



# St Martins Primary School

## January Newsletter



### **New whole school targets for 2012**

#### **Personal Skills Targets**

Our new personal skills focus for this half term is about 'how to make yourself even better'. Assemblies, PSHE and circle times will focus on the children finding their inner 'super hero' and not giving up when trying to reach their learning targets and goals.

#### **Our 'Opener' For our Writing Target Is...**

'Openers' are our new target for children's writing. This focuses on how children begin sentences with words such as although, often, before, eventually, sometimes and afterwards. The idea is that they learn to choose more adventurous words in their writing. Over the past year we have had targets on punctuation, vocabulary and handwriting. This is proving very successful and children's writing shows a marked improvement in these areas. We would like the children to look out for interesting and exciting sentence openers in their reading and to make a note of these to discuss in class. All classes will be displaying a sentence openers' pyramid. Please display your 'home' pyramid when you receive it shortly and refer to it often especially when your child is completing their homework.

#### **Place Value – Our Numeracy Target**

A crucial part to becoming confident at maths is understanding the value and meaning of where numbers are placed in our number system. Over the last few terms we have focused on multiplication tables and number bonds; place value is our next whole school target in numeracy. The children will be learning about place value in class and for homework tasks. The target will have many different levels so individual children will learn the next step in place value, for instance some of the younger children will learn the meaning of the 1 and zero in the number 10, for others it will be the meaning of 0 in the number 10,723. If you wish to know more, please come in and see our numeracy target display in the infant work area.

#### **Fruit at Break Times**

We are very proud of the healthy choices most of our children make for their break time snacks. All year groups have fresh fruit or vegetables (such as carrot sticks) at break time. This is great for their health as well as establishing good habits for the future. Please could you support our school policy by ensuring your child has only fresh fruit (or veg) at break and not cereal bars or other packaged products.

#### **Football Boots?**

We are putting out a plea for any football/rugby boots your child has outgrown. Mr Hutchison has a very popular tag-rugby club, but not all the children who attend have boots. Any donations gratefully received.

#### **Christmas Services and Concerts**

Congratulations to Year R, 1, 2 and 5 pupils and staff on their excellent Christmas performances at the end of last term. Thank you for your contributions to our collections - a fantastic total of £598.56 was raised in aid of orphans in South Africa and the Goal 50 appeal. This brings our total to £2,376.

#### **Too Cool for Coats?**

Some of the children are arriving for school without a coat – and parents tell us it is a battle to get their child to wear one. Please can you ensure your child brings their coat every day and we will try our best to get them to put it on when they go outside.

#### **Student Computer Chairs**

For a small donation to the school, parents can buy child sized swivel office chairs suitable for using at a desk or computer. Please ask the caretaker for details.

#### **School Nurse 'Drop in' Clinic**

If you would like to speak to our school nurse about your child's health or wellbeing please come along to her drop-in clinic on 12<sup>th</sup> January 8.30-10am

**Thank you for your continuing support and a Happy New Year!**

C. Mason