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ALLEYN COURT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

WAKERING ROAD
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX SS3 0PW

16 September 2011

Dear Parents

Once again, another week has passed quickly by at Alley Court. Even though we are only 2 weeks in, there is still a great deal to report on and share with you in this newsletter.

The week started with an immediate response to my request for visitors in last week's newsletter, as we welcomed Mr Cortes and Father Collis to assembly on Monday. Mr Cortes brought along a prototype of the Olympic Torch that he had been involved in the design of and he shared some information on the torch itself and its design. We were amazed to learn that there are likely to be 10,000 torches made for the Olympics next year. Father Collis explained the meaning of the Lord's Prayer and the purpose of prayer and helped the children recite it. It has been suggested to me that insufficient emphasis is placed on this prayer during assemblies and periods of collective worship and this is something that I hope to address this year. This also prompted this week's quiz question to find the two books of the bible in which the Lord's Prayer features. I am still awaiting answers!

I was also delighted that Miss Allen volunteered to be the first staff member to take an assembly this morning. She gave an excellent assembly on JK Rowling and what it takes to be successful.

Activities and clubs have started during the week and I am pleased to report that there has been a positive response from the children this week. Once again, I am delighted that there is such a good range of activities catering for many different interests. Lifeskills has also started this week and I have had positive feedback from staff and children about how these sessions went.

On the theme of clubs, all children in Years 1 – 5 have enjoyed a successful fencing taster session with James Beavers from Little Musketeers and those who wish to take up fencing this term are encouraged to return their reply slips as soon as possible. Mrs Slater is also seeking to finalise numbers for Drama Starters club and I would advise those who are interested to return their slips and payment soon. Children in Paddington and Winnie the Pooh classes will be having taster sessions of Drama Starters with Mrs Slater next week.

This week has also seen our first sporting fixture with the U11 girls playing netball against Thorpe Hall this afternoon. They returned victorious following a 16-3 win. Mrs Baynes reports that it was an excellent team performance and a well-deserved result.

Other events next week include photographs for each Kindergarten class with the Echo, to appear in their New School Starters supplement towards the end of the month. Winnie the Pooh class will be photographed on Monday and Paddington on Wednesday.

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On Monday, we host our first cross-country fixture of the term as children from Year 1-6 race against Thorpe Hall, starting at 3:45pm. Although Mr Hart has distributed teamsheets all children can partake in this event by simply signing up for running club on Monday.

On Wednesday at 8pm in the Main Hall of the Thorpe Bay site, all parents in the Pre-Prep are invited to attend our annual Montessori Information Evening. The Pre-Prep staff provide a very informative evening in which you get to understand the Montessori principles and familiarise yourselves with the resources that we use to teach children in the Pre-Prep.

On Thursday at 8pm in the Main Hall of the Thorpe Bay site, the PTA hold their Annual General Meeting. I would encourage parents to attend to support the existing committee, volunteer your services and also find out about what intentions the PTA have for this academic year, particularly as they look to decide on what things they will be purchasing or sponsoring for the school.

On Friday, we have the first of our class assemblies as 6C take to the stage. As per usual, parents of children in 6C are welcome to attend.

Where I have already shared the interesting developments on offer for pupils this term, I am delighted to inform you that there are also some interesting developments for parents. On a Tuesday morning from next week (20th Sept), Nicola Smith will be holding a Pilates session in the pavilion from 8:45am until 9:30am. This session will be £7 per week with a contribution also being given to the PTA. Those wishing to join should contact Nicola for further information. From the start of October, Thursday mornings will see Yoga sessions being offered in the Pavilion by Paula Cunningham; details will be available from the school office in due course.

Finally, where I have made previous requests and am appreciative of the efforts being made to provide children with healthy snacks, I have been asked to remind parents that things containing peanuts or traces of peanuts should be avoided at all costs. This is particularly more pertinent now that I have been informed that one pupil has an extreme allergic reaction to peanuts which could be life-threatening. I am sure you will try your utmost to honour this request where possible.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Davies

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