



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015! I hope you all had a lovely holiday and are keeping on top of those new year resolutions! The Spring term is the shortest term of the year – it seems we have only just got going yet half term is three weeks away.

This is a really important term for Year 6 as it is their last chance to get ready for their End of Key Stage Two Tests more commonly known as SATs. This is the last year when children will receive a level after their SATs: Years 3, 4 and 5 are now working on “end of year expectations” and there will be a new set of tests next year that will produce a numerical score rather than a level. We will let you know more about them when we find out ourselves: it’s still a bit of a mystery not just to us but to every school in the country!

Iain C. Gilmore

STAFF NEWS

This term we have two new teachers: Miss Snowdon in Year 3 and Miss Casey in Year 4. Miss Snowdon has taken over 3RM (now called 3CS) and Miss Casey is teaching 4GB as Mr Blackhurst has decided to look for a teaching job closer to home as he continues to recover from illness.

Mr Wrightson, our new caretaker, started in January and has already made a big difference to school. Lastly Mr Ocomore and Mr O’Dell are working in Year 5 as part of their university course.



We welcome them all and hope they all enjoy being part of the Brunel team!

ACADEMY NEWS

I hope it is not a surprise for you that we are now an academy! We converted on 1 November and are proud members of the Thinking Schools’ Academy Trust. Academies are state funded schools who are not part of the local authority and so we enjoy a bit more freedom in terms of how we run the school and the curriculum we follow.

One change is that we now have an Executive Headteacher, Mrs Stevens, who spends one day a week helping me with our school improvement work. Mrs Stevens is based at Newbridge Junior School and the two of us have been working together informally for more years than we care to remember so this is a natural next step for us both.



Another change is the introduction of thinking skills which will happen later this term – watch this space for more details!

LATES

The number of children arriving late is still a bit up and down – last week we had around 50 children late. Please make it your New Year’s Resolution to get children here on time: the gates are open from 8:40am and children must be in class by 8:50am which is when the gates are locked. We’ll carry on using targeted text



reminders as you have told us they have been helpful.

LORD MAYOR'S DRESS DOWN DAY

On Friday 13 February, we are supporting the Lord Mayor's Dress Down Day. For a donation of at least £1, children can have a non-uniform day. All the money raised will go towards the Lord Mayor's four charities which are: The Royal Navy and Royal Marines charity; the Salvation Army Haven Centre; the Play Centres and Youth Clubs of Portsmouth and finally Pompey in the Community. Usual rules apply please – no football kits or onesies - thank you!



LOST PROPERTY

Thank you for making sure school uniform and coats are clearly labelled with children's names – it makes the process of reuniting items with their owners so much easier. Please remember that we will be disposing of any unclaimed lost property after Wednesday of this week.

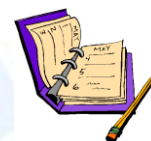


PARENTS' SURVEY

Please keep an eye out for our annual parents' survey which will be sent home before the end of the month with the usual chance of winning a bottle of wine with all forms that are returned!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 29 January	Year 3 parents' art afternoon
Tuesday 3 February	M&M Theatre Production – Robin Hood
Wednesday 4 February	Year 5 to PAGS for Alice in Wonderland
Tuesday 10 February	Year 4 Cornet Concert
Wednesday 11 February	Year 6 parents' ship building afternoon
Thursday 12 February	Year 3 Curriculum Celebration
Friday 13 February	Lord Mayor's Dress Down Day



Monday 16 February

Half term

TERM DATES FOR THIS YEAR

Spring Term 2015 Mon 5 January - Thurs 2 April	Summer Term 2015 Mon 20 April - Wed 22 July
<p>Half Term Mon 16 February - Fri 20 February</p> <p>Easter Fri 3 April - Fri 17 April</p>	<p>May Day Mon 4 May</p> <p>Half Term Mon 25 May - Fri 29 May</p>

INSET DAYS

Monday 23 February 2015

Monday 1 June 2015



Isambard Brunel
JUNIOR SCHOOL • PORTSMOUTH

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BRUNEL BULLETIN

Comments' Slip

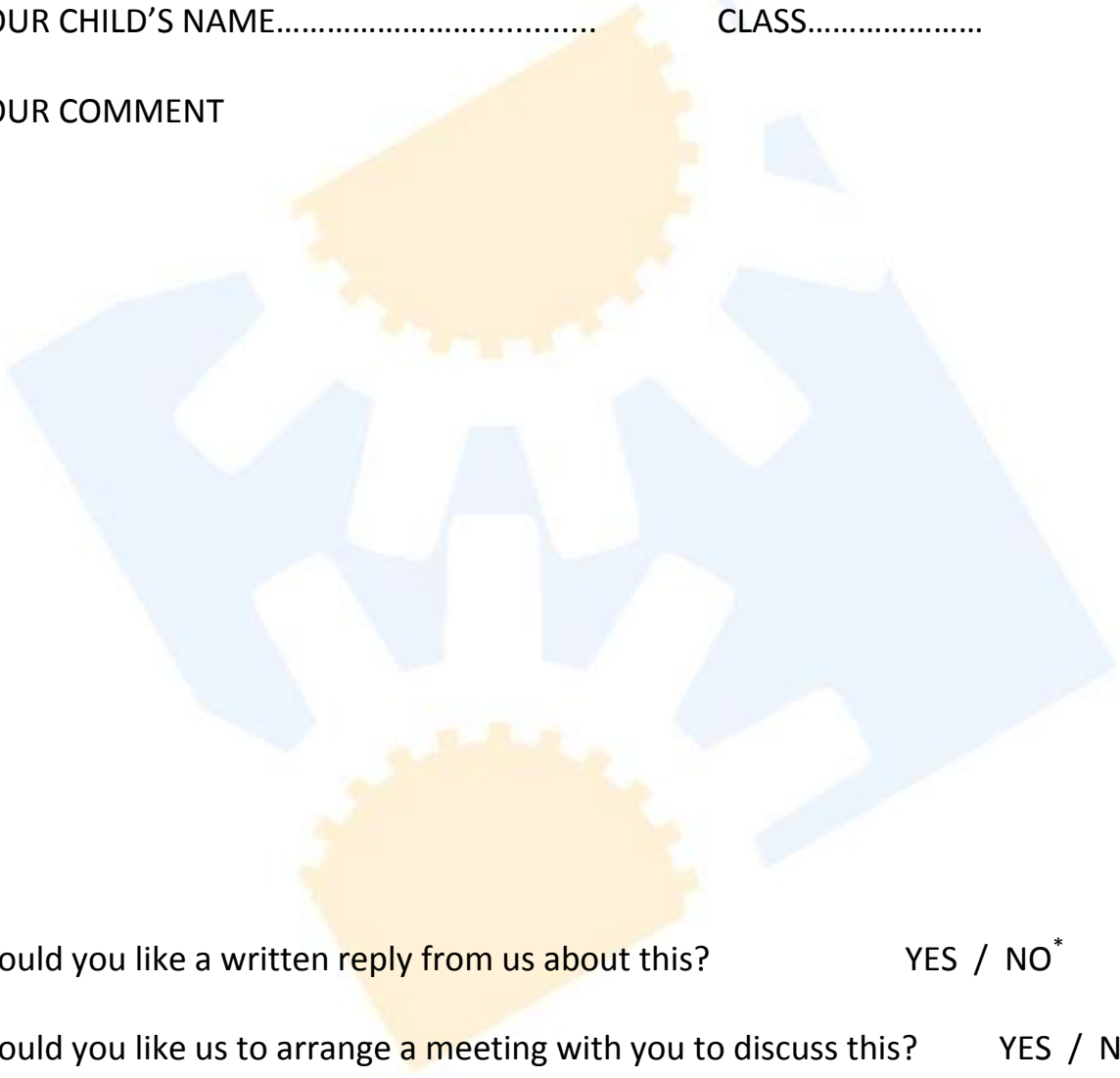
Volume 9 Issue 4 January 2015

YOUR NAME.....

YOUR CHILD'S NAME.....

CLASS.....

YOUR COMMENT



Would you like a written reply from us about this?

YES / NO*

Would you like us to arrange a meeting with you to discuss this?

YES / NO*

* please circle your choice

Thank you for taking the time to write to us.