

8 February 2010

### **Half term next week**

School is closed for children next week – the Spring Half Term holiday. School opens again on Monday 22 February.

### **Kung Hei Fat Choy to all our families on 14 February!**

Chinese New Year is the biggest holiday celebrated among Chinese people. It is often referred to as the spring festival because it signals the beginning of spring. It is a time when families and friends get together to say goodbye to the old and welcome the new. It originally lasted for about 4 weeks, but now only lasts for 3-5 days.

### **Nian and the monster**

Once upon a time a monster named Nian (which means year in Chinese) came out the night before the New Year and started to prey on the people in the villages. Of course, the people were very frightened by this monster. But a brave old man approached the monster and told him that instead of eating the people of the villages, he should eat the other beasts that frightened these people. Nian followed the old man's request and all of the beasts were chased into the forest. The old man rode away on Nian's back in triumph. As it turns out, the man was an immortal god. The people of the village were very grateful to the old man for giving them a peaceful life. Before the old man left for good, he told the people to put up red paper decorations on their windows and doors at the beginning of each New Year because the colour red scared all monsters. They also set off firecrackers to scare any more away. holiday without really knowing why.

### **The Year of the Tiger**

Chinese years are grouped in sets of 12 with each year being represented by an animal (zodiac sign). It is said that a person displays the characteristics of the animal of the year in which they were born. 2010 is the Year of the Tiger.



## **Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday 16 and 17 February**

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of *shriving* that Christians used to undergo in the past. It's a day of asking for forgiveness for Christians, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.

Shrove Tuesday is sometimes called Pancake Day after the fried batter recipe traditionally eaten on this day.

During Lent there are many foods that some Christians - historically and today - would not eat: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods.

So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name *Mardi Gras* ('fat Tuesday'). Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

**Ash Wednesday** is the beginning of Lent for Western Christian churches. Roman Catholic, Anglican, and some other churches hold special services at which worshippers are marked with ashes on their foreheads. The ashes come from burning the palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday (just before Easter).

### **Sporting Successes**

Congratulations to the Boys 6 a side football team. They finished runners up in the Wythenshawe and South Manchester at the Lifestyle Centre in Wythenshawe. They now qualify for the City wide finals at Whalley Range High School in April. Our Athletics team finished in silver medal position overall in the South Manchester Indoor Athletics Competition held at Barlow RC High School. In the track events Beaver Road won three gold medals:

- ❖ Florence Wilkins and Olivia Lathem in the 2x1 lap relay
- ❖ Yonis Ahmed and Harry Woodfield in the 2x2 lap relay and
- ❖ Euan Matthews and Billy Kershaw in the 2x6 lap relay.

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The team will now compete in the Citywide B Finals at Sport City on Thursday 18th March.

**Tesco and Sainsbury sports vouchers**

Please bring vouchers in to School to be passed on to Mr Anderson.