



School Motto:
"Let Your Light Shine"



Richard Coates Church of England Middle School

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



28th April 2008

Dear Parent

Assessment Update and School News (April 2008)

As you are aware from previous newsletters all our children are involved in assessments (SATS) over the next two weeks. The following list identifies which tests are happening on which days:

Date	Assessment Information
Tuesday 6 th May	**Year 8 Key Stage 3 Maths Paper A (non calculator) (am) **Year 8 Key Stage 3 Maths-Mental Arithmetic (am) **Year 8 Key Stage 3 Maths-Paper B (calculator) (pm) Year 5 Maths-Mental Arithmetic (am)
Wednesday 7 th May	Year 7 English-Reading Paper (am) Year 5 Maths-Paper A (non calculator) (am) Year 5 English-Reading Paper (pm) Year 7 Maths-Paper A (Mr Whitfield, Mrs Clark, Mr Jones, Mr Brown) Year 7 Maths-Mental Arithmetic (Mrs Clark)
Thursday 8 th May	Year 7 English-Writing Paper (am) Year 7 Maths-Paper B (calculator)-(Mrs Clark, Mr Brown-set3, Mr Jones) Year 5 Maths-Paper B (calculator) am Year 5 English-Spelling and short Writing Paper (pm)
Friday 9 th May	Year 5 English-Longer Writing Paper (am) Year 7 Maths-Paper B (calculator)-(Mr Whitfield, Mr Brown-set1) Year 7 Maths-Mental Arithmetic-(Mr Jones, Mr Brown-set 3)
Monday 12 th May *	Year 6 Science Paper A (am) Year 6 Science Paper B (am)
Tuesday 13 th May	Year 6 English-Spelling and Short Writing Paper (am) Year 6 English-Longer Writing Paper (am) Year 7 Maths-Mental Arithmetic-(Mr Whitfield, Mr Brown-set1)
Wednesday 14 th May	Year 6 English-Reading Paper (am)
Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 Maths Paper A (non calculator paper) (am) Year 6 Maths-Mental Arithmetic (am)
Friday 16 th May	Year 6 Maths Paper B (calculator paper) (am)
Monday 19 th May	
Tuesday 20 th May	Year 8 English-Reading Paper (am)
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 8 English-Writing Paper (am)
Thursday 22 nd May	
Friday 23 rd May	

Once the SATS are over, the summer term becomes very busy with trips and visits as well as preparing for events such as the Summer Production and Sports Day. We will strive to keep parents up to date with relevant information and dates. Please check website for extra information.

Notes relating to SATS:

* *As we informed parents in a previous newsletter, students in Year 8 at Richard Coates and Ponteland Middle School will take the end of Keys Stage 3 SAT in Maths this year rather than taking it at the end of Year 9. Students have been preparing for this during the course their Year 7 and Year 8 studies.

** *Year 6 SATS and Key Stage 3 Maths SATS are marked externally. We receive the results back into school in July and will post these home to parents as soon as we receive them. All other SATS are marked internally and results will be shared with students when papers have been marked and moderated. This should mean that results are known by the end of June.

Preparation for SATS

As well as the revision that I know students have been engaged in during lessons and at home please would you be able to support us with the following during the week your child is taking part in SATS:

- All students should bring the correct equipment each day (for example, pens, pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator).
- It is important that all students have enough sleep especially on the week of the SATS and have breakfast each morning.
- Revision guidance can be accessed on the BBC revisewise website:
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/ (suitable for Years 5 and 6)
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/ (suitable for Years 7 and 8)
- We are working very hard at school to try and reduce as much stress as possible with our students and trying to be as encouraging as possible with the work and effort that our students are making. Thank you for supporting this at home.

School Day-Consultation Period

Attached to this letter is a sheet relating to the length of the school day. We are proposing to change the length of the school day from September 2008. This would mean that school started earlier (at 8.40am) and finished earlier (at 3.20pm). The purpose of this is explained on the attached document. If you have any feelings about this (either positive or otherwise) please would you complete the slip and return it to school by **Monday 12th May 2008**. We will hold an information evening on **Tuesday 20th May** starting at **5.15pm** which is open to any parents who wish to discuss this proposal at a meeting which will be attended by Governors of the school. The meeting will conclude by 6.00pm at the latest.

Musical Excellence

Congratulations to Ruth Gillies and Rosie Clearhill for achieving distinction grades in recent instrumental examinations. Ruth achieved Grade 3 Flute with distinction and Rosie achieved Grade 1 Oboe with distinction and Grade 3 Clarinet with distinction. Well done to Ruth and Rosie for working hard to achieve such excellent results-we are proud of you both! It is wonderful to note that we have over 175 children having instrumental lessons in our school. This is the highest number of students in a middle school learning instruments that I have ever heard of and is testimony to the hard work of Mrs Jinks and the peripatetic music teachers and the willingness of our students to learn new instruments and to make full use of musical gifts and talents-Well done!

Year 5 Charity Superstars

Congratulations to all our Year 5 students who have raised over £315.00 towards the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity through planting a daffodil earlier in the year and monitoring its growth. Well done Year 5!

Year 5 X Factor

Year 5 budding stars are being invited to take part in an X Factor style talent show run by Miss Frost. Auditions are being held during lunchtime each lunchtime next week. Well done to everyone who is brave enough to come along and show your talents and thank you to Miss Frost for organising this.

Cindy

Mrs Jinks and a team of very dedicated Staff are working extremely hard on our summer production which is a lively and modern musical called Cindy. We will be performing it to parents and friends of the school in July and am sure that we will have a full 'house' each night. Auditions and rehearsals will be starting soon.

Tindigani Primary School (Tanzania)

We have become the official partner school for Tindigani Primary School in Tanzania. The school has just under 300 children and is close to Mount Kilimanjaro. As part of the link students in our school will write to students at Tindigani school and vice versa. One of the problems that the children have is the high levels of fluoridation in the water. A well with a special filter has been built to deal with this problem but the running costs for this are approximately £500 a year.

We are having a 'casual clothes' day on Friday of this week (2nd May). We are encouraging all children who wish to take part to bring in a £1 donation which will be sent to Dr Richard Walker who is our local contact. Dr Walker will take the money out to Tanzania himself later this year. He is also coming into school in June to share some photographs and information with our students about the problems that the water is causing in terms of bone disease and how the filter works to prevent this. I am sure that our students will benefit greatly from a close link with a school in Africa which allows us a practical way to try and live out the Gospel message to 'love your neighbour as yourself' which lies at the heart of the Christian ethos of our school.

School Motto

You may have noticed (from the top of the letterhead) that the school motto has changed to "Let your light shine" this is taken from Chapter 5 of St Matthew's Gospel. The motto encourages all to 'shine' through the use of gifts and talents and through the way we support each other and kindness that we show to each other. I feel passionately that it is important to celebrate success at all times and actively encourage students to let me and other Staff know of anything that has been done in or out of school that they are proud of. We have a celebration assembly each Friday which allows us to do this as well as the day to day celebration of effort and attainment. We are very fortunate in our school to have so many people who make full use of the talents that they have and so many people who show so much kindness and thoughtfulness towards others. I am sure that all have the chance to 'shine' in many different ways between now and the end of the summer term!

Admissions

Despite being full in most year groups we have one or two places still for children currently in Year 4 and for children currently in Year 5. If you know of a parent who might be interested in one of these places please would you ask them to contact me. There are no places currently available for children in Years 6, 7 or 8. There is an intake evening for new parents on Tuesday 24th June.

County Cup Winners

On Tuesday evening our Year 6 football team played Brockwell Middle School (Cramlington) in the final of the County Cup. The County Cup is open to all schools in North Tyneside, Newcastle and Northumberland. At the end of a hard fought match the score was 2-2. Two sessions of extra time were played and still the stalemate continued. We entered the penalty shoot out stage. After winning an extremely tense penalty shootout I am delighted to be able to report that Richard Coates CE Middle School Under 11 football team were crowned County Cup winners 2008.

The match was a fantastic match to watch. I was incredibly proud of the entire squad of players who have helped the team progress from the preliminary rounds, through the quarter final, the semi final and the final itself. Many thanks to Mr Hopper and Mr Jones who have managed and coached the team. Thank you to parents, grandparents and brothers and sisters who came and supported the team. It was wonderful to have such excellent support for this hard fought match. The sportsmanship, teamwork and support for one another as well as the fantastic skill on the pitch make our team worthy County Champions-a great honour, well done to all involved.

I hope to see you during the many events happening during the summer term. As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby
Headteacher

Richard Coates CE Middle School-School Day

Proposal from Governing Body (to start September 2008)

Information	Current	Length		Time from September 2008	Length
Start of school/Registration	8.50am	10 min registration		8.40am	7 min registration
Start of assembly	9.00am	15 min assembly		8.47am	13 min assembly
Start of lesson 1	9.15am	60 min lesson 1		9.00am	60 min lesson 1
Start of lesson 2	10.15am	60 min lesson 2		10.00am	60 min lesson 2
Start of morning break	11.15am	15 min break		11.00am	15 min break
Start of lesson 3	11.30am	60 min lesson 3		11.15am	60 min lesson 3
Start of lunch	12.30am	60 min lunch		12.15pm	55 min lunch
Start of registration	1.30pm	5 min registration		1.10pm	5 min registration
Start of lesson 4	1.35pm	60 min lesson 4		1.15pm	60 min lesson 4
Start of lesson 5	2.35pm	60 min lesson 5		2.15pm	60 min lesson 5
End of lesson 5 (start of getting organised to go home)	3.35pm	5 minutes getting ready		3.15pm	5 minutes getting ready
End of school day	3.40pm	NIL		3.20pm	NIL

Total taught time per week-5(60minsx5) = **25 hours** in total (exactly as is taught at present)

Rationale for change:

- Research showing improved concentration in the morning. With the new timings lesson 1 will start 15 minutes earlier than as present.
- Majority of children are already in the school grounds by 8.40am
- Staff meetings can start at a more reasonable time
- Increase amount of extra curricular activities as school will finish slightly earlier. Therefore clubs and matches can start earlier which is beneficial when daylight hours are shorter during autumn and winter.
- No change at all to amount of curriculum time (still 25 hours a week taught time)
- Bus pick up times will be earlier-(at present some children are not picked up by bus until 4pm)
- Maintains a difference in school closure time with neighbouring first school (3.15pm) but means parents who pick up from both schools do not have a long wait for siblings.
- Brings our school more inline with timing of other Middle Schools.



----- Consultation with Parents Regarding to a Proposed Change to the Length of the School Day.

Name of Student _____ Year Group _____

Are you (please tick one box)

In favour of the change Opposed to the change
 Neither in favour or opposed

Comments regarding the consultation (please complete on separate sheet if needed):

I will/ will not* (delete as applicable) be at the Consultation Meeting at 5.15pm on **Tuesday 20th May 2008**. Please return the completed slip to the blue post cupboard in Reception by **Monday 12th May 2008**. Thank you for your help with this.