

12th February 2014

Dear Parent,

Half-term arrangements

The last day of this half-term is **Friday 14th February 2014**. It is a normal school day.

School re-opens on **Monday 24th February 2014**. Pupils should return to school at the normal time. It will be Week 1 – your son or daughter will know what this means.

Dates for your diary

SPRING BREAK – MONDAY 7TH APRIL – MONDAY 21ST APRIL 2014

Wednesday 23rd April 2014 Year 10 Parents Evening

MONDAY 5TH MAY – MAY DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 12th May 2014 School closed to pupils – staff training day

HALF TERM – MONDAY 26TH MAY – FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2014

Wednesday 4th June 2014 Year 7 Parents Evening

Fund Raising Events – Update

At the end of last term, Friday 20th December, the school raised £977.23 for the Philippines charity.

Free School Meals

We have been asked by Newham Pupil Services to write to all parents to encourage them to apply for free school meals. If you apply and are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits the school will get £900 extra funding from the Government. This is called the Pupil Premium. **Even if your child is already receiving free school meals it is important for all our pupils to be registered on the new system.**

To register your child for free school meals you need to go to <http://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Free-school-meals.aspx> (eforms are in the top right hand corner of this web page) - failure to register your child for free school meals may result in your child being charged for a school meal or you having to provide your child with a packed lunch.

If you have any problems completing the eform on line please come into school and we will help you. Alternatively, a member of admin staff is available during Parents Evenings to provide information and guidance as to how to complete the eform.

New Buildings

The building programme is going well and is on time.

Whilst we are very overcrowded here your children carry on behaving very well and not letting the overcrowding get in the way of their education. You should be very pleased with them.

Attendance

We have a policy of contacting parents when their child is away from school and we are unaware of the reason why. From time to time parents get a call by mistake. This usually happens because a child is not with their class when the register is taken. There can be all sorts of reasons for this, some legitimate and others which are not, such as being late for lessons.

If you do get a call in error, please bear with us. If we double check all absences to ensure that no parent receives a call in error, then calls will not be made on the first day of absence -something that is essential if we are to maintain high attendance rates.

Head teacher's Surgery

I run a weekly surgery on Thursday mornings from 7.45 am to 9.00 am. This runs on a drop-in basis, parents can just turn up.

We think we deal with most problems promptly and efficiently but also know that from time to time some of you have a problem that just doesn't seem to get sorted out.

The surgery is an opportunity for you to bring to my attention these difficult to sort out problems. I don't expect to sort them out myself but will make sure that somebody in the school does.

But, if at all possible, please use the usual routes to raise your concerns. In most cases I am confident this will be the quickest and most efficient way to get things done.

Lost Property

We have accumulated a large number of lost property items belonging to pupils which has remained unclaimed. During 17th Feb – 21st February these items will be available for collection by parents/pupils in the school dining area between 9am-2pm. Please come along and have a look through the items of lost property.

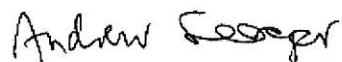
As we do not have storage space for the huge amount of lost property that is steadily increasing, in future we will only be keeping lost property for 4 weeks and this will then be recycled/donated.

Please also remind your child that lost property can be claimed at Reception during break, lunchtimes and after school. It would be very helpful if pupils have their names marked on items of uniform - this will help us to return the item to them.

Parents Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Year 9 Parents Evening this term. Attendance was very high. Parental support makes a big difference to a school and we appreciate yours. Finally thank you to all of you who completed the parental questionnaire. You can see the results of the survey on our website (click on the tab marked **Parents** then scroll down to **Parents' Survey**). The comments you made are all read and thought about.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Seager
Headteacher