

# Charles Dickens School

## Friday Newsletter

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[www.charlesdickens.southwark.sch.uk](http://www.charlesdickens.southwark.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring is in the air, supposedly! But it is always a sunny learning time at Charles Dickens School. The children have excelled themselves displaying their many and varied talents during the Eisteddfod last Friday. In addition to the wonderful singing, dancing and musical instrument playing, what impressed us most was the quality of work produced by children at home. A wide selection of the winning entries will be on display in the 'artful Dodger gallery' next week—do take time to come and visit the exhibition with your child. It was such a success that staff and pupils are keen for this to become an annual event. As with everything we do at Charles Dickens the children and staff have evaluated the festival so that it will be (if that is possible) even better next year.



Work continues on the Lant Street development and the contractors are continuing to focus on the resurfacing of the land in order to provide the best surfaces for the children to play. You will also notice that we have taken the opportunity to refresh the soil and growing areas



in the school garden to allow for more opportunities for growing fruit and veg. The children are coping remarkably well with the disruption and the project is currently on time to finish as planned.

Despite the fact our building site is secure, we know growing up in central London does mean building works will always mean children need to know how to be safe near to construction sites. We have seized the opportunity to give all the younger children some training in 'construction safety' - many thanks to Rebekah Bostan and Victoria Diamond for organising this! Coupled with this week's road safety training in years 1 and 2, our children will be the most safety conscious in South London!

There will be another engaging learning project for the children as next week is Science Week. Next week, for Science Week, Ms Chapleo, Head of Science, has planned an intriguing and innovative take on how we organise our science week learning this year. Please read the letter from Ms Chapleo which will give you more essential information. The children are in for an exciting and motivating weeks learning.

Cassie Buchanan

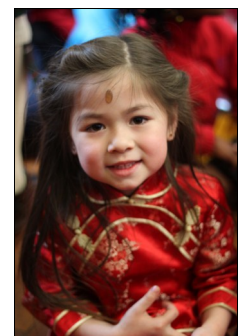
Terri de Quincey

### **Eisteddfod**

Last Friday, 1st March 2013 Charles Dickens School held our first Eisteddfod Festival and it was a huge success as we celebrated the many creative talents of pupils.

The standard of entries was extremely high and all the judges were very impressed with the confidence and composure of all the pupils. A HUGE thank you and well done to Ms Sophie Alcock and Mr Dan Huxley, our Welsh teachers, for bringing us this wonderful event and for leading it so magnificently.

There are lots of photographs on the school website of some of the wonderful cultural dress worn (see the lovely examples) and even a video of the Key Stage 2 Dance Final!



## **Dates for the diary**

Last day of Spring Term - Thursday 28th March

Inset day - Monday 15th April (school closed to pupils)

Children back in school - Tuesday 16th April

May Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May

Half Term holiday - Monday 27th May to Friday 31 May

Inset day - Friday 21st June

Last day of Summer Term - Wednesday 24th July

## **Individual Photos**

A reminder that individual photographs for pupils are on Monday 18th March.

## **Red Nose Day**

### **'80s' Disco Thursday 14th March 6pm to 8pm**

Time to get your dancing shoes on! DJ Dan Huxley will be hosting our disco and there will be special guest appearances from our talented staff. Tickets are currently on sale in the playground and spaces are limited so please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult to the disco as school staff will not be supervising children on the evening.

### **Cake Sale Friday 15th March after school and Crazy Hair Day**

We will also be holding a cake sale in the playground which will include 'The Great Charles Dickens School Bake Off' (£1 per entry). Our prestigious judges will be judging 'The Funniest Cupcake'. Friday will also be 'Crazy Hair Day' for pupils and staff! Please bring £1 that day if your child would like to take part.

## **Late Collections**

Since half term we are noticing an increasing amount of children being collected late from school and any clubs/groups that they take part in after school, including After School Club. It is upsetting for children if they are not sure when they are being collected and who is collecting them.

We would like to remind parents/carers that Early Years and Key Stage 1 finish at 3.20pm and Key Stage 2 finish at 3.30pm. The school gates open at 3.15pm. After School Club finishes at 5.30pm.

Please check what time your child finishes any clubs/groups after school and arrive on time to collect your child if they are not going home alone.

If, by 3.45pm, we have had no explanation that you will be late collecting your child and we are unable to contact you we will have to put your child into After School Club which incurs a cost of £8 a day per child.

## **Parents Forum**

The next Parents Forum meeting will take place on Friday 15th March at 2pm in the Eco Classroom.

## **Tennis Coaching at Mint Street Park**

If your child is interested in tennis lessons these take place on Wednesday 3.45 to 5pm (Level Red 2+) £7/session, block of 5 lessons. Drop by on the day to register, places are limited.

## **Rugby Season Returns!**

Twenty talented pupils represented Charles Dickens School on 28 February at a Southwark wide tag rugby tournament. The prize at stake for the winners was to represent Southwark at the Inner London Games. Both Charles Dickens teams qualified for the quarter finals with one progressing on to the semi finals too. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was preparation for the Southwark League which starts next week. Congratulations to Goose Green School who deservedly won this tournament and best of luck representing Southwark in the Summer!

