

# Rayleigh Primary

## Parent Newsletter



11<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

### **Welcome Back.**

What a wonderful start to the new academic year it has been. As I have walked round the school I have been delighted to see so many children smiling, happy to be back at school. All over the school the children have settled well and the teachers are reporting one of the best returns to school ever! We are really looking forward to a successful year building upon this great start.

### **Our Year Ahead**

No doubt you have seen some of the programmes on the news talking of the changes to come to education. It seems that every year a range of ideas and documents arrive suggesting ways we can improve. We hope you will support the following initiatives as they come on line this year.

#### **UNICEF - Rights Respecting School Award.**

We intend to begin the long process of attaining this award from UNICEF. Our first meeting is later this month and from this we will develop an action plan. Our focus will develop from our parent survey that pointed out many parents feel our children could be more responsible towards each other and their feelings. As we work in classes, children will understand the balance between Rights and Responsibilities.

#### **ECO-School Award.**

We are continuing our work towards attaining the ECO-School Award. A Task Group within the school involving staff, children and parents examines the threads that make up this award. To date we have achieved many of the recycling and environmental targets and as our pond comes into use, we look to attain even more.

#### **Global Dimension.**

The Global Dimension started with much more promise than even I imagined. Staff have visited China, Sweden and Ireland and made links with schools to exchange work. We hope to take this significant success further as the links we have made with France and other schools develop and improve. Although parents have rejected the idea of taking children abroad in the past, we hope you will support your child as they work to understand how children live in different cultures without having the opportunity to experience life abroad.

### **Improvements to Our School.**

During the summer we have continued with our painting programme and refurbishments. The Year 6 classroom now has larger wet areas and the resource room has been repainted. New signs and posters have gone up to reinforce our citizenship work and we look to develop more posters using our children through ICT.

**In the light of the positive atmosphere I though parents might like to see this.**

**Position – Mum, Dad**

**Job Description:** Long term, team players needed, for challenging permanent work in an, often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organisational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities! Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

**Responsibilities:** The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs £5. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organise social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

**Possibility for advancement & promotion:** None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

**Previous Experience:** None required unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

**Wages and compensation:.** Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and] bonuses. A balloon payment IS due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that: college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them I whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse- salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

**Benefits:** While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for! personal growth and free hugs for life if you play your cards right.



**Dates for Your Diary.**

October Half Term	22 <sup>nd</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photographer	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Christmas Holiday	20 <sup>th</sup> December to 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Children’s Book Week	1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> October
February Half Term	11 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Evening	6 <sup>th</sup> November
INSET Day	18 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Evening	7 <sup>th</sup> November
Bank Holiday Weekend	21 <sup>st</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Maths Day	15 <sup>th</sup> November
Spring Holiday	31 <sup>st</sup> March to 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Early Years Production	11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> December
Bank Holiday	5 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1 Pantomime	13 <sup>th</sup> December
May Half Term	26 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Pantomime	14 <sup>th</sup> December
INSET Days	21 <sup>st</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Nursery Party	19 <sup>th</sup> December
Summer Holiday	24 <sup>th</sup> July		

Many parents might like to go to the travel agent to see the price of holidays starting on 19<sup>th</sup> July, but  
you didn't hear it from me!