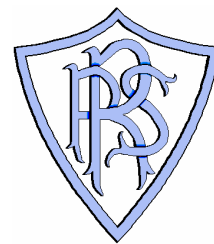


# Rayleigh Primary

## Parent Newsletter



5<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

### **Happy New Year!**

After what seems a very mild Christmas, I am delighted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. On Tuesday when we welcomed back all the children I was once again struck by the real sense of belonging our children have in our school. They settled quickly and purposefully to their work and friendships.

### **Building Work.**

The holidays have again been a busy time for the school. We have some more new windows as our rolling programme of replacements continues. We have also purchased fitted cupboards to try and ensure our school remains efficient. This has allowed us to move the Music Room to a bigger location, the old kitchen. It has also allowed a steady refurbishment of the Dance Drama Studio and a better way of integrating sound and video in the hall. A new hot water boiler has been installed in the Reception Classes as the old boiler could not manage in the cold weather.

### **Booster Classes.**

I am delighted to welcome back Mrs Slack from her operation. She will be carrying out a similar role in Year 5 as Mrs Clark who runs booster classes for Year 6. These classes allow children from both classes to work in a more targeted way in literacy and numeracy. Parents who have had children in the school previously know that booster classes are a Government funded system to prepare all children for end of year assessment.

### **Changes This Year.**

It is going to be a difficult year for all public sector services as the budget cuts increase. In schools, the prediction is a 14% reduction in budget by 2015. Government continues to calculate individual school funding using both the Indices of Deprivation and the Free School Meal figure. I would like to reassure parents that we will continue to do what we can to ensure our children get the best possible education. Therefore, managing our school will increasingly become an act of meeting legal requirements and many of the activities that you value for your children will require other methods of funding. To help us we do need all those families that qualify for free school meals to claim free school meals.

Parents or guardians who receive any of the following do qualify for Free School Meals: Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based), and Income Related Employment & Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of less than £16,040 and Pension Guarantee Credit.

You will not normally be eligible if you receive Working Tax Credit. However, if you have recently become unemployed you may be entitled to a short term 4 week award while your entitlement to Child Tax Credit is assessed. Please contact the office for an application form or apply on line [www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards](http://www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards).

**Education City.**

Following our trial with Years 5 and 6 we are delighted to offer the Education City website to Years 2 and above. To sign up to the site privately as a family would cost you £28 per annum but fortunately we are in a position to offer a reduced cost of £2 per child. Your children will receive a pass card with login details which should be kept safe. Please see the attached letter for further details.

**Dates For Your Diary.**

2<sup>nd</sup> February Yr3 Tate Britain

**Half Term 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**INSET Days 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February**

20<sup>th</sup> March Yr2 Infant Music Festival

22<sup>nd</sup> March Group Photos

26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> March Yr6 PGL

29<sup>th</sup> March Yr1 Barley Lands

23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April Yr 5 French Trip