

# Lunch Menu

<b>Mon</b>	Sweet & sour vegetables with noodles	Coconut cherry flapjack
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Class 3's "You Choose" meal</b> Vegetable soup & dumplings	Peach cobbler
<b>Fri</b>	Mixed vegetable coconut curry & rice	Fruit salad

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Tues 10</b>	<b>3.15-4.15pm Premier Sports multi-sports club</b>
<b>Wed 11</b>	<b>3.15-4.45pm Drama Club 7.30pm Premises Meeting</b>
<b>Thu 12</b>	<b>Lizzie at conference (Bedales) Lorraine in Class 3 all day 5-8pm - PET course in Class 2</b>
<b>Fri 13</b>	<b>Whole school trip to Tate Modern Class 2 carry on to South Bank</b>

### Break up for Half Term

<b>Mon 23</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
	<b>Mandi away all week (Cath covering PMs)</b>
<b>Tue 24</b>	<b>Pancake Day</b>

**Y**  
**A**  
**D**  
**6 Feb 2009**  
**R**  
**E**

You'll have noticed from recent diary entries, that we have important events scheduled for the last day of the next two half terms. The first is our visit to London next week and the second our dance performance on the day before the Easter Holiday. In both cases there were good reasons why these events couldn't be scheduled a day or two earlier and in the course of fixing these dates the teaching staff found themselves discussing the wider issues of attendance at the school.

The three terms at LNS are, as we all know, shorter than those of our neighbouring state schools. They are designed to be long enough to make good headway with the children's learning but not so long that we all collapse in a heap at the end of them. In schools where the terms are longer, the last week is often given over to less demanding activity in order to avoid kids or staff burning out. Similarly, there is often a week or so at the beginning of term used to ease back into the rigours of the normal routine.

Having worked in several other schools with longer terms and with children of my own now attending LNS, I am convinced that the 12 (on average) week term is pretty much of an optimum length. However, in the light of my current experience as a class teacher, what I also now realise is that some families are not entirely aware of how the success of the 12 week term (for individual children and the whole class group) relies on every child being present from the very beginning until the very end.

We, like all schools, are obliged by law to monitor attendance at the school and to ensure that parents are aware of their legal responsibility to ensure that children registered at the school of age 5 or above attend regularly. As headteacher, I am, of course, duty bound to do what's right by the law, but my more heartfelt concern is that we do what's right for the children. With this in mind it would be great if families could keep absence from school during term time for those times when it's really essential or unavoidable.

**Lizzie**

## La Salle de Cinéma

Many thanks to Emily and Dahlan (*Joshy* and *Elias*) for their work filming in school last week as they embark on the task of updating the school website film. The new footage (with current staff replacing those no longer working at the school) will better represent our current practice and in so doing offer people visiting the website a better understanding of what we're up to.

## La Rive Sud

Please be sure to read the enclosed letter and return the slips for next week's visit to Tate Modern. You will have seen from last week's entry that we were planning just to take children from Years 1 to 6. However, we have since decided that where parents think it appropriate, we will include Reception age children as well. If you are a parent of a Reception age child who you think might enjoy a day out in London and the dance project and performances that will follow, please let Matthew know.

## Crêpes!

Yes, it's that time of year again – the first Tuesday of next half term is set to be our third celebration of this auspicious event. You don't even have to wait - get flipping and fold away some pancakes in the freezer for the day – it's what half term is for! Let Karen (*Millie & Alfie*) or Jane (*Wilkie*) know if you'd like to help on the day.

***The governors have recently updated the school's Attendance Policy which, like all other school policies, is available to parents in a file above the windows in the office – please have a look when you next have a chance.***

## University Countdown

The inaugural LNS Quiz Night, held last Friday evening, was a tremendous success. Some fifty people, divided into eight teams with unusual (not to say unprintable) names, did battle over more than two hours for a gorgeous hamper of goodies. On the way they were shamed by the omniscience of Gavin "Paxman" and then allowed to feel better about themselves as Charlie "Vorderman" fought an unequal battle with the audio output.

Huge thanks are due to Kelly (*Japhy*) and Karen (*Millie & Alfie*) who got this idea off the ground and saw it through with such style. The only sad note was that illness on the home front meant that Karen could not stay for the event itself. Perhaps next time we'll be treated to Karen "Robinson" telling us we're the weakest link... (enough. Ed.)



*Benji (Class 1)*

The Friday Letter has been in this format for a year now. We'd be glad to hear any suggestions for ways to improve it, items or information you'd like to see in it.... Jane (*Wilkie*)