

Newsletter 20 – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015



## Swimming begins this week!

Every Tuesday, over Spring 2 and Summer 1, all children will be going swimming! We strongly believe that children should learn to swim at a very young age as it's such an important life skill. It's also proven that swimming can have a very important impact on the overall academic achievement of children (see [www.lafontaineacademy.org/research](http://www.lafontaineacademy.org/research) for more details).

### Some important reminders:

- Children do not need goggles. They need to learn to swim without them.
- Children with long hair need to wear swimming caps. For those with short hair, it's not compulsory. However, if you wish them to wear one, that's fine. The swimming cap needs to be white.
- On Tuesdays, all children will need to come to school in their PE kits. This will enable us to get changed more quickly at the swimming pool. PE kits will need to be brought back to school on Wednesdays.
- Children will need to bring a towel to school (in their PE bag). Please, label the towel with their name and try to ensure they bring the same one every week so that they get used to what it looks like.
- Boys need to wear swimming trunks and girls need to wear 1-piece swimming costumes. Bikinis and shorts are not allowed.
- Children with long hair will need to have them tied up.
- Make sure your child wears a warm coat, gloves, and a scarf in the first few weeks, as they might get cold while traveling back to school.
- On Tuesdays, children will be served packed lunches (provided by the school).
- Please, provide your child with a healthy snack (e.g. cereal bar, piece of fruit, etc.) for them to enjoy after their swimming lesson.
- The pool will be closed to the public while our children have their lessons.
- Children will be supervised by our staff and by professional swimming instructors who are used to teaching young children.

Offering swimming lessons to children is part of our focus on **Character Building** (confidence, grit, mastery).

## Attendance – We can do better! Our target is 97.5%

ATTENDANCE	MARIE CURIE	YANNICK NOAH	ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY	GEORGE SAND	TOTAL
SPRING 1	94.9%	93.7%	96.5%	94.4%	95%
SINCE SEPTEMBER	96.5%	96.5%	97.1%	96.7%	96.7%

### Sainsbury's Sports Equipment



If you shop at Sainsbury's, don't forget to collect their Active Kids vouchers! The vouchers will enable us to get free Sports Equipment for the children to use.

Simply place the vouchers in your child's bag and we will collect them.

Thank you!



### Chinese New Year celebrations

Children had a great time learning about Chinese New Year celebrations just before half-term.

They produced some amazing art work and really enjoyed talking about different cultures and traditions. A big 谢谢 to Sam and Jae's mum for sharing some of her knowledge with us!



### Dates for Spring 2

(all dates are available there: [www.lafontaineacademy.org/events](http://www.lafontaineacademy.org/events))

Share in Learning: 27/02, 13/03, 27/03

Coffee Mornings: 06/03, 20/03

World Book Day\*: 05/03 (children to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character)

World Maths Day\*: 10/03 (children to come to school wearing clothes that have maths shapes on them)

Semaine de la Francophonie\*: 16/03-20/03

Parents' Evening\*: 25/03

Assessment Week\*: 09/03-13/03

\* letters will be sent home in due course with further details

Assemblies during Spring 2 will focus on the importance of **DREAMS** and what it takes to make them come true! Speak to your child about your **HOPES** and **DREAMS** and tell them how you're going to make them happen! Ask them about their dreams. **INSPIRE THEM!**

This is connected to the importance of being **OPTIMISTIC** (one of the seven Character Strengths we focus on).