



IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



I was delighted to see so many parents attend the Parents Evenings last week. As you know, our children work exceptionally hard and it is right to provide these opportunities for you to celebrate the outcomes of the children's perseverance and hard work. We are also passionate about working closely together to ensure that the children achieve their full potential.

Following a number of conversations that I have had with parents in recent weeks, it has become apparent that there are a number of children who are potentially putting themselves at risk by playing some online games at home. The dangers of playing age-inappropriate games are well known, but we are now in an era where gaming is very much in the online space, a space occupied by both adults and children. In fact, not only are children simply playing against other online opponents, there is also the opportunity to communicate with them, mostly through a messaging tool within the game itself. This causes me a great deal of concern, especially as other players use 'handles' and therefore the true identity of players is not known.

In light of the concerns raised and the need to continually educate our children about Internet Safety, I have spoken to all our KS2 children this morning and shared an animated video clip, 'Lee and Kim', which highlights the dangers to children of communicating in the online space.

I am also aware that a number of our children have Twitter accounts. Facebook, Twitter and other social media tools are subject to age-restrictions and therefore children need to be at **least 13 years old**. I have reminded children that they shouldn't be using Twitter or Facebook at this age.

I'd like to draw parents attention to the **Thinkuknow** website, www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/primary/ and look specifically at the advice and guidance presented. The Top Tips section is particularly helpful.

Finally, our Cross Country team were very successful this afternoon at the Coopersale Hall event. I'm really proud of the whole team. Well done everyone!

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

At the present time there is no indication that there will be any disruption caused to the normal running of the school on the 26th March 2014.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

Second-hand uniform will be sold every Friday after-school.

SPORTS RELIEF

On Monday 24th March, we will be participating in the Sports Relief charity fundraising day. This is an opportunity for our children to come dressed in their favourite sportswear for the day in return for a £1 donation to the charity. We will collect this on the day. We will also be selling Sports Relief wristbands next week which cost £1. Our KS1 children will participate in a 'fun run' at 2:45pm, whilst our KS2 children will run the Sport Relief Mile at 3:00pm. We would like to invite parents, at the times above, to support and cheer our runners along! Unfortunately, this isn't an opportunity for you to run too!

CLASSES ON TWITTER

@IC_EYFS @IC_Chestnut @IC_Birch @IC_Elm
@IC_Rowan @IC_Hornbeam @IC_Plane
@IC_Willow @IC_Beech @IC_Walnut

IVY CHIMNEYS PLAYGROUND

I met with Alan Shaw, who is the Epping Town Council Clerk, earlier this week. We discussed the consultation exercise that we wish to undertake with members of the Ivy Chimneys community, including parents, children and residents. We will be holding two consultation events on **Wednesday 7th May** at 7pm and also on **Thursday 8th May** at 9:30am here at the school. Please add these dates to your diaries. More details to follow.

IMPORTANT DATES

24th March 2014 - Sports Relief Day
28th March 2014 - Staff Training (non-pupil day)
11th June 2014 - Dads to School Day
7th July 2014 - School closed (Tour de France)
8th July 2014 - KS1 Sports Day
9th July 2014 - KS2 Sports Day

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