English. Welcome Teresa.....

"In the short time I have been working at Tidemill, you have made me feel so welcome. I have lived in Deptford for nine years and it is so wonderful to discover such a friendly, exciting and happy place in our community. Everyone here at Tidemill is so warm, hard-working and helpful that it is a true pleasure to come to work."

Antonia Courcier

"I have moved to London from Chatham where I was a teaching assistant for a Year 1 class. I am enjoying working at such an excellent school where I have found the staff and pupils very welcoming and looking forward to a positive year ahead."

Carly Smithers

Term Dates Autumn '09 - Summer '10

Autumn Term 2009

Inset Day: 3rd & 4th September

Monday 7th September - Friday 23rd October

Half Term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th Dec (1.15pm)

Spring Term 2010

Inset Day: 4th January

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February

Half Term: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February

Monday 22nd February - Thursday 1st April (1.15pm)

Summer Term 2010

Inset Day: 19th April

Tuesday 20th April - Friday 28th May

Half Term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June - Friday 23rd July (1.15pm)

Attendance and Punctuality

We have had a great start to the school year and currently have a 97% attendance figure as a whole school, with Spruce class out in the lead with 98.1%. Lets keep this up. **Well done!!!**

Whilst most of you are great at getting your child/ren to school on time there are a few of you who seem to struggle so could I remind you that lateness has a truly negative effect on your child's learning and social interaction...so please make a special effort to be on time.

Lisa Turner

Coffee Mornings



Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our coffee mornings.

Our teams enjoyed meeting you all and hope you all felt that they were successful. We know, having spoken to many of you that you found them useful and that it was a good opportunity to have questions answered and issues regarding routines and procedures addressed. Please remember that if at any point you have further queries, concerns or suggestions, we are always available to have a chat at the end of each day.

Participation at the coffee mornings was not as high as expected with a lower uptake than last year. So please make every effort to attend the Inspire workshops next term

Our next coffee mornings will be Inspire Workshops at the beginning of the Spring term. We hope to see all of you there.

Phase Team Leaders

Translation

If you need help interpreting this important newsletter, please come to the school and talk to us. We have a large number of parents who speak different languages who will be happy to help ...

Appalling Smell



Parents and children who have been at Tidemill for a long time will know that we have been battling with Thames Water for several years to try to get them to change the main sewer that runs under Frankham Street to a "sealed" rather than a "vented sewer". This simply involves changing the manhole covers - but Thames Water has been refusing to do this as they say they need to have some air in the sewer system. We also offered them the chance to run pipes up the outside of the buildings so they can "vent" up into the atmosphere instead but they declined this offer.

Having spoken to the Council, the smelly sewer on Frankham Street has been a problem for many, many years. However over the past few months, since the new road system has been completed, the smell has been getting progressively worse and is now completely overpowering.

I have had our school drains checked again but everything appears to be fine so I have been speaking to the Council and the Environmental Health team to see what assistance they can offer. They are liaising with Thames Water for me as they believe there could be a "surcharging" problem with the main sewer.

We will let you know how we get on

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

Target Setting Meetings - Tuesday 20th October

Remember to book your appointment for the target setting meetings on Tuesday 20th October. School will be closing at 1pm (except nursery) so teachers can spend the afternoon meeting with parents. There will be some clubs available for working parents so book early if you need these.

We are keen to organise interpreters for parents who need them so, if you know a parent who you feel needs additional assistance and may not realise this is something we can provide, please do let us know.

Lisa Turner

Quick Drop Box



We installed a quick drop box in reception over the holidays so, if you don't want to waste time queuing in the morning, you can use this facility to make trip payments and pay dinner money.

Make sure you have put your child's name on the envelope, put in the right money in the envelope and tell us what the payment relates to!

Elaine Pinnock

Parking



There have been a number of problems on Frankham Street with cars parking illegally and also driving the wrong way up the street. We have raised these issues with the project team and have requested additional assistance from the Community Police team.

We know a number of you have received parking tickets. When the new road layout was first proposed, we were assured the parking restrictions would start at 9.30am and afternoon concessions would be offered for parents. However, this was not reflected in the controlled parking scheme which was put in place when the road opened and despite much discussion, the council are not prepared to change the current scheme.

So, parents need to be aware that the parking restrictions start at 9am and parents are only allowed 3 minutes grace to drop off children. If you want to stay for longer, you will need to buy a ticket. Sorry.....

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

Important Diary Dates



Wednesday 7th October - 6pm

Schoolfriendetc After School Club Parents Review Meeting

Schoolfriendetc would like to hear from parents about how they feel the ASC and Holiday Play Scheme has been going and any ideas they have to improve the service

Wednesday 14th October

Harvest Assembly - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Thursday 15th October

Everybody Writes National Launch Day

Friday 23rd October

Closing date for Secondary Transfer applications

Friday 23rd October (3.30pm)

School finishes for half term holidays

Friday 27th November (All Day)

School closed - INSET DAY

Teachers at Staff Conference (Friday to Sunday) / Teaching Assistants - ICT Training

Wednesday 16th December

Passport Behaviour Trips

Friday 18th December

Christmas Lunch

Year 3 and 4 forthcoming Trips

Mon 16th Nov HMS Belfast

Tues 19th Nov (Oak and Spruce only), Pizza Express

Thurs 3rd Dec Science Museum

Tues 15th Dec Greenwich Theatre

Year 5 & 6 forthcoming trip dates

Mon 12th Oct, National Maritime Museum (yr5)

Wed 14th Oct, Primary Proms (yr 5&6)

Mon 19th Oct, Science Museum (yr 5)

Thurs 22nd Oct, Greenwich Odeon (yr 5&6)

Fri 13th Nov, National Maritime Museum (yr 5)

Wed 9th Nov, Natural History Museum (yr 5&6)

Wed 20th Nov, National Maritime Museum (yr 6)

Tue 8th Dec, Greenwich Theatre, (yr5&6)

Secondary transfer drop in

A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 13th October 09 to go through transfer forms.

Please feel free to come in for any help and advice that you need to complete your forms and **remember Lewisham forms need to be handed into School by 18th October 09.**

Lisa Turner

Dinner Money for 09/10



Autumn 09 Term Dinner Money

Mon 7th Sept to Fri 23rd Oct (35 days) - £49.00

Mon 2nd Nov to Fri 18th Dec (35 days) - £49.00

Spring Term Dinner Money

Tues 5th Jan to Fri 12th Feb (29 days) - £40.60

Mon 22nd Feb to Thurs 1st Apr (29 days) - £40.60

Summer Term Dinner Money

Tues 20th Apr to Fri 28th May (28 days) - £39.20

Mon 7th Jun to Fri 23rd Jul (35 days) - £49.00

Year 6 trip to the science museum



In year 6 we went to the science museum and we went to look all around. We looked at all the rockets and things to do with space and after that we had dinner in the picnic area. We went to play in the play area called the launch pad, it was so fun there. We were told that they have the launch pad to make people enjoy science with fun!! We also learned about famous black people and why they are famous.

Krisarndra, Rhiannon and Fadhila

Eid Workshop/Celebration for Year 3 & 4



Eid is a festival after Ramadan and it celebrates the end of one month's fasting. Many Muslims all over the World use Ramadan as a time to reflect, refocus and strengthen their mind, body and soul. It's also a time to strengthen ties with family, friends, and the wider community. We would like to thank all the parents, carers and children who contributed to the Eid Workshop and Celebration and made it such an enjoyable event.

