

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.

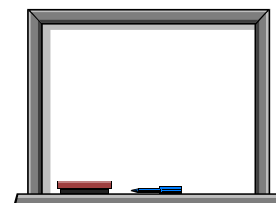
I note from last January's Fellside Matters that I gave an indication of some plans and expectations for 2007—the introduction of a childcare facility, the new Primary Strategy and increasing awareness of sustainable energy, ideally through the installation of wind and solar energy. Well ... Fellside 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.



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.

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



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