

Message from Headteacher

Well what can I say? It's been a great half term, full of achievement and excitement. I would like to thank all students for coping so very well with the disruption caused by the snow and the failure of the school heating system.

As you are aware, Year 9 will have SAT practice exams during the first week back. Year 9: please use your time during your week off to revise hard and come back to school well prepared. Please can all students remember that it is very important that we have a quiet atmosphere around the school to help Year 9 to concentrate – remember you will expect the same when it is your turn.

Have a wonderful holiday; see you rested and ready for action on Monday 24th February.

Half-Term Football Cup

West End Sports Teams are holding a Community Football Cup on Monday 17th February at Paddington Recreational Ground.

The cup kicks off at 12.00pm, and you will need to be there 1 hour before this to register. Teams and individuals are welcome. For more details contact Marcel on 07904 158 568, or email:

WESTACTION@hotmail.com

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year starts from the first day of the first month in a lunar calendar. This year is the Year of the Goat/Sheep. The Year of the Goat is supposed to be a relaxed and peaceful year.

Before Chinese New Year you should buy new clothes and have a 'spring clean' in your household. You

should decorate the whole house in different decorations, red paper with Chinese writing, (the Chinese characters will have rich and deep meaning) etc. There is also a big traditional dinner on Chinese New Year eve, which has many different plates of food. This is a very important dinner where all siblings come home for a "re-union" dinner to pay their respects to the elders. Also you stay up past midnight to celebrate the coming of the New Year, the longer you stay up the better! You are supposed to stay up till sunrise if you can stay up; this is supposed to symbolise longer life for your parents.

On New Year's Day you wake up early and change into your new clothes, greet your parents and say in Chinese "Father, good morning, Mother, Good morning. Wishing you prosperity, please give me red packet."

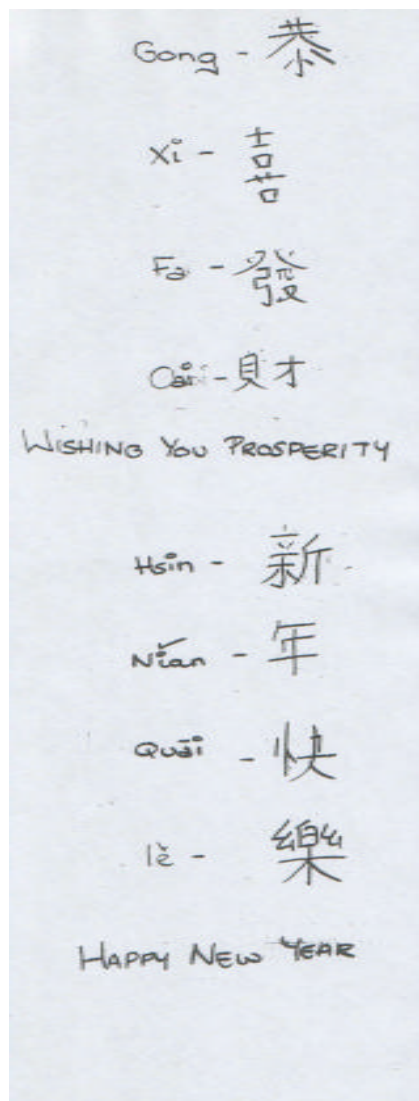
Now you are probably thinking "what is a 'red packet'?" The red packet is a symbol for luck. Inside the red packet is money! This is what every child who celebrates Chinese New Year is waiting for. The whole "red packet" custom symbolises the fact that the child has wished the parent good luck and prosperity and in return the parent gives their child a "red packet".

This is just a little bit of what Chinese New Year is and what it symbolises. There are many more customs and traditions to follow that revolve around Chinese New Year, but it would take

forever to explain. I think Chinese New Year is the equivalent to the Christian Christmas and New Year rolled into one, but there are more symbolic customs and traditions.

Yoke-Yin Chen

9N



EID MUBARAK

8S Making Films at the BBC!

Written by Rima Begum & Farhana Begum of 8S

On Friday 7 February, 8S went to the BBC's Children's Education Department. Our subject was based on "being left out". We were to make a short film based on being left out.

We met Erin (the 21CC manager). She took us to a room and we met other members of the group, Jamie, John and Carla. Of course, there were also our members of staff from QK. They talked about what we were going to do during the day.

To warm us up, we played a game called Sheriff. It was fun and everyone was laughing. At around 11am, we went into our groups and talked about how we would make the film. The BBC staff talked about how to use the digital cameras and group by group we went outside to shoot the film. There was a teacher with us to help!

After an hour or so we came back and had our lunch. While we were eating, Erin and the others were loading our footage onto computer so that we could see what we'd filmed. After that, we went back outside to shoot more footage for an hour or so.

When we'd finished filming, we watched a film by students from other schools. Then it was time to come back to school. We said goodbye and we will go back on Wednesday 12 February to edit our films. There is even a chance that our films might be shown on Red Nose Day (14th March) for Comic Relief!

We can't wait ... LUCKY 8S!!!

Attendance

Congratulations to **8Q** who have the highest attendance with 97.3% for the period from 3rd February to 7th February 2003. The following tutor groups have the highest attendance in their year:

7T 8Q 9N 10K 11Y

Punctuality

Could I remind students and parents about the importance of ensuring your son/daughter arrives on time for registration, which is at 8.50 am. It is creating a habit that is preparing them properly for working life. Whichever career path they choose, all employers expect their employees to arrive on time.

Absence Notes

Parents are reminded that if their child is absent for any reason, a phone call should be made to the school office, on extension 173. On your child's return please send a letter of explanation or write a note in their Student Diary.

If an absence is not authorised (explained) we are legally obliged to contact you to seek authorisation. This will be done by telephone or letter. An absence not authorised by a note is therefore unauthorised and is counted as TRUANCY. Truancy will lead to school detention.

All absences are recorded as truancy until authorised by home, school or the Education Welfare Officer. If you are concerned about your child's attendance contact their tutor on 020 7722 8141.

Dates to remember

Staff Training Day – Friday 14th February – School closed to students.

Half Term from Friday 14th February to Friday 21st February inclusive.

First Day of Term – Monday 24th February.

Year 9 – English, Maths & Science Practice SATs from Monday 24th February to Wednesday 26th February.

GCSE Science Module Tests on 5th March.

Reminder about uniform

ALL students MUST be in uniform.

Years 8 to 11 must wear grey sweatshirts and blue polo shirts or blue schott jackets, blue polo shirts and blue trousers/skirt.

BLACK TRAINERS ARE NOT PART OF SCHOOL UNIFORM.

REMEMBER

- **No trainers of any colour**
- **No jogging bottoms**
- **No jewellery**
- **No hats should be worn in school**

*If you missed an issue of the **QK News** you may wish to catch up on important information by downloading a copy at www.qkschool.org.uk*