



# Cooper News

Issue No. 46

February 2003

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This has only been a short half term but it has certainly been hectic and there have been multiple events in the last five weeks that demonstrate just how demanding the school environment is at present. What is really pleasing, and a great credit to those pupils and staff involved, is the continuing and surprising number of imaginative suggestions made by them for music/sporting events and charitable functions/collections. Just some of those include:

- a 'bring and buy' sale for Blue Peter
- a 'Top of the Pops' event
- the 2003 Rock Challenge programme
- the 'Cooper Live' events
- multiple team competitions in the local leagues
- sponsored marathon running for cancer relief
- live talent contests.

We will continue to support and promote these as they certainly contribute to the all-round education of the pupils that we strive for.

## STAFFING NEWS

During this half term several members of staff have left or joined the staff of Cooper School. In summary these changes are:

- Mrs Nia Jeacock has been appointed as Finance Secretary to start formally from 24 February
- Mrs Val Neame will be continuing to help us in a part-time role for which we

are very grateful

- Mrs Val Westwell (Maths) returned to the school following maternity leave
- Ms Faye Dickenson has been appointed as our Art Technician to start immediately
- Mrs Judith Evans has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant with more being appointed soon
- Mr Ken Kolb (Science) left the school on 20 February having taken a new contract elsewhere
- Mrs Madeleine Goldman (MFL) joined us part-time to cover the gap in languages.

## DEVELOPMENTS AT COOPER SCHOOL

I was pleased to inform you in December of the continuing developments that we have undertaken in order to enhance our educational environment and provision for the pupils in our care, helping them to make the most of the opportunities that are offered to them in the best possible way. Part of these developments has been our continuing drive to improve the environment around the school, being determined that we should all take responsibility for the state of the site.

We continue to find this an uphill struggle, with a minority of pupils causing problems for the rest by dropping litter everywhere and behaving in a generally anti-social manner. We would again ask for your support in helping minimise this problem both by you encouraging your children to utilise our enhanced litter bin system and in not sending them into school with snacks/lunches that multiply our litter problem.

## HELP US ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS

As is usual at this time of year, the Government will utilise the percentage of our pupils who are eligible for free school meals to assess our funding for next year and the standard of our performance over the last.

The higher the percentage of our children who are eligible for free school meals, whether they take them or not, the better it is for the school in terms of our funding. It also enables us to be compared accurately and appropriately with similar schools rather than those with lower actual percentages of free school meals. We therefore need our figures to be accurate and, the more accurate our figure is, the better.

We would therefore like you to respond positively if your children **are eligible** for free school meals, whether they take them or not, by **completing the reply form in the letter at the end of this newsletter.**



**CROSS COUNTRY**

Congratulations to Joe Stachowiak (Yr 11), Neil Flynn (Yr 10) and Amanda Carreras (Yr 8) who represented the County at the UK Inter Counties Cross Country Championships held in Nottingham on 8th February. All three ran well, against the best opposition from across the UK, and gained valuable points for the Oxfordshire team. You may have even spotted them on television!

G Allen  
PE Department

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**Saturday Workshops**  
**Just £13 (cost of materials not included)**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Cooper School**  
**Most workshops 10.00am-3.00pm**

Cooking, Card Making, Intro to Alexander Technique, Furniture Restoration, Willow Work for the garden, Map Reading for Walkers, Spring Flower Painting

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Bicester Community College**  
**Most workshops 10.00am-3.00pm**



Furniture Restoration, Creative Canvas Work, Portrait Techniques & Drawing, Bread Making, Desktop Publishing, Card Making, Cross-stitch, Pruning

For more information please telephone Bicester Adult Community Education on 01869 241532.

**TAEKWONDO****An Authentic Art of Self Defence**

Qualified instruction by Vince Englishby, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan Black Belt with over 18 years experience.

- **You don't have to be fit to start.** Training increases gradually as you become more able, slowly building your fitness and flexibility as well as developing self-confidence, co-ordination and balance.
- **No special equipment or clothing is needed to begin.** Just wear any loose comfortable clothing.
- **Training every Thursday evening at The Cooper School.** Beginners' class starts at 7.30pm.
- **Cost** - £14.00 per calendar month which is paid in advance. Discount for families of three or more.
- **Member of the Global Taekwondo International.**

Further details available from Vince on 01327 261846.

**HOME-START BICESTER - PARENTS NEEDED!**

Could YOU help Home-Start make a difference for families? We are looking for volunteers to befriend local families with young children. If you have brought up children you will know that it can sometimes be tough. At Home-Start Bicester we value your parenting experience very highly!

We offer free training, expenses, ongoing support and friendships, plus the warm glow you get when you know you've made a difference to someone's life! All we ask is that you give two hours a week to visit a family. Our next Preparation Courses begin in January:-

- Wednesday & Friday mornings 9.30am-1.30pm, 22 January to 28 February
- Thursday evenings, 7.00pm-9.30pm, 23 January to 3 April.

A future Preparation Course will be starting mid March.

If you would like to talk to us about joining our team please call 01869 320099 for a chat with Naomi or Tina

Naomi Hillman  
Home-Start Co-ordinator.

**DIARY DATES**

Spring Term

Half term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup>-Friday 21<sup>st</sup>

February

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April

**Staff Training:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

(No pupils in school)

**Year 9 Options Evening:** 27<sup>th</sup> February

**Year 9 Parents' Evening:** 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Year 8 Parents' Evening:** 9<sup>th</sup> April

**Summer Term**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

**May Day Bank Holiday:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Half term:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup>-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

**Year 7 Parents' Evening:** 26<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 10 Parents' Evening:** 3rd July

**SCHOOL COUNSELLOR**

If you have any worries or concerns, our School Counsellor is happy to discuss them with you in private. A form is available from Reception if you would like to book an appointment.