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THE LAST DAY OF
SPRING TERM FOR
PUPILS WILL BE FRIDAY
30 MARCH 2012

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PUPILS RETURN TO
SCHOOL AFTER THE
EASTER HOLIDAYS
ON MONDAY 16 APRIL
2012

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Trinity School Newsletter March 2012

Dear Parents

As we arrive yet again at the end of another school term we say thank you and goodbye to Miss Moreland, Mr Toka and Miss Weekes and wish them the best in their future careers. Consequently we are going to be joined after Easter by two new Teachers: Mrs Smith and Mrs Campagna. We offer them a warm welcome to Trinity School. We shall also be joined by several new pupils as we take the next step in the enlargement of the school.

In response to the increase in pupil numbers, I am pleased to say that the school will be recruiting an additional Speech Therapist to join the service next term.

Our builders have been very busy this term and we have been able to open a new classroom for an additional Early Year's group and four new changing areas for our more dependent pupils. In addition, by the time we return after the Easter break we will have converted the first floor of the former Social Services building on the Heathway into a new Living and Learning Centre.

I am very pleased to inform parents that on the ground floor of the same building a new Disabled Children's Centre is about to open. Look out for information on what the new Heathway Centre can offer you and your child. We wish the staff of the Centre the very best for the future.

On Monday 22 March several of the pupils took part in a music and dance presentation which was held at The London Palladium. The evening was a triumph for all those who took part. I offer my congratulations to all the participants both staff and pupils.

As we are sometimes asked about our views on homework, I have attached a page from the school website which is a summary of the school's policy.

The Home Intervention Service has this term trained 18 families on the use of communication and visual structure in the home. This work is always well received by Parents and remains a high priority for the school. Consequently we shall be adding a Support Worker to the team who will be available to advise parents on the best way to introduce structure in the home.

Several of the pupils were invited to audition as dancers to take part in a very special and exciting event which will take place this summer in East London! Whilst I am unable to say much more at the moment, it will be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Finally may I offer my sincere thanks to you all for all the kindness, support and constructive ideas which you have given to the school over this term.

Peter McPartland
Headteacher



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Easter Holiday 2012

Monday 2 April -
Friday 13 April (Inclusive)

May Day 2012

Monday 7 May

Summer Half Term 2012

Monday 4 June -
Friday 8 June (Inclusive of Bank
Holidays)

The last day of Summer Term
for Pupils will be Thursday 19
July 2012

The first day back for Pupils
after the Summer Holiday will
be Thursday 6 September
2012.

NOTE TO PARENTS

**IF YOUR CHILD IS
ABSENT YOU MUST LET
THE SCHOOL KNOW
ON THE FIRST DAY
GIVING THE REASON
FOR ABSENCE E.G.
ILLNESS,
APPOINTMENTS ETC.**

**ALL ABSENCES
WITHOUT A KNOWN
REASON WILL BE
FOLLOWED UP WITH A
TELEPHONE CALL
FROM THE SCHOOL
OFFICE.**

The Lower School

Lower School are looking forward to Spring and Easter celebrations next week. A special Easter Assembly is planned where the children can share all their hard work on Easter and Spring activities and enjoy seasonal songs and images together.

Our Early Years children shared a fantastic Mother's Day Tea Party with their Mums last week. It was lovely to see you all and hope that you have started to form some new friendships with other Mums. Nikkie is going to arrange some more get-togethers for you in the Summer.

One Year 4 class are visiting Asda this week to buy items for a tea party they are sharing together. This is tailored to support one of our pupils who is having difficulty sharing in shopping experiences with their family. This is an example of how we personalise learning experiences in our exciting curriculum and of how we start to develop life skills in Lower School.

Preparations are underway for a Bug man to bring some small creatures for the children to meet in the early part of the Summer Term as part of our topic on Minibeasts, and also for a trip to Tropical Wings again for those children who are ready.

It has been a busy time for teachers this term when they have a chance to sit down with me and talk through your children's progress. We are always supported by our Speech and Language Therapists at these meetings and their advice is invaluable. Together we have lots of ideas on how to meet the children's often complex needs and the Teachers' commitment to this is commendable. It is a pleasure for me to see how many of the children are benefiting from ideas generated at these meetings. I hope you can see the difference too.

I am delighted that following lots of planning and discussions around playground marking and activities,

work has been booked to take place in the Lower School playground in May/June. It is going to be great for our children to see their environment brightened up so beautifully!

Finally, it remains for me to say a big 'Thank You' to Candice Tarling who has been supporting the work of the phase as a manager this term as part of staff training.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday

*Sue Ball & all the staff and children in
Lower School.*

Middle School

Many classes from Middle School have been out and about this term, Year 5/6 have been shopping as part of their maths and geography topics and have taken several trips along Oxlow Lane and to Morrisons to shop and explore different kinds of shops. We all continue to enjoy regular visits to ELHAP. We are also very proud of our Middle School drummers and dancers and the staff who supported them in taking part in the Inspiration Show at the London Palladium at the beginning of this week. They were all magnificent!

The curriculum has been very varied this term with Years 7/8 learning a lot about poetry, plants (especially daffodils), Antarctica and the Plains Indians of North America. Years 5/6 have enjoyed stories about the Gruffalo and Jack and the Beanstalk. They have just finished a topic on World War II and digging for victory which they all really enjoyed.

We say goodbye to two members of staff this term. We'd like to thank Katrina Lehman - who has been in post as a temporary manager all this term - for all the hard work she has done in supporting staff and the smooth running of the phase. We also say goodbye to Sam East (co-educator in Y5/6MK) who will transfer to a post in the Living and Learning Centre next term.

Thanks to Sam for all her hard work too. We will miss them both very much next term.

All staff and students are practising hard for our Easter Assembly on the last day of term. I do hope that many of you reading this were able to come along and see all our students and the choir celebrate Easter and new life.

We wish you all a very happy Easter holiday. See you next term.

*Lynne Kelly and Abby Town
Middle School Managers.*

The Upper School

The Upper Phase has continued to be very busy this term. The Year 11 and Year 14 students are working hard to complete all their accreditation work in a variety of subjects. These include English Maths, Science, ICT, Catering, Home Management, Horticulture and PHSE.

The students in Years 10, 11, 13 and 14 have continued to complete work experience placements at a variety of venues. This is a very successful part of the Upper Phase curriculum as the students experience the world of work. Our PMLD groups also complete a work experience within the school. The Year 13 students in the FEC, have participated in a six week link course in the catering department at Barking College. This has been a very successful experience for them. The Year 11 students begin their college link course after Easter where they will do bricklaying, and painting and decorating.

Two students in the FEC are attending a ten week Healthy Living Forum at Kingsley Hall with Progress Project. They will participate in a variety of activities.

Within the FEC the work with CSV has resulted in them receiving first place in the category of Building Stronger Neighbourhoods at the Team London awards. Students were given the award by Boris Johnson.

We are very proud of this achievement. They are continuing to work with The Chestnut Centre Home on various projects this term.

Adam took part in the Youth Forum and was later interviewed by The Dagenham Post.

Some of our Upper Phase students have represented the school at sporting events i. e. The Panathlon and Swimming Gala. They have been successful at these events. Many of our students attend after school clubs involving a variety of activities.

The FEC have enjoyed a Drama Club which is hosting a presentation this term. Some of our phase are also involved in Inspiration at the Palladium which takes place towards the end of term.

The PMLD classes are looking forward to accessing the new long awaited facilities including a hygiene area.

The Key Stage 4 garden is beginning to take shape once again. We look forward to seeing the garden flourish with flowers, plants and vegetables.

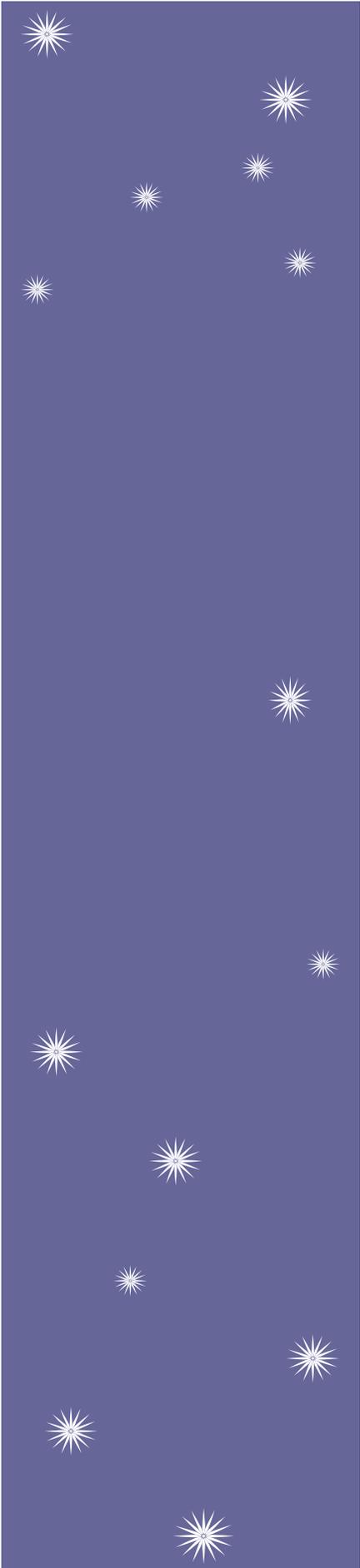
As the Summer Term approaches, there will be many events taking place. We will notify you in due course.

We hope you have a good Easter break.

*Sandra Burns and the Upper Phase
Management Team*

Living & Learning Centre

The period since our last newsletter has been exciting and very progressive. Our students have continued to make good progress and all of them are on target regarding achieving their set Personal Learning Objectives.



Recommendations made by the Headteacher during our recent audit have led to the LLC now having photographic and video evidences of pupils' progress being computed on the school's system.

Our new building (all aged LLC 2) will be completed for use after Easter and planning is currently underway in order to ensure a smooth and effective transition of new pupils/ students into the new facility. The LLC will be able to take up to six more students after Easter, who have autism and are very challenging. Three of the six places have already been filled and the new pupils' transitioning process has already begun.

The new building will also have our recovery classroom group for pupils who are being supported with the plan of reintegrating them back into the main body of the school, should it be deemed possible. Our new building will have a fitness room, a multisensory room, a kitchen and staff resources room, apart from the pupils' individualised classrooms.

Staff are committed to ensure that our students and pupils succeed within an enabling environment.

Management are keen to maintain a structured approach to learning for our pupils within the school, offsite (community access programmes) and even at their homes (home intervention support). We have recently employed new staff who will start after Easter and we hope their addition will enhance the vision that the school has undertaken to support our pupils who find it difficult to cope in the larger class units (main body of the school). Sylvia, our Deputy Manager is on maternity leave, therefore our Headteacher has given three of our Keyworkers the opportunity to experience 'a tour of duty' undertaking Sylvia's duties in her absence.

The Trinity LLC wish all a Happy Easter

Rolland Dankwa
Trinity LLC Manager

Trinity school home work policy

This advice is for parents, carers and staff who are considering what type of homework best matches the needs of the pupils.

Before prescribing or requesting homework the following key points should be considered.

1. The work must have a **clear purpose**. Homework should be used not for learning which is new, but to enhance work undertaken in the classroom. **Home work is not given to simply occupy the students' time but to let pupils practice what they have learned.**
2. The tasks must be **doable** as they help students feel positive about themselves as learners. Homework that cannot be done without significant help is not good homework and can be de-motivating to pupils.
3. Whenever possible, homework should be **customized** to promote pupil ownership. Pupils are only to undertake work which is relevant **and realistic**.

At Trinity School homework will come in many forms and parents are encouraged to discuss with us what they can do at home. For example:

- The home-school diary will have on each page a section in which the school staff write the pupil's priority learning target and how parents and carers can help at home. This will change as the term progresses.
- The Trinity school web site www.trinityschooldagenahm.org.uk will have links to other web sites where learning activities can be worked on.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to read to their children each day. A short session to promote picture/word recognition and good communication will be time well spent.
- Each term the school will send home to families a short curriculum overview of work that is planned for that term. They can use this information to support decisions about what to watch on TV, what outings to undertake or what games, toys and books to buy.
- The home intervention service will train parents about how to use visual schedules and structure in the home. This is a significant part of our homework policy and is offered to families as they join the school.
- Our Speech and Language therapists are keen to share with you techniques and strategies which can be used in the home to reinforce and promote communication skills.
- The governors of the school recognize that there are times when families may need to take holidays in term time. This is especially true for families who have children who become distressed and anxious when faced with the crowds and noise associated with busy holiday periods. These trips, if they are agreed by the Headteacher, are conditional upon families supporting the children to make a scrap book or diary of their trip which in turn can be used in school as a focus for further communication work. Photographs and souvenirs are always a good means by which speaking, listening, reading and writing can be promoted.
- The school organizes a wide range of extended day activities, including after school, Saturday morning and holiday clubs. Attendance at these clubs extends our work and offers additional time for teaching and learning.
- Where appropriate our teachers can offer additional tasks such as worksheets to be undertaken at home. This work must be within the pupil's current level of attainment and reinforce skills already acquired but not yet mastered. Parents should remember that this work must be returned to the school for marking or monitoring.
- Where appropriate pupils who have a reading book are allowed to take it home each evening to share with their families.

Finally, parents and families should take every opportunity to promote the pupil's independent living skills. The chance to practice self care, travel competence and domestic activities such as personal hygiene routines and making simple snacks provide pupils with the chance of achieving some independent living skills. We believe that it is this kind of homework that will have a significant and long lasting impact upon the lives of the children and for this reason is the most valuable and worthwhile of all.