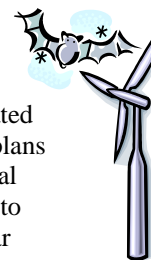


On behalf of everyone at school, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year. The start of a new calendar year it may be but we are close to half way through the academic year and in the term where we often see the most rapid progress by children.

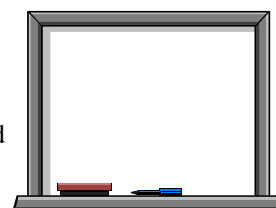
I note from last January's Fellside Matters that I gave an indication of some plans and expectations for 2007—the introduction of a childcare facility, the new Primary Strategy and increasing awareness of sustainable energy, ideally through the installation of wind and solar energy. Well ... Fellside Funclub has been in operation since September as has the Primary Strategy (revised guidance for teaching of Maths and English). The installation of wind and solar power has not been as straightforward as we'd hoped for. We submitted plans in October for a wind turbine close to Burnthouse Lane, the ideal location for wind.

The proximity to a road and the likelihood of bats (a protected species) in the neighbourhood has necessitated further work to move these plans forward. Similarly a structural survey of our roof is needed to determine suitability for solar energy.



Any structural engineers or bat expert parents please get in touch!

Sustainable energy plans roll forward into 2008 alongside the introduction of foreign language teaching from September. The installation of interactive whiteboards in all classrooms is planned as are further improvements to outdoor learning and play facilities. Lots to anticipate.



### Opportunities for all

Children in all classes are looking at the social side of life at school. This week and next week there'll be discussions and learning about our individual strengths and differences, bullying, friendship and equality of opportunity.

This last area is an area of particular focus in KS2. We are keen to determine the perceptions of children on this. For example it could be (we hope it isn't the case) that a child in Year Six has been desperate for a main part in a play/concert or sports event in every year since Nursery and never had the opportunity. To find the answers to this and other questions, staff and the school council have devised a questionnaire for all KS2 children to complete next week.

This is pretty innovative stuff and has the interest of one of the most senior government advisors in London.

#### Karate Club—Wednesday Mornings 7.50 to 8.50

There are some spaces in the Wednesday Morning Karate Club—if you are interested in joining (cost is £3.00 per session payable per term) please ask Mrs Tinson or Mrs Hogarth for information.

### The Parking and Traffic Issue ... again



We still receive fully justifiable complaints about inconsiderate and sometimes potentially dangerous parking and traffic movement around our entrance.

Please be aware that the police have taken and will take action against illegal parking, but most important is the safety of all our children.

### Punctuality ... again

Not the first time this issue has appeared in Fellside Matters.

We are concerned that a minority of children (often the same ones) are regularly late for school. It is important that whenever possible all children are in class for the start of the school day at 8.55 am.

Children arriving late miss out on pre-school banter with their friends and often feel uncomfortable entering a full, working classroom where there may already have been important explanations and teaching.

We will monitor developments. If children are late they should **always use the main entrance**. Younger children will be escorted to their classroom where we can ensure correct registration for attendance and lunch arrangements.



## Summer Bulbs and Perennials

A reminder that the closing date for orders of summer bulbs/perennials from the Bulbman catalogues distributed recently is Thursday 31st January.

For every £11.75 spent the school will receive £3.33. All the money raised will be put towards funding a Theatre experience for the children in March performed by M&M Theatre Group—I'm told that their recent pantomime was their best performance yet, enjoyed by children and staff alike, we anticipate a similar quality production of 'A Little Princess'.

Thanks for you support and if anyone requires additional order forms we have some at the Reception Desk.



## Sponsored Event

A sponsored event has become something of a tradition in the Spring Term. Last year's was a poetry task resulting in a packed school hall for fine performances from all children. Previous years have involved maths and spelling tasks. This year we return to maths—fitting well with a current whole school focus on maths.

We look forward to your support for this event—Details just prior to half term.

## Maths Workshop

Over sixty parents and all staff spent an hour with maths consultant Neil McCallion on the evening of 15th January. The focus of the evening was perhaps the trickiest area of maths for children at school—using and applying maths. As expected Neil gave an informative and entertaining presentation ably assisted by about half of our Year Six children.

Highly recommended by Neil is Johnny Ball's book 'Think of a Number'.

## **Bike It**

James, our Bike-it officer will be back in school before Easter—among other things he'll be running puncture repair lessons for older children—and adults! Through James we can offer a great deal on cable cycle locks at £2.00 each and front and rear lighting sets for £4.00. Please contact school before Friday 1st February if your interested in locks and lights.

## **Diary For This Term**

**(note that Easter Weekend is very early this year, fully two weeks before what is now a 'fixed' Spring Holiday for Gateshead Schools)**

Sponsored Maths event	Over half term—tests on Monday 3rd March
Half Term Break	Friday 15th to Monday 25th February
Year Six Residential Visit	Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th February (inclusive)
Phonics for Families—Workshop for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 parents	Monday 3rd March
Friends of Fellside Childrens Disco's	Thursday 6th March
Book Fair	Week beginning Monday 10th March
School Photographs	Monday 10th March
Parent Consultations	Monday 17th to Thursday 20th March
Good Friday (Holiday)	Friday 21st March
Easter Monday (Holiday)	Monday 24th March
Theatre Group Performance at School—'The Little Princess'	Tuesday 25th March
Spring Holiday	Friday 4th to Monday 21st April