



Morgans Mail



☎ 01992 582162

6th March 2009

Morgans Hotline Number: 0844 412 1741 – This will provide current information about the Morgans school day and week as well as informing you of any changes to sports clubs or trips.



Dear Parents / Carers and Children,

This week has been a very special one and shows just how busy and vibrant a place Morgans truly is. I wonder how many of you had Larry Achike's enormous triple jump across the entire length of the assembly hall reported to you first hand on Wednesday night? External tennis coaching continues for our year 4 children. Victory from our girls in Monday's football tournament – well done girls! Sports fixtures galore – good luck to our A and B netball teams and Mrs Sales and Miss Russell for Saturday's tournament at Sele. What a sporty bunch! The school has hosted Crucial Crew and had many primary schools visit over the last two weeks. Add into that the very positive comments made by Mr Peter Browning, our county school improvement partner, after his annual inspectoral visit on Thursday. Year 3 classes would have seen him on his travels with myself and Mr Miller. He was suitably impressed by you and your work, as I knew he would be – well done to all who have worked so hard and fared so well this week.

Kind regards

Sue Dutt

I'll voucher for that!

**Are we collecting vouchers?
Of course we are!**

Tesco 'Computers (and now other items!) for Schools' vouchers, Sainsbury's Active Kids Tokens and Times/Sunday Times book vouchers, bring them all in and please pester any relations and neighbours to donate you theirs. They enable us to buy exciting equipment, which benefits all the children of Morgans. Look out for the boxes in the Queens entrance.



Morgans Magnificents...

Last week year 5 showed the rest of the school their art topic on containers. They started by looking at all sorts of different containers - functional and decorative - and painted them with watercolours. They then made various different types of container themselves, a wish box from the net of a cube or tetrahedron, decorated in the style of Clarice Cliff; a papier mache bowl and a clay thumb or coil pot. Here are some of their masterpieces...



Contain yourselves Year 5!!!

The 'trim trail' between Queens and Mandeville is currently dangerous and awaiting repair. Under no circumstances should any children be on it at any time. Please ensure your child is not using this before or after school, since an injury will occur.

Daffodils are Appealing...

The 2009 daffodil appeal to raise money for the Marie Curie Cancer Trust has begun. Daffodils are for sale up to 31st March for a minimum donation of 20p from Year 6 Morgans pupils. Please help us to support this very worthwhile cause. Thank you.

Bird Box Beaking News...

A blue tit has been seen coming out of the box on the silver birch adjacent to the Year 5/6 playground. Makes all the hard work worthwhile.

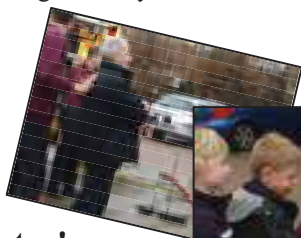


Year 1 Trip to Hertford Fire Station

Mr Sadler very kindly arranged for Year 1 to visit Hertford Fire Station last week. We had a great time and the next day we wrote about the visit .

Sara Qureshi loved the pole: Yesterday we went to the fire station. We met Tom and Andy. They let us go in the fire engine. They let us have a go on the water hose. They showed us around the fire station. They showed us the trousers they wore and the helmet. My favourite bit was when they went down the pole.

Rowena Carr had a great time: We went to the fire station it was fun. I went in the fire engine. Miss Daniels dressed up in the fire suit. I squirted water it was fun. We saw the hoses. The firemen were very strong and very kind. I loved it so much.



Barnaby Bear came too!



Between the 2nd March-27th April Morgans is aiming to collect as many old 'Yellow Pages' directories as possible as part of the 'Yellow Woods Challenge.' The scheme aims to make pupils aware of the benefits of recycling and prizes totalling over £1200 were awarded between the 25 participating schools in Hertfordshire last year. Please place any directories in the box by the main office.

Considerate parking

When parking for any school function please ensure you are considerate to the local residents. Yes it might mean a slightly longer walk to the school at particularly busy times, though through careless parking at times the safety of the pavement is impeded and this is unacceptable.

Meet the author...

Jacqueline Wilson is visiting Castle Hall on the 30th March at 7:00pm to introduce her latest book. Tickets are priced £8 adult and £7 children and are available from the Castle Hall Box Office 01992 531500.

We received a recent letter thanking the Morgans children and their teachers, Miss Gilham, Mrs Elder and Mrs Hart, for their enthusiasm and commitment to the Hertford School Dance Festival. As a thank you Mrs Caroline Crowley has donated a copy of 'Swallows and Amazons' to the school library. Thank you also to Mrs Crowley who choreographed and helped the children perfect their dance routine.

Parents evenings...

For the most part these were well attended and the quality and knowledge of the teachers was appreciated by those who did. These meetings are of vital importance and should be given due worth. As parents the best thing you can do to support your child at school is to take an interest in what they have been up to.

Achike little number!!!

On Wednesday we had a very special visitor work with our children as part of 'Team Super School.' Mr Larry Achike, British Beijing Olympic triple jumper, encouraged the pupils during their sponsored exercises throughout the morning, as well as being photographed with each child. The morning was rounded off with a talk from Larry about his background and training, along with the chance for the children to ask him any questions. He rounded the assembly off with a jaw dropping demonstratory couple of jumps across the entire length of our hall floor. The sight of the assembled audience rhythmically clapping, as Larry psyched himself up to "Go big for Morgans!" was brilliant, and will stick in the memory of all present for some time to come! Morgans will be represented at London 2012 in the Olympic Village, where a Union Jack signed with the school name by Ben Davis will be proudly on display. Please return all sponsor money by Friday 20th March. All monies benefit Morgans and British 2012 young athletes and are greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Chess Update...

At the end of Round 5 Abbie Bensted is out in front in the girls' tournament with a maximum 15 points. In Round, 6 she will play Louise Lowy from Year 4 who is on 13 points. Natalie Harris, Hannah Banks and Francesca Hodges (Y6), Becky Crowther, Holly Yorke (Y5), Samantha Mansfield and Ellen Denison (Y4), all have 12 points. They will be joined by Sarah Yorke if she wins her outstanding match. The leading Year 3 girls are Pia Eversley and Liberty Haddock on 9 points but they could be joined by Gabriella Lawson and Olivia Veale if they draw their unfinished match or indeed be overtaken should one of these girls win that match.

The boys' competition is closer. There are two boys with a maximum of 15 points – William Crowther and Stanley Voss both from Year 6 and they will battle for the outright lead in Round 6. The next five players, all on 13 points, are also Year 6 boys - Liam Boles, Thomas Clarke, Patrick Tarry, Graham Naden, and Sam Nicholls. These are followed by the leading Year 5 boy – James Brookes-Park - along with Josh Hill from Year 3, making a great showing on his first entry into the competition, on 12 points. Alex Washbourne has now been joined by Rees Clarke and Joseph Chapman as the leading Year 4 boys on 11 points.

The next two weeks will see some hard fought matches to decide who can reach 17 points or be the year group champion and qualify for the next stage (The Megafinal) of this national competition.

Mr. 'Kasparov' Cordingley



The Morgans chess masters ponder their moves carefully!

Regarding Swear Words, Rude Gestures and Offensive Behaviour...

I felt it timely to share some concerns and hints with you around the area of swearing. From time to time, parents and children report incidents of swearing in school.

Most of us understand that we live in difficult times. Things that we would not do, say or condone can be witnessed with depressing frequency in everyday life, on the box, in song lyrics etc.

I am not surprised that children get confused and upset around the words (and gestures sometimes) that they are told not to use or told off for using. Unfortunately our children hear words in the media, from members of the public and from other children that we do not want them to repeat.

Swear words can easily creep into adult conversations and young ears tune into them in a heartbeat. They may not listen when you want them to but are all ears when you are discussing "private" things when you think they are busy playing or watching telly.

Unfortunately swear words are said with greater emphasis than normal conversation, as I know to my cost when my 2 year old daughter picked up a particularly awful Hindi word. It didn't work for my husband to cuss in his first language as the recipient of this oath was our mortified Indian mechanic!!

If your child decides to swear in front of you or you are told that they have been swearing,

Stay calm; explain that the word is unacceptable and that other people will agree.

Find out where they heard it and have a quiet word with those concerned.

If you think that the "language has come from school have a quiet chat to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Remember that older brothers and sisters and/or their friends may use language in front of your youngster that they would not use in front of you. (Role play at being grown up and fancy free!) If this is the case you may need to have a firm word with them.

Your children know you and your family values, what is okay and what is unacceptable in your household. By praising them and affirming behaviour that reflects your values, the swearing will fade naturally.

Remember that over reacting to swearing can give your little treasure a powerful tool to gain your attention and the upper hand. Flat responses that are clear but not overly emotional work best.

Telling your child not to swear when it is commonly heard in your household will not work. "Don't do what I do, do what I say." Is a recipe for failure!

It is easier to reason with older children as they understand that they will not be invited to friend's houses if they have a reputation for foul language. They are also developing an understanding of what is acceptable in different social situations. My son's friend was embarrassed to the roots of his hair because I heard him swearing because he did not know that I was there. He was, and still is so polite and gracious to me, unfortunately not to the recipient of his coarse humour!

We actively discourage swearing by anyone, child or grown up, within the school or its grounds and will follow up complaints with appropriate sanctions for those who disregard our code of behaviour in this area. However, we do understand the challenges.

Should you need any further help or information, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Orton, Mrs Hart or myself.

Sue Dutt